



# INDUSTRIAL WORKER



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*Wobs Launch Democracy Campaign at People's Wherehouse  
 West Kootenay Wobs Inaugurate "Bread Bank"  
 El Salvador: Land of Repression  
 Support the Greyhound Workers!*



# INDUSTRIAL WORKER

Industrial Workers of the World



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April 1990

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50 CENTS

## WOBS INAUGURATE "BREAD BANK"

"Give us this day our daily bread," is part of a Christian prayer formerly mumbled every morning by millions of North American schoolchildren. Today, in the West Kootenay region of southeastern British Columbia, two I.W.W. members are working to make the gift of bread a reality for their community.

The concept is called a Bread Bank, explained David Everest, I.W.W. delegate for the West Kootenays. "But it's not like a food bank," Everest cautions. "We take banking seriously. The bread bank is not a charity. We are interested in restructuring the economy to wipe out poverty and hunger." Everest noted that the Bread Bank is an example of the call in the I.W.W. Preamble to build the new society within the shell of the old. "It's a maneuver we can make within the current economic system, while at the same time demonstrating other possibilities."

Everest, who operates a one-person sawmill as well as being employed at construction and other jobs, likens the Bread Bank to a co-op bakery. A Bread Bank member who bakes bread can withdraw either high quality grain for milling, or freshly-ground flour. Obtaining such from the Bread Bank constitutes a loan, or withdrawal from that member's account. Once a member has baked his or her bread, about one-fifth of the bread loaves are returned to the Bread Bank. This constitutes repayment of the loan, or a deposit to that member's account.

The Bread Bank then offers the home-made bread for sale to the general public. The retail bakery outlet accepts payment in money, or in services or commodities useful to the Bank's operations. One of the beautiful things about this system is that ledgers for the bank can be kept in a number of equivalent units of exchange: grain, flour, bread or money," Everest said. "People get to reconsider the whole idea of using money as the sole means of exchange."

Currently the Bread Bank is operational in Kaslo, B.C., a village of about 1,000 on the shores of Kootenay Lake. Kaslo is about 200

miles due north of Spokane, Washington. The picturesque former mining center now relies for its economic existence on tourism, some logging, and providing services for people living in the surrounding region—such as Everest and his family.

The Kaslo Bread Bank calculates a 20 kilogram bag of grain is equivalent in value to eight pound-and-a-half loaves of bread, Everest said. A 20 kilo bag produces about 40 loaves of bread. "And once we're able to get a better wholesale price for the grain, the cost of the grain or flour to a member will drop, or else the bank can use the increased profit to improve its operations."

The original sparkplug in turning the Bread Bank idea into a working model is Fellow Worker Adam Nicholson. Nicholson, who describes himself as a "53-year-old unemployed itinerant kitchen porter," is a member of the World Federation of Barefoot Bakers. "The Federation is an international network currently involved in gathering and exchanging skills and technology such as backyard wood-fired brick ovens, small flour mills and bread-making techniques that will enable us to feed ourselves," Nicholson said. "The Bread Bank takes us back to the hearth, back to the fire to solve our economic problems. Here the solution starts by understanding things domestically, working from the domestic economy, using a domestic technology."

Nicholson, originally from Scotland, is a keen observer and admirer of the unofficial "black" economy flourishing in many countries in Europe without government interference. "Among the many positive aspects of the Bread Bank is that it is an economic enterprise that is local, part of a tangible local economy," Nicholson said. Ideally, he explained, the Bread Bank eventually will support local agrarian enterprises, until all components used by the Bank's home bakers are produced locally.

Nicholson got the Kaslo Bread Bank underway in January of 1989,



when he took the idea to the congregation of the United Church in Kaslo, where he lives. Church members were responsive to the Bread Bank idea, Nicholson said, since the church—with its declining membership—is very aware of the economic crisis in all rural areas of North America. The United Church, an amalgamation of a majority of Canadian Methodist, Congregationalist and Presbyterian congregations, is the largest protestant denomination in Canada. The United church is considered extremely liberal in its stances toward social questions at home and in the Third World.

The Kaslo United Church offered the Bread Bank the use of a basement space formerly used for occasional rummage sales. In mid-June, Everest and Nicholson rebuilt the basement and installed a grain mill and bins loaned by a local milling machine manufacturer. The Bread Bank's arrangement with the church is that when the Bank begins to generate surplus revenue, the Bank will contribute to the costs of maintaining the church building, electric power, etc. Meanwhile Nicholson, as a self-described "Presbyterian-anarcho-zen" member of

continued on page 4

## WOBS LAUNCH DEMOCRACY CAMPAIGN AT PEOPLE'S WHEREHOUSE

This past January the General Manager of the People's Wherehouse in Ann Arbor was fired by the Board of Directors of the Michigan Federation of Food Coops. This action was taken because of the \$150,000 loss the business accumulated in 1989. Over 25% of the IWW bargaining unit members at the Wherehouse were given indefinite layoffs just prior to termination of the General Manager. By the Board's own admission, the huge losses for the business are clearly the result of financial mismanagement.

In typical Peter principle fashion, the man most responsible for the financial mismanagement, the finance manager, was promoted by the Board to the position of General Manager.

The Union had been expecting the layoffs since early November. Our management and Board may have been oblivious to the losses the organization was racking up month after month, but those of us working on the shop floor had a pretty good idea that the business was working on creating the biggest losses in its history.

Despite being forewarned concerning the losses and rigorously defending our layoff procedures, the Union entered the year somewhat demoralized. Having one in four of your co-workers laid off after having developed a great deal of solidarity with them just a few short months earlier in our struggle for a decent contract could have no other effect.

One of the key victories our Union had achieved over the last couple of years was the enforcement of the "Affirmative Action Clauses" of our contract. At the height of employment this past fall minority representation among employees of the Federation actually reached levels approximating minority levels in the surrounding community.

In mid-February the new General Manager engaged in an action which shook the Union out of its defensive posture and general ambivalence concerning the business. With less than two hours notice given, the second to the last minority employee in the shop, Renee Boyd, was laid off. She worked in the business finance department. Consequently her job lacked any Union protection. She was laid off so that the CEO could hire his son. Renee had been an employee of the Federation for over 5 years. The four white men in her department combined have less than 2 years seniority.

The Union responded to this racist and sexist move by management with a one hour protest strike. This was all occurring late on a Friday afternoon. Many of her co-workers wanted to follow this action with another job action the following Monday when an all-staff meeting was scheduled. It was decided that we would spend the weekend determining who in management and the board were involved in the outrageous decision. Over the weekend a committee lobbied board members, asking them to appear at the all-staff meeting. Only two board members bothered to attend; but through questioning by workers, it was clear that at least the executive committee of the board had been involved in the decision.

At the Union meeting that Tuesday we analyzed the situation and developed a plan of action. We determined that the present racist and sexist management and several Board members needed to be removed. Stewards were directed not to allow the smallest infraction of the contract occur uncontested. Our propaganda campaign in the workplace against management was intensified. A new effort to organize the workers in the finance department was initiated. (Labor law does not allow them to be in the same bargaining unit as the rest of us; but if they join we will form a joint bargaining council with them.)

The Union also established an Information and Education Committee. The purpose of the committee is to inform as many of the consumer owners as possible of conditions in the workplace, to challenge board members at the many membership meetings leading up to the General Membership Meeting in April, and to encourage as many consumer owners as possible to attend that meeting. The committee also hopes to encourage the rank-and-file consumers to exercise their democratic rights in the organization, and in general to attempt to throw the Board clique out of power. The Union authorized the expenditure of the necessary funds to accomplish this goal.

At one regional meeting of the Federation our Union delegate was warmly received. He was allowed to speak about the crisis in the Federation for nearly an hour. The two board members present were hard pressed to deny the truth of the information given by the delegate. At a second regional meeting on the other side of the state the consumer/owners dismissed their Board member and elected an individual whom is seen as a reform candidate.

We fully expect constant struggle over the next six weeks. Given the financial condition of the business, the pirates who are currently in charge will undoubtedly engage in more provocations against the workers and the Union. The Board clique is undoubtedly looking for any excuse other than their own incompetence to credit with the failure of the business. We don't want the business to fail. Many of us have worked here for 5 and 10 years.

The Union's goal is to establish an alliance with rank-and-file consumer owners to revitalize the Federation as a democratic alternative to the capitalist marketplace.

## EL SALVADOR: LAND OF REPRESSION

The following is a condensed version of a speech given in Ann Arbor, Michigan on February 22, 1990 by Pedro Cruz who is the General Secretary of STISS, an El Salvadoran health care union, and a leader of FENASTRAS (the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers) which is composed of 17 unions representing more than 30,000 El Salvadoran workers. This talk was translated by Trish Beckman of the Washington DC Nurse's Association.

### BACKGROUND

I'm going to refer briefly to the period when Arena took power after the elections last March. Christians and the Arena power represent the people who have had traditionally all the power: political, economic and military. The points of difference between the radicals and moderates in Arena are points of difference about method, not goal. Their goal is how to maneuver and maintain themselves in power. The radicals in Arena believe in the total suppression of the opposition by killing almost everyone in the opposition. Those that are more moderate believe that they should go about performing selective assassinations within the popular movement. While these sects within Arena are putting forward their program of repression and trying to decide how many people should be killed; they are at the same time talking about dialogue and negotiating with the opposition and with the FMLN.

We believe that the talk of dialogue exists in order to present to the Congress of the United States a more moderate face in order to guarantee that military aid continues. Another reason that they speak about dialogue is to buy some time to push forth their economic revitalization program, a neo-lib-

eral program, that hasn't brought forward any results. They also talk about dialogue to buy themselves time to bring about their plan of repression and selective assassination.

The crisis deepened in September when they had their first meeting in Mexico City with the FMLN. While the FMLN came to the negotiations with the concessions of a unilateral cease fire, stopping of the use of economic sabotage and stopping the use of mines, the armed forces responded with more repression for the people.

### REPRESSION OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN EL SALVADOR

On the afternoon of September 17th and the morning of September 18th there was a round up of 14 different people from the leadership of FENASTRAS. They were all taken from different areas in the city, from different unions. On September 18, when the workers went into the streets to demand the release of the leadership that had been taken the army responded by repressing the march. It fired at the marchers; it fired off tear gas; and eventually the army captured 74 other people. These are the responses that the government gives to the demands of the people.

On October 31, a bomb was placed at the office of FENASTRAS that killed ten people from the union and gravely wounded 34 others. On November 11, the FMLN launched an offensive in San Salvador; three days after the offensive started the government started its plan of total suppression of the opposition.

At this time they started the indiscriminate murder of labor leaders, people from the church, human rights workers and peasants. They ransacked every office of the popular movement. They robbed the offices of everything they could find. They went to the



work centers of people from the union, and they made mass arrests. Between the 13th and the 30th of November 500 workers were arrested.

I was captured and held by the treasury police last September. Only the support I knew that I was getting from the workers in my union and the international support kept my confidence up. This is what helped me not to sign the confession the treasury police had prepared for me.

The first thing they did was take away all of my clothes and put me in a small pair of shorts. They put on a blindfold. They put on handcuffs. From the moment that I entered, the beatings began. They put me in a cell that was very small. The whole time I was there, they would not let me sleep, eat or drink water. They interrogated me all hours of the day, in the morning, in the afternoon, in the mid-afternoon, in the mid evening, in the

middle of the night, back into the morning hours. I wouldn't tell them what they wanted to know. I was severely beaten. They would give me five minutes rest, and then the beatings would start up again.

They put a plastic bag over my head. They tied the plastic bag tightly around my neck, and when I tried to take a breath I would only get a plastic bag. These were difficult moments. You feel like you are being asphyxiated. They wanted me to sign a confession that I was a member of the FMLN. They wanted me to say that I had arms in the basement of the clinic that the union runs to give health-care to children, and that I had arms in different houses. Torture is the method they use to get workers to sign their declarations. Once they have these signed confessions, they use them to show proof that there are connections between the union leadership and the FMLN. At first they were nice,

continued on page 6

## CORRESPONDENCE



1st of March 1990

Dear Fellow and Sister Workers,

I wanted to thank all of you for your support and letters regarding our fast. After being urged by others to end the death fast and some positive results, I started eating this week. On February 9th, 1990, I was taken out of the control unit and transferred here to Lebanon Correctional Unit. That same day, the Governor of Ohio issued a directive to the state highway patrol to investigate all aspects of operations at SOCF. While the capitalist media focused on one part of the directive regarding white supremacists and racism, I have been assured that the original directive to launch the investigation deals with all aspects of oppressive conditions at SOCF and the J1 Control Unit. The investigation was a result of a year's worth of research by the Correctional Institution Inspection Committee, who Fellow Worker Ruben Slaton met with over a year ago and discussed the conditions that were dealt with in our human rights complaint to Amnesty International and class action suit regarding conditions in the control unit and isolation blocks.

Our comrades in Edinburgh, Scotland and England organized by the Bolton ABC and fellow worker Eddie Murray, publisher and editor of Counter Information and Inside Information Newsletter, organized 3 pickets at the US Embassy on September 24th and 25th, 1989 and February 12th, 1990. A delegation talked to the Vice Consul there regarding our death fast and the oppression experienced at SOCF. After my transfer, Eric "Sudan" Swofford was transferred to the Chillicothe Prison on Feb 14th. Michael Day remains in the J1 Control Unit, but efforts are being undertaken for his transfer. Fellow and Sister prisoners in Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin and Washington joined in solidarity with us on the fast, and we send them our love and respect. Local activists also joined in and held a meeting with the theme being "Holocaust Sunday" and formed a coalition to address all the issues we raised in our communication. Changes are definitely forthcoming. Last week a prominent civil rights attorney came here to the prison and told me that Judge Spiegel had asked him to represent us in our class action suit regarding the issues raised and that efforts are now being undertaken to add all the recent happenings at SOCF to the suit, which will add new prisoner plaintiffs. I have been urged to follow up on my appeal to the recent conviction, which is due this month which should result in a reversal of the conviction. There is still hope, in all areas.

The amount of Solidarity displayed in the fast and the positive changes brought about are the most important signs for hope. People across the world have pulled together in solidarity to bring about change against a

very formidable opponent. United we can overcome all odds and obstacles. Those of us within send our love and respect to all of those out there who let us know we are not alone.

To my brothers in Ohio Gulago, the Gestapo is shortstopping mail.

In Solidarity,

John Perotti

Dear Fellow

*Industrial Worker* readers might be interested in knowing that last August 15 (1989), Jack Ujanen, the last editor of *Industrialisti*, the now defunct Finnish language IWW newspaper, died at age 99 in Lake Worth, Florida. He had edited the paper for the last 22 years of its existence, with its last issue published on Oct. 21, 1975.

Ujanen was born on Dec. 8, 1890, at Vittinki, Finland, the son of a poor tenant farmer family. He received no formal schooling and taught himself to read from newspapers that served as wallpaper in his home. He became a herdsman at age 10 to help his family, then became a migrant laborer. He emigrated to the United States at age 20, and became a quarry worker in New Hampshire, where his sister lived. He later became a stonecutter's apprentice. But he never became a journeyman, because of large layoffs in the quarries, as cement began to replace quarry stone as a basic building material. FW Ujanen then travelled west to Minnesota to seek work, but in the wintertime found unemployment instead. So he began to attend Work Peoples College in Duluth, the historic school for Finnish language Wobbly organizers. Here he had the first formal schooling of his life.

He was found to have a talent for writing and was soon editor of the student newspaper. Eventually he moved onto the staff of *Industrialisti*, at one time a daily. The paper had first been founded in 1914, and was originally called *Socialisti* (Socialist), later *Teollisuustyöläinen* (Industrial Worker), and finally *Industrialisti* (Industrialist). As the immigrant generation died off, support gradually dwindled and it ended up a weekly.

FW Ujanen worked hard at the paper, and toward the end often was the jack-of-all-trades by himself, to enable it to publish. Sometimes he'd sweep the floor, do carpenter work, be the treasurer, and run errands. He definitely was no desk-bound editorial bureaucrat. He long sought a replacement as he aged, but bilingual Finnish language editors with a working class perspective were hard to come by. Finally, at age 85, although he was in top health, he decided to close shop and retire to the warmer climates of Florida.

But he did not retire to stare at the boob tube in Lake Worth, or feed the pigeons. He raised flowers and joined the Finnish Workers Educational Society, which owned the Kentta Hall, gathering place for Florida Finns, many of them retired Wobs. He was librarian at the hall for most of the last 14 years of his life. And as a true working stiff, he would be the dishwasher in the cafeteria at the Saturday night dances at Kentta Hall.

At his death, he was the last of the immigrant editors of Finnish language newspapers in the U.S. We might pause a moment in honor of this early torchbearer in our common struggles toward worker emancipation.

In Solidarity,

Harry Siitonen  
San Francisco, CA106 Sanchez St., #17  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
March 3, 1990

Farewell, Fellow Worker

*Wobbly Mel Most died on Saturday, January 6, 1990 in New York City. A memorial was held for him by his family and close friends at the All Soul's Church, 1157 Lexington Avenue in New York City on Monday, January 15 at 3 pm; and by the General Branch of the Arts at The Living Theatre, 272 E. 3rd Street in New York City, on Tuesday, January 16 at 8 pm. There were no funeral services.*

Mel Most kindled many things in our hearts and minds while performing the work of his life—which was clearly to stoke the fires of revolution. Although he sometimes felt he was one gruff irascible voice in the wilderness, he recognized and taught the value of unity and solidarity.

In the last year, Mel, a brightly burning comet, blazed his message across our sky. That message was: Organize! He burned so fiercely and at the same time so lovingly, giving his energy tirelessly and selflessly. He urged us to come together and be a movement—not a dutiful replication of the past, but a new vanguard based on what was learned from the past, combined with a vision of what is to come in the future.

We have been entrusted with a precious responsibility—to plan and carry out effective, social, inspired actions in the present. As individuals, as poets and artists, as communicators, we will create, as Mel put it,

"...the art of the impossible."

At a recent meeting, Mel said, "There is a new wave coming. It's seldom that things happening far away don't affect us. We're the world. We're facing an extraordinary decade. Leaders and parties have been ineffective, and unable to affect social change. People are looking for a new way."

Last year, when Mel began to organize the Humanist Front with a small group of cultural workers and peers, he often said to me, "We're creating the illusion of a movement with mirrors and smoke screens." But as people of the theater, we're accustomed to such effects. In the last few months, with Mel's guidance, we created the IWW General Job Branch of the Arts at The Living Theatre, and our charter membership has grown to 45 in number. This is no small accomplishment—nor is it a theatrical illusion.

Mel—friend, fellow worker, comrade, mentor—I will deeply miss you. But I am also profoundly grateful that our lives crossed. And I'm sure you realize that you made the connection. We have much yet to learn—and we are ready, willing and able to carry the flame forward.

I think I speak for us all in saying, Mel, "I love you now until eternity."

Joannie Fritz



I am not moved to tears but moved to action, Though when tears come (they do) I hear Joe Hill Admonish us in Mel Most's bugle voice Piercing our foolishness, our lethargy, our fear, With undiminished clarity, echoed by choruses Of Julian's, Emma's, Esther's, Sacha's exclamations Of the human anarchist humanarchist cause To set us free from what we fear, not death, But unfulfilled and unfulfilling life. His rabble-raising laughter leads us on, Past the discouragement of all our years, To know, to hope, to do, to bring to history The revolution of Anarchic love.

Judith Malina  
January 8, 1990

Announcement

We are happy to announce the birth of the IWW General Branch for Arts in NYC! Composed of theatre workers, writers, poets, technical workers, musicians and fellow travelers, our membership is largely drawn from members of The Living Theatre (which was a Job Branch in 1974 until its exile in Europe), Shock Troupe Theatre, Alchemical Theatre, Protean Forms Collective, and diverse musicians, writers, media artists and cultural workers in our immediate and extended community. This branch had the privilege and honor of being organized by the late Mel Most (see obituary/memorial), who passed away January 6, 1990, shortly after our inaugural meeting held at his home in New York City.

We are now forging ahead to organize ourselves, with the generous assistance of John Hansen, Pat Klees, and Rochelle Semel, members of the NY General Regional Branch. We have chosen three delegates from our charter membership, a secretary and a branch organizing committee. We officially filed for our charter to become effective January 1, 1990. Our activities include the Wobbly Chorus, which is available to go to strikes, benefits, demonstrations, etc. to lend support; a human anarchist study group held the first Monday of every month at The Living Theatre; and a kitchen collective at The Living Theatre. We are in the process of organizing other cells and committees, and hope to put out a branch newsletter in the near future to bring our fellow and sister workers up to date on our progress.

## Cover Photo

Over 300 workers took to the streets outside of the Fenton, MO Chrysler Plant #1 on February 6th. The demonstrators were protesting Chrysler's announcement to shut down that plant in September of this year. The march was called for by New Directions, a more militant faction of the UAW and was joined by several Wobs.

photo: Langelle

Collective Bozos:

Your letter of 2/16/90, mailed 3/7/90, and arriving here 3/9/90, requests articles for your April "Voices of Women" issue, to be submitted by 3/15/90. Apparently you are only interested in hearing your own voices, as that deadline is clearly impossible to meet. No return address on the envelope almost landed the letter in the junk mail pile anyway, and even your inside address has an incomplete zip code. This Union is spending a lot of money again for ineptitude and inefficiency. No surprise. For the Jerks,

Barb Hansen

IW Collective Response

Dear Barb Hansen and all IWW women: We changed our women's issue to be the May issue due to the late send-off of our notification letters. So, women—take note! You still can contribute. All women should have received by now a postcard notifying them of this change, and we hope you will all contribute by April 15! You too, Barb! We look forward to your article. You know, we are all volunteers here. We put in over 160 volunteer hours each month with a lot of pain, sweat and trial and error. Guess we made a mistake. Guess you never have.

The book is called *Economics and the Environment: A Reconciliation*. Mr. Block is a director of the fascist Fraser Institute. MV

## CALLING ALL WOBBS

Plan to come to Denver, April 30 through May 4, to celebrate Labor Day and to attend a week-long IWW conference. This is a time set aside for discussing things we never have time to deal with at conventions. The first three days (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday) will be spent discussing the constitution. Do we need changes? If so, what changes? No final decisions will be made at this conference. All constitutional changes must go to the membership for a referendum vote. We will discuss Ed Jahn's new rewrite and the Canadian proposal. If nothing else, we will learn a great deal about the strengths and weaknesses of our constitution and become better Wobs for it.

The last two days (Thursday and Friday) will be spent on organizing workshops. Rochelle Semel is planning these workshops, as she has organized several such events for the Women's Labor College held each year in the Northeast. Judi Bare has agreed to come and talk about organizing in northern California.

Sunday night we will host a welcoming party for all who arrive early. Monday night will be video night. We have several good ones for you, including a video of our Columbine Memorial event. What we show will be your choice.

Tuesday night we will have a Labor Day concert featuring Jane Sapp, a beautiful woman who spent many years at Highlanders in Knoxville, Tennessee. Jane will be joined by Larry Long from Minneapolis, Minnesota, of P-9 fame. Jane and Larry were here with Pete Seeger in 1986 to help us raise \$12,000 for P-9.

As this is also Cinco de Mayo week, we will hold the conference at the Chicano Humanities and Arts Council building at 1535 Platte Street, just west of downtown Denver. They will have an exhibit of revolutionary Mexican art during this week. The Colorado Labor Forum is bringing Paco Taibo, an anarcho-syndicalist author from Mexico City, to Denver for the week to celebrate both International Labor Day and Cinco de Mayo. He will speak for us twice while he is here: once, on Wednesday night about the current radical labor movement in Mexico, and again on Thursday about the IWW influence on the Mexican labor movement.

On Friday night several Denver-Boulder Wobs will be flying to Minneapolis for the Workers Democracy Conference. However, there will be many Cinco de Mayo events scheduled in Denver for the weekend for those who want to participate. You may also want to visit Ludlow and the Columbine Memorial while you're here. Don't forget to bring your favorite fishing rod. The trout are biting that time of year.

To reach the CHAC (Chicano Humanities and Arts Council) building, go west one mile on 15th Street from downtown Denver over the viaduct, across the railroad tracks to Platte Street. Turn right (north) 1/2 block and CHAC is on the left (west) side of the street. If you need a pick-up at the airport or a place to stay, write Gary Cox, 11548 Community Center Drive #53, Northglenn, CO 80233 or call Gary at 303-452-7701. CHAC's phone number is 303-477-7733. CHAC is within walking distance of the train station or the bus depot. For those who want to camp, there are mountain campgrounds close to Denver and a KOA with showers just north of Denver on I-25.

We will be charging a \$25 registration fee for all registrants to help pay rent and expenses. There are bars and restaurants near CHAC. Lowell May has a nice, clean loft above his print shop, which is close to CHAC, for the sleeping bag crowd. Call Gary and reserve a space if that sounds convenient.

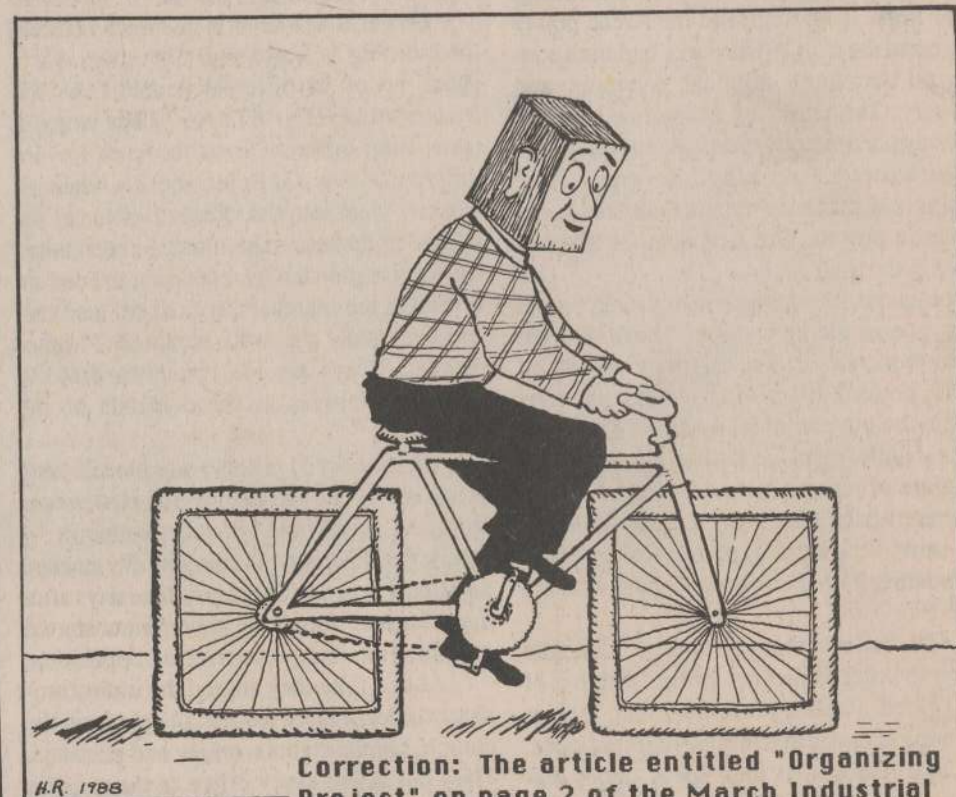
Do come. Even if we don't learn much, we'll have a good time and get know each other better.

Denver-Boulder IWW Branch

For Peace and Revolution  
Ken Myers.

## MR. BLOCK LIVES!

A certain Walter Block has come out with a book advocating that rivers, lakes, forests, and oceans be parceled out and sold to the highest bidder. This, says Mr. Block, will guarantee the preservation of the natural environment. He says that environmentalists are a front for socialism; like watermelons, they are green on the outside but pink on the inside. These "pinko-greenos" deceive the public with ideas such as nature is the heritage of all humankind. Anyone who believes that trees have feelings, Mr. Block says, should be handled with a ten-foot pole.



Correction: The article entitled "Organizing Project" on page 2 of the March *Industrial Worker* should have been attributed to its author August Liuzzo

## Industrial Worker

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# EXPANDING THE STRUGGLE

As the nineties open, the choices before workers are getting starker and the times more desperate. We need to take a deep look at how our union fits into building a revolutionary movement in Canada and the US.

When the IWW was young and strong, it had an effect larger than its numbers. It inspired and educated through activity. Thirty years old before the first contract was signed, the IWW has always been part of the movement for a new society. The IWW has always been something other than your normal AFL or CIO union.

So where are we going? What principles strengthen us? And what confusions should we avoid?

## Some Dead Ends

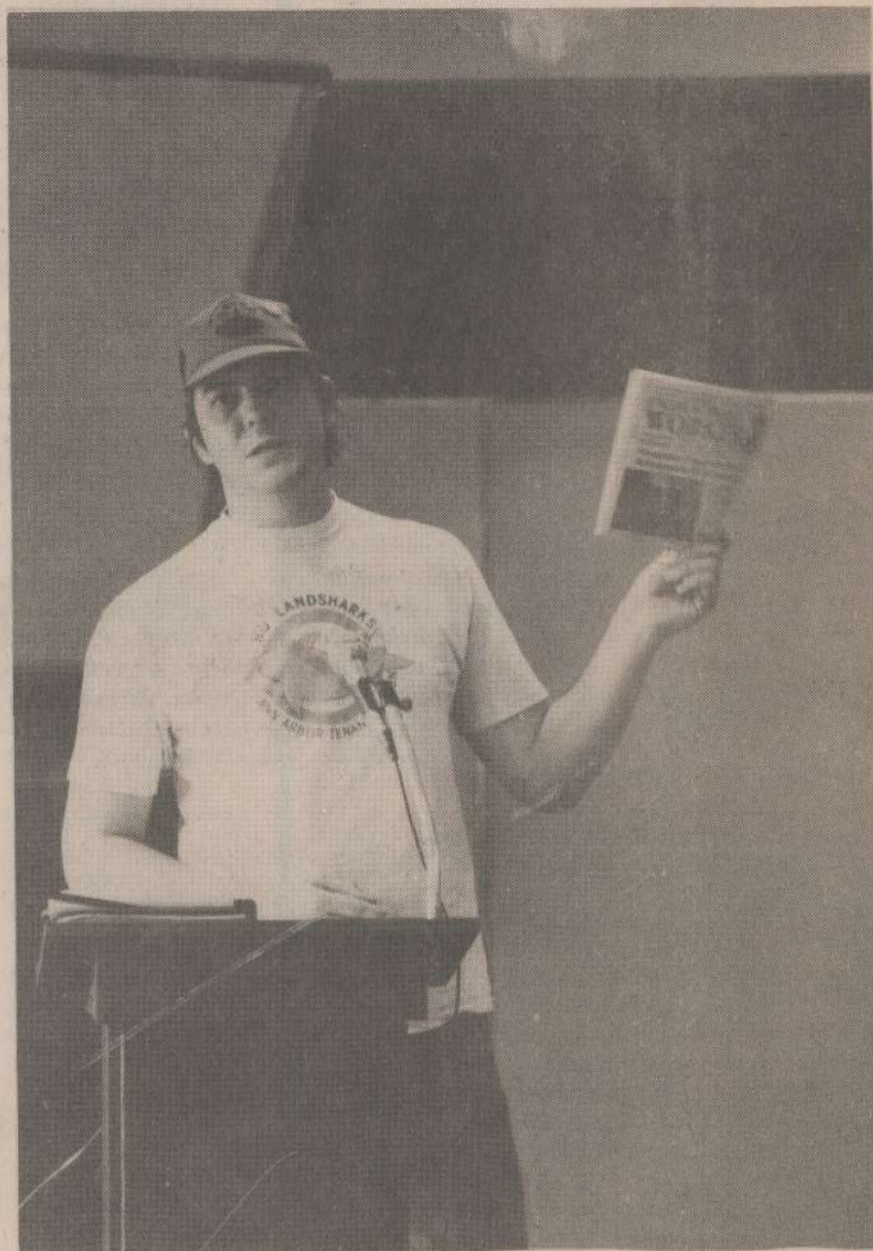
Reforming the AFL-CIO unions or the electoral system is no answer. Those activities are a trap, a lie, and a way the system uses up the energies directed against it. The central problem with the business unions is the organizational structures which put power in the hands of elected "representatives" and "advocates" rather than workers on the shop floor. This problem cannot be corrected just by changing the people who carry out those roles. It is the roles themselves that alienate us working people from power over our own lives which are the problem.

Two carders in local business unions which gain IWW majority strength face interesting choices. Taking over the business union bureaucracy will not work. The International will put the local in receivership or the reformers who get elected will be co-opted by the hierarchical business union system. That's what the system does to people. More productive is to build direct democratic worker to worker relations, which through networks of solidarity go far beyond the limits that business unions place on workers' self organization. Democratic forums in which all workers — not just the loudest or most statesmanlike — are heard and respected. And concerted actions that large numbers of people determine and which exercise the power that is in our hands as workers.

That power, especially on the shop floor or picket line, is largely "illegal". The laws, courts, cops and government bureaucracies belong to the bosses. That is why mass picketing is illegal.

When a few on an assembly line refuse the law the assembly line stops. When enough thousands are in the street the system begins to break down. Recent events in Eastern Europe suggest what can happen when millions tell the state at the same time that "we don't recognize your laws."

It is reasonable that people want to reform the business unions or run "good people" for public office. We grow up used to those institutions, see decent people supporting them and hear that the status quo is democ-



cracy. The system tells us that if the system does not represent us it is our job to better express our view points and reform the system. But that is not true. Those who seek to reform the business unions are pursuing a false hope.

Some members criticize the IWW for not being like the other unions or like a union election oriented reform group (although most joined for exactly that reason and there is nothing there to emulate). But the IWW is not about different people in the same old roles. It is about new roles.

In the business unions any "political discussion" that gets beyond the anemic "ins versus outs" dynamic is baited as "too red" or "too radical" or "not practical". In the IWW the "anti-politicals" claim that political debate and analysis is "boring" or that action can proceed without understanding. The result is to limit our own union. We need to deepen our understanding of our times through a give and take between action and ideas, practice and analysis. Either without the

other is of little practical good in our daily lives.

Some claim that issues like ecology, racism, homelessness, prisons and feminism are not "real union" issues. Yet these issues are intrinsically tied to working class struggle. Women and people of color will not wait until after the revolution for needed changes. Racism keeps the class fractured. Three million working folks are homeless. Working people fill the prisons (where the population has doubled in the last decade).

Democracy is not something we learn by experience in the dominant culture. There are not a lot of examples to learn from: feminist process and the various people's upsurges — CIO in the '30s, SNCC in the '60s, and IWW history provide some lessons. Capitalism's repressive relationships are reproduced constantly in our everyday lives. We need to resist in the same way.

## The State is Anti-Worker

Some put hope in the state as a possible ally to improve our working conditions or

even our unions. The state has its own priorities. Revolution in our lifetime is not among them. The state's priority is to maintain capitalism and itself. This is expressed in what the government does through its police and judicial and administrative agencies.

Labor laws labeled "workers' rights" have been used to bust many well-financed organizing efforts. In the IWW, the number one strategy is to build direct democracy by building networks of resistance and a community of shop floor, worker to worker solidarity.

If the goal is to empower people a good organizing rule is to never bring an advocate

— a lawyer — to an organizing meeting. (And of course don't set yourself up as the big hero, expert or leader either). Labor law has to be considered tactically, but it can never replace solidarity as a major factor in our strategies and visions of where we are struggling to go.

## Inside the Union

We need to learn to relate to each other in ways that build a new society. Open and democratic process is a must. We need to relate to each other in our union in ways that take us where we are going. The old society methods of intimidation, hierarchy and domination will not help us to build a revolutionary society.

The IWW structure is not modeled on "representative" capitalist forms of government. The IWW is an attempt to find ways for workers to relate to each other, in motion, building a revolutionary movement. That is why the policy making body of the IWW is the convention and the IWW executive body without legislative power.

We can make democracy work by learning how to deal with each other in democratic ways. A key IWW principle is that all people delegated to take on responsible tasks should be tied into a base of rank and files and return there after brief periods in elected positions. Democracy means all decisions must be made at the lowest possible level.

Building a people's movement means learning to tolerate differences and finding greater strength in our diversity. When we have problems we need to solve them ourselves.

## Expanding the Struggle

So what do we do? We must carry the struggle for a new society into every aspect of everyday life. Since capitalism has invaded every part of our lives. Only by confronting the many oppressions head on can we fight back.

We need to build international networks to combat the multi-national corporations. Toxic chemicals affect workers first, but in

the long run the harm reaches far beyond the plant gates. As well, a shop floor focus ignores the problems of those traditionally excluded from the workplace: women, the very old and young, people of color, the less-abled, the list goes on...

A shop floor only focus no longer is enough. When a labor struggle breaks out whole communities need to understand that the struggle with one particular factory or corporation is important to all working people.

The point now is to expand the struggle.

When there is an active strike or two in our home towns, it is not enough to "show solidarity" by picketing or donating money. The strategy of business union strikes keep workers separated from each other and power over our own lives. When the decisions are made by experts and bureaucrats workers are left out and "labor peace" exacts its toll. Strikers must link up directly, across union lines and without interference by union bureaucrats. Only then can the real power of solidarity be expressed. Strikes need to link up geographically as well as by industry because that's where it is possible for workers to make direct contact with each other.

Solidarity must also go beyond the workplace. Successful early IWW strikes were the experience of whole communities in solidarity. A community could organize a city-wide rent strike which would shut down the local court system and lessen one basic vulnerability of striking workers — paying the landlord.

Any movement for social change challenges the existing "legal" order. Current laws are set up only to protect the class in power. That is why the National Labor Relations Board is not a source of worker power. That is why involving government in union affairs is a delusion. We must challenge the legal order which constrains and redirects our action.

"Illegal acts" does not mean random violence or something equally authoritarian and useless (to the revolution). It means challenging the system by breaking down the chains that exist in our minds as well as the economic and legal ones.

## Towards a Discussion

On the shop floor the struggle is direct, and we learn to build our strength and shape our revolutionary organizations and relationships. But capitalism has colonized everything. The struggle against that must be equally total.

We need to approach the new decade driven by our visions of a new society and relate to each other with solidarity and hope. We need to build the new society in our every day life. NOW

Jeff Ditz

## EARTH FIRST!ERS ASK FOR INVESTIGATION OF ATTEMPTED MURDER

Three Earth First! organizers today requested that Mendocino County investigate a log truck driver for attempted murder for running their car off the road with his logging truck last August. Judi Bari (Mendocino Co. Earth First!), Darryl Cherney (Humboldt Co. Earth First!), and Pam Davis (Sonoma Co. Earth First!) were on their way to an Earth First! demonstration during National Tree Sit Week last summer when a logging truck driven by Donald Blake of Redwood Coast Trucking rammed Bari's car, causing it to fly through the air and crash into another vehicle. Also in the car were Bari and Davis' four small children. The car was demolished and the occupants received concussions, whiplash and abrasions.

Although they have long suspected that this was no accident, the Earth First!ers have recently obtained a photo that shows that the truck and driver that rammed them were the very same truck and driver that they had blockaded at a Louisiana Pacific logging operation less than 24 hours earlier. "It was chilling to see these photos and have our worst fears confirmed," said Judi Bari. "This certainly casts suspicion on Blake's motives. I believe this man tried to kill us."

According to the police report, Blake admitted that he had been aware he was following Bari's car for about 10 miles before the crash. He had opportunities to identify both the car and its occupants at the blockaded day before, and during the drive the day he hit them. Eyewitnesses to the crash stated in the police report that Bari was travelling at 20-30 mph as she drove through the town of Philo, and was overtaken from behind and rammed by Blake's truck. The road was posted 30 mph, and there were pedestrians in the area. "The truck was not tailgating, and he hit me without warning. There was no sound of horn or brakes. I don't think he hit his brakes at all," said Bari. Blake claims in the police report that he did not see Bari's car in front of him. He estimates his speed at 45 mph, although he admits that his

speedometer was broken.

Despite the suspicious nature of this collision, the CHP officers who investigated did not test Blake for drugs, question him about his motives, or even give him a fix-it ticket for his broken speedometer. Instead the entire investigation consisted of the CHP going to the wrecking yard and testing the brake lights on Bari's demolished car. They admitted that the brake lights worked, yet an officer came to the hospital and questioned Bari about her brake lights while she was lying in the emergency room in a semi-conscious state. "I was clearly the victim of this incident," says Bari. "This was no investigation, it was blatant harassment."

This was the third incident in Mendocino Co. last summer in which law enforcement showed prejudice against Earth First!ers. Two days before the truck incident Earth First!er Mem Hill had her nose broken by logger Dave Lancaster at a demonstration in Whitethorn. There were at least 20 witnesses to this assault, and the Lancasters also fired a gun and threatened to kill the Earth First!ers. Yet the Mendocino Co. sheriffs refused to arrest Lancaster at the scene, and Mendocino County District Attorney Sue Massini has so far refused to prosecute. In June, Earth First! organizer Greg King was punched and knocked to the ground by a logger at a demonstration in Calpella. The logger had also wielded a live chainsaw in the peaceful crowd, yet the officers at the scene refused to arrest him. "There's no protection of the law for Earth First!ers in Mendocino County," said Bari. "It's like being a Black in South Africa."

Bari has sent a letter to Massini asking her to investigate Donald Blake, his employer Redwood Coast Trucking, and their employer Louisiana Pacific for attempted murder. She has also requested that the Grand Jury investigate the prejudicial treatment of Earth First!ers by law enforcement in Mendocino County.



## Ride the "Freedom Train"

Ride the "Freedom Train" to the Redwoods

It's going to be a long hard summer in the Redwood region of Northern California. The public is outraged over the timber companies' policy of exterminating the redwoods for short-term profit, and the corporados know they're not going to get away with this for much longer. Two voter initiatives restricting timber cutting will be on the California ballot next fall, and whether in the form of voter initiatives or state and federal legislation, it seems inevitable that some regulations will be passed.

The timber companies have reacted to this by racing to cut every tree they can as fast as they can before any laws can be enacted to stop them. 95% of the redwood ecosystem has already been cut, and much of it has been destroyed so that it is no longer even forest

land. This summer everything from 1000-year old giants, 12 feet in diameter, to baby redwood trees that are chipped for the pulp mills will be falling at breakneck speed. If we want to have anything left to save, we have to slow down the timber companies now. And it doesn't seem like we, in these rural, timber dependent areas, can do it ourselves.

Back in the early 1960's, Civil Rights movement activists found themselves in a similar situation in Mississippi, unable to break the stranglehold of the powers-that-be in their communities, but backed by substantial public support both locally and nationally. What they did was to put a nationwide call for people to come ride the buses to Mississippi and help challenge the rule of racism.

We need to do the same thing now to

save the forest. We are putting out a call for Freedom Riders for the forest to come to Northern California this summer to defend the redwoods with non-violent civil disobedience. We hope to maintain permanent encampments and waves of action all summer long. Our method of organization will be decentralized and non-hierarchical, with each group deciding the character of its own actions. Locally we will provide housing, campsites, guides and support to help plan and carry out actions. Afinity groups, organizations and individuals are all welcome and needed. The redwoods are almost gone. Help us make a last stand for the last stands.

For more information please contact us at the address below, or call Judi (707-485-0478), Betty (707-468-1660), Pam (707-523-1229) or Darryl (707-247-3320). Earth First!, 106 West Standley, Ukiah, CA 95482.

# PITTSTON WORKERS END STRIKE

## MORE CONCESSIONS END PITTSTON STRIKE

Coal miners voted 1247 to 734 last month to end their strike against the Pittston coal group, ratifying an agreement reached January 1st between the company, the United Mine Workers and the U.S. Labor Department. Details of the proposed contract were withheld from strikers for six weeks by UMW leader Richard Trumka, who released the text of the agreement just days before the contract went to a vote.

Despite Trumka's claims of a "great victory," the new Pittston contract contains major concessions—concessions that other unionized operators will surely demand for their mines in the next round of contract negotiations. The four year contract guarantees that Pittston will not return to the "industry-wide" contract (a contract that covers an increasingly small part of the industry—UMW miners now produce only a third of U.S. coal, and many unionized firms are no longer covered by the master contract), as the current Bituminous Coal Operators Association contract expires in three years time. Pittston and the UMW will renegotiate wages in the contract's final year.

While Pittston got less in concessions than it originally demanded, it still got quite a bit. Pittston's original demands were that miners pay 20% of their medical bills, work "flexible" hours including weekend shifts, and that the company no longer be required to pay in to the UMW's Welfare and Retirement Fund. Under the settlement, miners received a one-time \$1000 signing bonus, and pay hikes of \$1.20 an hour over three years (far less than the rate of inflation). Pittston will continue paying in to the union's pension and health plans, but miners will now be required to pay the first \$1000 in medical bills themselves—a concession that more than cancels out the extremely modest wage "gains."

And miners will have to be flexible indeed. Pittston is no longer bound by such obsolete and inflexible rules as the 8-hour work day or the five day work week. (The former 40-hour work week was, of course, far longer than anyone should be asked to work one hundred years after workers first struck for the 8-Hour Day—let alone in a strenuous and dangerous occupation like coal mining.) Instead, Pittston can demand that miners work four 10-hour days, or put miners on a 28-day rotation where they could work up to six consecutive days or seven consecutive nights. Miners will thus work even more grueling schedules than before, with injury and death rates sure to climb. And they will be unable to insist upon having weekends off to be with their families, or to otherwise determine their schedules which will most likely change from week to week.

And while the union claims that the new contract includes substantial job security provisions, 80 strikers will be without their jobs pending a case-by-case review of company charges of improper strike-related activities. Pittston will offer UMW miners preference in hiring at its nonunion mines, and in filling most vacancies created by contracting out work formerly done by UMW members, but at three mines scabs are to stay on the job, displacing strikers. According to one report, Pittston will be able to add 50 more scabs to its Pyxis Resources mine (where 400 scabs are already on the job) before recalling union miners. Estimates of job losses under the new contract range from 200-500 current Pittston UMW miners to lose their jobs, though the contract may slow the pace of Pittston's ongoing conversion to nonunion subsidiaries and contractors.

Nor are the questions of the fines and other penalties imposed against the UMW by the courts resolved. Trumka had originally held up ratification of the agreement, pending dismissal of the \$64 million in fines assessed against the union by state and federal courts. But when the coal industry's friend on the bench refused to drop the fines, the UMW buckled under. The National Labor Relations Board has agreed to halt its anti-UMW proceedings at Pittston's request, but at this writing all the fines stand, although the judge who assessed the lion's share of the funds (mostly without any evidence whatsoever to link the UMW to the alleged instances) is reportedly considering suspending up to one-half of the fines. Thus the UMW could well spend the next several years in court appealing tens of millions of dollars in fines.

The Pittston strike was an inspiration to many, both for the widespread solidarity from the community and from other unionists and for the militant tactics with which union miners defended their strike and themselves against the assaults of company goons, state police and the courts. The miners reminded many that it is possible to fight back, that we need not meekly accept the bosses' dictates. But their struggle also highlights many of the shortcomings of contemporary business unionism.

One of the most encouraging developments was the sympathy strikes that swept the coal fields after the Pittston strike had dragged on for two months (after more than a year of fruitless bargaining). Miners were especially infuriated at Pittston's decision to cut off benefits to retired and disabled miners not actively engaged in the dispute. The sympathy strike eventually involved 50,000 miners in 10 states. Unidentified flying pickets dressed in camouflage outfits appeared throughout the coal regions, shutting down one mine after another. Coal using utility plants and industrial sites were visited as well. The wildcat lasted for over a month before the union was able to convince wildcat strikers to return to work.

The sympathy strike nearly succeeded. Pittston hinted that it would return to negotiations. After a UMW declared week of "memorial days" which restored official control, however, ending the wildcats, Pittston reaffirmed its original demands.

To understand the UMW's impasse, one needs to go back to the 1940s, the union's "golden age". With a membership of a half million miners, UMW despot John L. Lewis set out to stabilize the chaotic coal industry. Like the good business unionist he was, Lewis assumed what was good for the coal industry was good for the union. He envisioned a coal industry dominated by a few large companies with sufficient capital to mechanize their mining operations. Improved productivity would mean better wages for working miners, an industry-financed health and retirement system, and a rich union treasury. The latter was especially important since for Lewis, as for all business unionists, the power of the labor movement lies in union funds, not in the solidarity of the ranks.

Lewis helped bring into being the Bituminous Coal Operators Association in 1950 to negotiate industry-wide contracts with the union. Under these contracts, average daily coal production rose from 4.5 tons in 1950 to 12 tons in 1961 (it's nearly 20 tons today). For each ton of coal mined, a royalty was paid to the union's Welfare and Retirement Fund. While the benefits of the UMW welfare system to

crippled and retired miners cannot be denied, the long term effects of Lewis' collaborationist policy were devastating. Thousands lost their jobs. By 1959 the number of union miners dropped to 180,000. When Fund revenues declined due to financial mismanagement, employer payment-dodging, and declining coal demand, benefit requirements were simply tightened the way capitalist insurance companies operate. The UMW even withheld benefits from union dissidents. As the welfare system grew less responsive and more corrupt, the rank-and-file rebelled and wildcat strikes increased.

The union reform movement which took over in 1970 eliminated many abuses of the Welfare and Retirement Fund. But nothing was done to correct the biggest abuse of all, the hold the welfare system gave the BCOA over the union and its members. Just as dues checkoff makes the union dependent on the employer for its finances, so do union health and welfare plans financed by employer contributions. Even worse, it allows employers to hold family members and former co-workers hostage during contract negotiations and strikes. Even the most militant labor leader can be forced to back down by employers who threaten to withhold contributions needed to support retirees or hospitalized sick children (not to mention to pay the salaries of union staff workers). During the miners' revolt of the 1970s, the BCOA did exactly that. Reform leaders were caught in the cross-fire between a rebellious rank-and-file and the employers.

When Richard Trumka, a union staff lawyer, was elected UMW President in 1982, he was hailed by Wall Street as the strong leader the UMW needed. Allegedly the union was suffering from "too much democracy" (ie. wildcat strikes). Trumka eliminated the UMW Bargaining Council, giving himself sole authority to conduct contract negotiations. He did away with the "no contract, no work" tradition of the union, instead implementing a selective strike strategy. His brilliant new strategy for defeating the capitalists was to create a strike fund by taxing each miner 2.5% of their gross pay. Trumka would decide which strikers would receive strike benefits. It is paradoxical that Trumka has received such accolades from the left-wing of the labor movement considering the way he eliminated many of the things fought for by the rank-and-file during the 1970s, especially the unlimited right to strike.

This return to business unionism has not reversed the decline of the UMW. Current union membership (not counting retirees and the UMW's catch-all non-mining branch), is down to an all-time low of 60,000 working miners. Several BCOA companies have begun operating mines through non-union subsidiaries. These new subsidiaries have proven difficult to organize. Freed of pension fund obligations to UMW retirees, they often pay more in take-home wages than UMW miners receive. Companies operating in this "double-breasted" fashion have quietly shifted their coal reserves to their non-union subsidiaries, further cutting the numbers of union miners. Pittston, for example, has shifted over 50 million tons to its non-union subsidiary, Paramount Co.

An even more ominous tactic has been "whipsawing". Prior to both the 1984 and 1988 contract talks, a major coal employer has dropped out of the BCOA. In 1984 it was the Massey Coal Company, which demanded concessions beyond what the BCOA asked for. Although the UMW "won" an unfair labor practice suit over Massey's demand for mine-by-mine bargaining, the selective strike (in reality a selective lock-out) resulted in concessions and lay-offs. And in 1988 Pittston left the BCOA with its own demands for cut-backs. In both cases the result has been a general lowering of standards in the coal industry. Recognition of this fact led to the tacit support by many local UMW officers for last summer's wildcat strikes.

The wildcats were brought to an end partly by the courts (court fines against the UMW, some miners joke cynically, exceed the national debt), but even more because of threats by the BCOA to end industry-wide negotiations. "If being in the BCOA and paying higher labor costs does not grant them immunity from wildcat strikes," these bosses argue, "why stay in the BCOA?"

But dissolving the BCOA would jeopardize the UMW's existence. This is not, as most business unionists argue, because of the difficulty of negotiating with each separate employer (although this would require some healthy decentralization). Rather it would result in the collapse of the financial mainstay of the UMW bureaucracy, the Welfare and Retirement Fund. As if to make this point clear, during the last week of the wildcat strikes Arch Mineral Corp. and Bethlehem Steel Corp.'s coal unit threatened to cut off Fund payments if the wildcats continued.

This is the legacy of John L. Lewis' business unionism to the miners. A coal industry now dominated by a handful of large highly mechanized employers, and the UMW and its bureaucracy inextricably tied to the BCOA—with the health and pensions of the miners held for ransom. All the internal reforms, the ousters of Boyle, Miller, and Church, have led full circle back to the self-proclaimed Lewis clone, Rich Trumka. The organizational gains of the 30's and 40's were squandered for a class-collaborationist facade—the BCOA and the union welfare system—which is now needed more by the union than by the employers.

The lessons from the UMW are lessons for anyone wishing to retrace the footsteps of business union reform and welfare capitalism. The prerequisite for an all-out struggle with the employers is a labor movement not tied to them through dues check-off and pension funds. In one strike after another these days, employers seeking to tame their workers are going at them by seeking restrictions on their access to health care (one of the principal issues in the recent telephone strikes) or cutting off benefits to retirees. Certainly the labor movement needs to make a commitment to the health and well-being of workers and their families, but these should be completely separate from the employer, and not subject to the political manipulation of power hungry politicians (both inside and outside the unions).

Wages from the employer should be in cash. If this does not provide enough to afford health care and pensions, then the wages need to be raised instead of getting the employer to make promises that can be reneged on later. Nonprofit insurance co-operatives and mutual aid societies not tied to employment in any particular industry could be set-up similar to those which existed in the early days of the labor movement. Also the labor movement should help form consumer unions to defend the rights of workers against the capitalist insurance agencies and the HMO rackets.

Jon Bekken and Jeff Stein

## "Bread Bank"

continued from page 1

the congregation, was baking bread in the church kitchen ovens and giving away sample loaves at church gatherings and other social occasions in the village. Simultaneously, he continued to talk up the Bread Bank concept.

Nicholson's persistence—and the quality of the bread he produces—paid off when the church members donated \$800 so the Bread Bank could purchase its first ton of grain from a Vancouver worker-owned food wholesaler to begin operations. "The barefoot baker idea is that all you really need are your baking skills and a dream," Nicholson said. "The challenge is to use the assets that there are in every community."

The next step for the Kaslo Bread Bank is to build a 36-loaf wood-fired brick oven to be used to help teach interested people the skills of bread baking and the construction and use of such ovens. To this end, Everest built a 12-loaf wood-fired oven in his backyard early in the summer, to himself master the skills and gain some knowledge about costs of the oven project.

A final step before the Bread Bank is in full swing will be the purchase of a milling machine that can process grain faster than the loaned model. The bank plans to raise the necessary funds by issuing bonds to supporters—including, perhaps, those other residents who have already begun using the Bread Bank. Nicholson and Everest are aiming for May 1990 as the target for the grand opening of the completely functional Bread Bank. Meanwhile, both men continue to bake and give away loaves as concrete evidence of the virtues of the scheme. "Letting our loaves argue the benefits of a Bread Bank is better than putting out a pamphlet," Nicholson observed.

Everest said he had been baking bread for years, but became intrigued with the Bread Bank idea in part because of his work with the



sawmill. "In my job I see clearly the ups and downs of the sawmill business. As well as being physically demanding, my work with my sawmill consists of seasonal overemployment and underemployment. For quite a while now I have been looking for another line of work and I realize that people need daily-bread a lot more than they need daily timber."

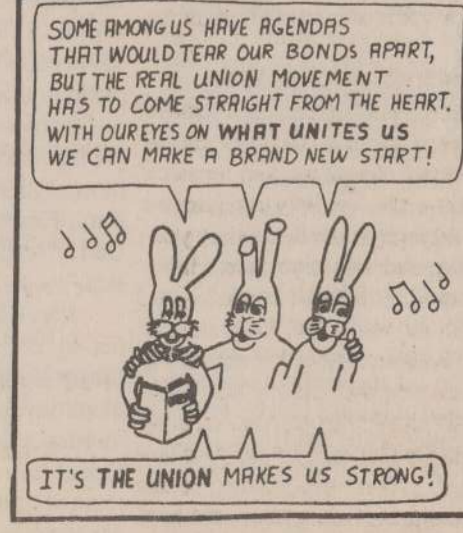
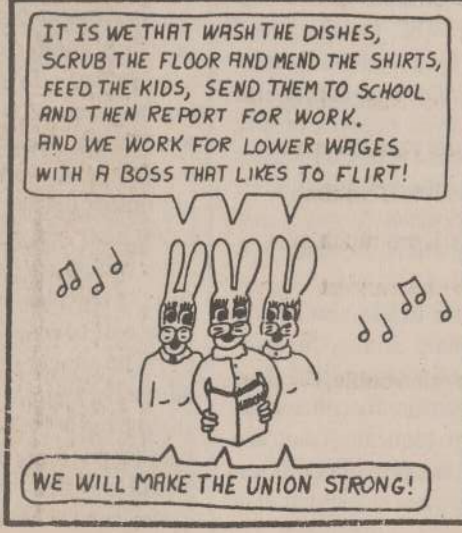
Part of Nicholson's motivation is simply to provide people with "better bread." All human beings need food energy, he points out, and "the largest source of such energy comes from cereal grains." He and Everest both endorse a simple-to-make "people's loaf" based on a Flemish recipe. The loaf is made of only wheat, water and salt. But for the bread to be successful the ingredients must be uncontaminated. "This bread thus makes it much clearer to people why we need clean water, clean air, and clean wheat unsprayed with fungicides," Nicholson said. He pointed out that some historians believe yeasts were only introduced in ancient Rome as necessary to the baking process when the city's water supply became polluted. The mountainous West Kootenay is already a center of environmental activism, since the area's plentiful water and timber resources are threatened by overlogging and contamination from mines and smelters.

Nicholson said learning to bake is not difficult, if a person is motivated. A good time to master the skill is during bouts of unemployment, Nicholson claimed. "Unemployment gives you the time to raise the baking of bread to an art form." Bread baking is not only fun, he observed, but participating in a Bread Bank "aims toward occupational and economic freedom, soul-supporting qualities sadly missing from most jobs."

But whether a person bakes themselves, or uses the Bread Bank as a source of tasty wholesome food, the unity needed to make the Bank function is a plus, too. "On a project like this we work with people who may be diametrically opposed to us on many ideas," Nicholson pointed out. "Bread is something we all share." Nicholson and Everest said the Bread Bank idea is capable of being applied to other human needs. The Kaslo Wobblers are already thinking of including salt and wool as the next commodities available at the bank.

Tom Wayman

For more information on the Bread Bank contact Nicholson or Everest at P.O. Box 1205, Kaslo, B.C. V0G 1M0.



# SUPPORT THE GREYHOUND WORKERS!

Greyhound Bus workers have been on strike since March 1st, because they cannot agree to management demands that would destroy their union and strip them of any remaining semblance of dignity on the job. 6200 bus drivers struck March 1st (another 91 are scabbers), along with thousands of mechanics and other support workers represented by the Amalgamated Transit Union.

Greyhound management hopes to continue its string of concessionary contracts, in which workers have been forced to accept cuts in wages, working conditions, and jobs—concessions the company insisted were necessary to keep the company afloat. Bus drivers, mechanics and other workers lost an average of 22% in wages after losing their 1983 strike. Pay was cut again in 1987, and again when the company was sold. All told, wages fell by about a third over the past seven years. Nor have these wage cuts saved jobs—hundreds of workers have lost their jobs to subcontracting, and speed-ups and to the consolidation of the formerly competing Greyhound and Trailways systems.

Management, however, has been doing just fine. With the monopoly it gained by purchasing Trailways and the millions of dollars saved in wages, Greyhound is once again profitable. (It would have been profitable long ago, were it not for the enormous debt payments and interest charges which Greyhound was saddled with when Fred Curry and his partners bought the bus line from Greyhound-Dial a couple of years ago, and added to by their more recent purchase of the Trailways system.) Greyhound management has not only insisted that Greyhound's workers pay for this takeover program through concessions and lay-offs, but now insists that they grant more concessions to enhance the owners' rate of return.

Greyhound agreed before the strike to restore some of the pay lost to concessions since 1983. (The company's final offer provides for base pay of 30 cents a mile, down from 37.3 cents in 1983, along with bonuses for increased ridership; and would raise mechanics' wages by 18%.)

While workers are entitled to the restoration of all the money stolen from their paychecks during the past seven years, A.T.U. Local 1303 vice president William Pearsall says the union can live with this financial package. But Greyhound is demanding new concessions that would destroy the union. Management demands the right to unlimited subcontracting—bidding out maintenance work, operators and even entire routes to union workers not covered by the union contract. A bus driver I spoke to two days before the strike, however, seemed less satisfied with the proposed financial package—and outraged by Greyhound's new concession demands. "They're trying to bust our union," he said, adding that "the company has plenty of money, they just don't want to send any of it our way."

Greyhound is also demanding an end to "impartial" arbitration of grievances. The Amalgamated Transit Union, like many other unions, long ago surrendered its right to strike over grievances in exchange for a system where an outside party would hear and resolve disputes. Workers have since learned that these "impartial" arbitrators—generally drawn from the ranks of the employing class, lawyers, and such—are resolutely impartial on the side of capital, only occasionally enforcing workers' rights under their union contracts. And even when workers "win" under the arbitration process they lose. The company continues with its contract violations as the grievance works its way through the bureaucratic process—while workers remain fired, forced to work under unsafe conditions, etc.

So workers might well benefit from an end to "impartial" arbitration were they able to regain the right to strike over grievances. But Greyhound demands an end to arbitration at the same time that it retains the no-strike clause, claiming the sole right to determine whether or not it is complying with the contract!

## Scab Murders Striker—Goes Free

Greyhound has put hundreds of ill-trained scabs on the road in its effort to break the strike. Greyhound claims to have recruited more than 6,000 scabs—mostly truck drivers working in an industry so devastated by years of concessions and the effects of deregulation that even scabbing looks attractive—and claims that 350 union drivers have crossed the lines. Yet nowhere near this number of scabs can be seen on the road. (The A.T.U. says between 91 and 95 drivers are scabbing; though it concedes that many more mechanics have crossed picket lines.) Many routes have been discontinued altogether, and even

on the company's most profitable routes it is running only a small fraction of its normal routes. Greyhound has had to cancel service altogether to many cities. Even the company admits that only 820 "permanent replacements" were on the job in mid-March, with only another 540 in Greyhound's "training program."

These scab drivers—sent out on the road with only 5 days of training (compared to a usual two months)—have already run down several strikers on picket lines. One striker, Robert Waterhouse, was killed in Redding, California, on the second day of the strike—crushed to death against a wall by a bus driven by scab driver Theodore Graham. Graham continued driving, hitting another strikers' pick-up truck as he fled the scene. He later told police he had not realized he had hit anyone, and was released without charges. Other pickets have been run down in Scranton, Pennsylvania; Toledo, Ohio; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Indianapolis, Indiana. And another scab was recently arrested near Champaign, Illinois for driving on a suspended license.

Greyhound is on the ropes, but it has an enormous war chest to draw upon, and the prospect of enormous profits if it can successfully convert the bus line into a non-union carrier. The strikers, meanwhile, are suffering from a lack of solidarity. They have been able to put up picket lines only at Greyhound's largest hubs and depots, leaving hundreds of bus stations and thousands of contract operations without pickets. Greyhound has been able to hire students and unemployed workers to scab in maintenance and clerical positions in cities such as St. Louis, where college students are scabbing on 4-hour shifts.

Many union members are engaged—often reluctantly—in union scabbing as well. In Champaign, for example, Greyhound has subcontracted its ticketing, maintenance and baggage operations to Illini Swallow, an independent regional carrier. Swallow maintenance workers, baggage handlers and (most) drivers are represented by the A.T.U. under a separate contract which requires them to cross picket lines. (They were defeated in a recent strike when management insisted on slashing their wages to bring them down to the rates being paid by Greyhound.) Swallow workers have told us they support the strike, expressing the hope that we could bring out enough pickets to block scabs from entering the station. But thus far the IWW is alone in organizing picketing of the Champaign station, though we are trying to convince other local unions to join us.

Local Wobblies are setting up picketing at Champaign's Union Bus Station several times a week, reminding prospective passengers and passers-by that the strike is still on, and that all of us have a direct interest in seeing it won. The Greyhound strike is just the most recent incident in the Bosses' general offensive. Across the country, as across the world, employers are trying to undermine workers and working conditions, using each concession they extract as leverage to defeat the rest of us. If we let them get away with it, all of us will pay the price.

Jon Bekken

Man Blocks Tank

That was a mistake, Karl.

I could have told you

When you gave Joe Mechanic the work

that tank is his

Because he made it,

forged the clanking treads

And heat-treated the

armoured plates, wired

The squat revolving turret and mounted

The gunner's sights. Look what he's doing,

Karl, at the entrance to Tiananmen there:

The Red Army, he thinks, was built by

him!

You made a double error, Karl, telling him

About surplus value, the part left over

That he couldn't buy back. This time

It's surplus power, Karl, too much of it

Carted away, stored by bureaucrat

s in little rooms

And inside tanks. We got trouble, comrade.

Clif Bennett

## EARTH DAY Wall Street Action

Who is destroying the Earth – Are we all equally to blame?  
NO! We say go to the source. We say: Take it to Wall Street!

Monday April 23, 1990



## REMEMBER KENT STATE

### Help Build a Fitting May 4th Memorial

Shortly after noon on May 4, 1970, on a grassy knoll known as Blanket Hill on the campus of Kent State University, a contingent of Ohio National Guardsmen opened fire for a period of thirteen seconds, striking thirteen students. Four students were killed: Allison Krause, Jeffrey Miller, William Schroeder and Scheuer; one was permanently paralyzed and the others were wounded in varying degrees of severity. The Guard was present on the campus to suppress anti-war activities that had erupted after President Nixon announced on April 30th that US troops had invaded Cambodia. Although the Guardsmen were not facing immediate danger from the unarmed students, the nearest of whom were twenty yards away, they fired sixty-one bullets into the crowd, even hitting students who were not part of the demonstration. In the ensuing days, the largest student strike in US history, which closed hundreds of campuses nationwide, was suppressed by National Guard and police units. On May 14, the bloodletting was repeated at Jackson State in Mississippi, as white police, without provocation, fired mercilessly on black students, killing two.

None of the Guardsmen, none of the officials who provided them with their orders were ever brought to justice for the murders at Kent State. Though some were indicted, a federal criminal court judge dropped all charges before the end of the trial because of "insufficient evidence." In 1975, the recourse to civil litigation was thwarted when a jury decided that none of the defendants, including Ohio Governor James Rhodes and University President Robert White, were liable for damages. Though the case was appealed and a settlement reached out-of-court, justice was never truly served.

Since 1975, when it decided to stop sponsoring an annual commemoration of the

shootings, the University has opposed or delayed efforts to create a lasting memorial on the campus. Kent State trustees refused to name buildings after the slain students, and later they quashed the recommendations of their own committee, the Basti Committee, to establish endowed scholarships in the students' names, to cancel classes every May 4th and to close off the Prentice Hall parking lot where the students fell. In 1976, the University decided to build a gym on Blanket Hill, covering part of the May 4th site, and in the face of numerous protests, which were forcibly suppressed, the gym was eventually completed. The Mildred Andrews Foundation of Cleveland offered the University a \$100,000 sculpture by artist George Segal in 1978. Entitled "Abraham and Isaac," the sculpture depicts the Biblical scene of Abraham about to kill his son. It was rejected by then Kent State President Golding as "too violent". (The sculpture was later accepted by Princeton University, where it now stands.)

By 1980, the May 4th Task Force renewed efforts to build a memorial. After four years, a university committee recommended that one should be constructed, and the trustees approved plans to hold a national competition for a memorial design in 1985. (The American Legion's 1986 National Convention denounced the memorial as a "memorial to terrorists.") The winner of this contest proved to be ineligible due to his Canadian citizenship, and the design of the second place winner, Bruno Ast, was ultimately accepted. Just when it seemed to the proponents of a May 4th memorial that the University was finally going to come to terms with the killings after all these years, the administration began to back off. After attempting a dubious, half-hearted fundraising campaign, the University announced that it couldn't come up with the funds necessary to build the estimated \$1.3 million memorial. The Uni-

versity did not hire a professional fundraiser and did not hold any public fundraising events, unlike its more vigorous (and successful) campaigns to raise funds for other projects. Only 35,000 alumni were asked to contribute, and the requests did not have a return address. By November, 1988, the Kent State trustees voted to scrap Ast's original design and offered to spend only \$100,000 to build the memorial, a 93% reduction in their original commitment. The University refuses to allow the May 4th Task Force or any other organization to raise funds. It now intends to build a smaller version of Ast's original design, one which will not even have the names of the slain students on it, much less an explanation of the events of May 4, 1970.

Advocates of a just and fitting memorial have formed the Tired of Waiting Committee to coordinate the efforts of interested individuals and organizations. If we cannot convince the University to complete the full memorial, we are planning to raise funds to build a fitting memorial elsewhere, perhaps in the town of Kent. The Tired of Waiting Committee has already sponsored successful fundraising concerts in several cities across the country—the Tired of Waiting Concert Series—and we are willing to support groups who would like to plan a benefit concert. The historically significant events that took place at Kent State on May 4, 1970, deserve to be remembered (as do the tragic shootings of students that occurred in the same era at Jackson State, Orangeburg, the University of Kansas and other campuses), and the students who gave their lives or suffered injuries at the hands of the Guard deserve a lasting memorial. Won't you join us in this struggle? We are asking that as many people as possible come to Kent State on May 4, 1990 to protest the commemoration of the University's "mini" sculpture.

Please write to either of the addresses below to express your interest. You can also write letters of protest to: KSU President Michael Schwartz and Chairman of the KSU Board of trustees William Risman, Kent State University Kent OH 44242 to voice your concern.

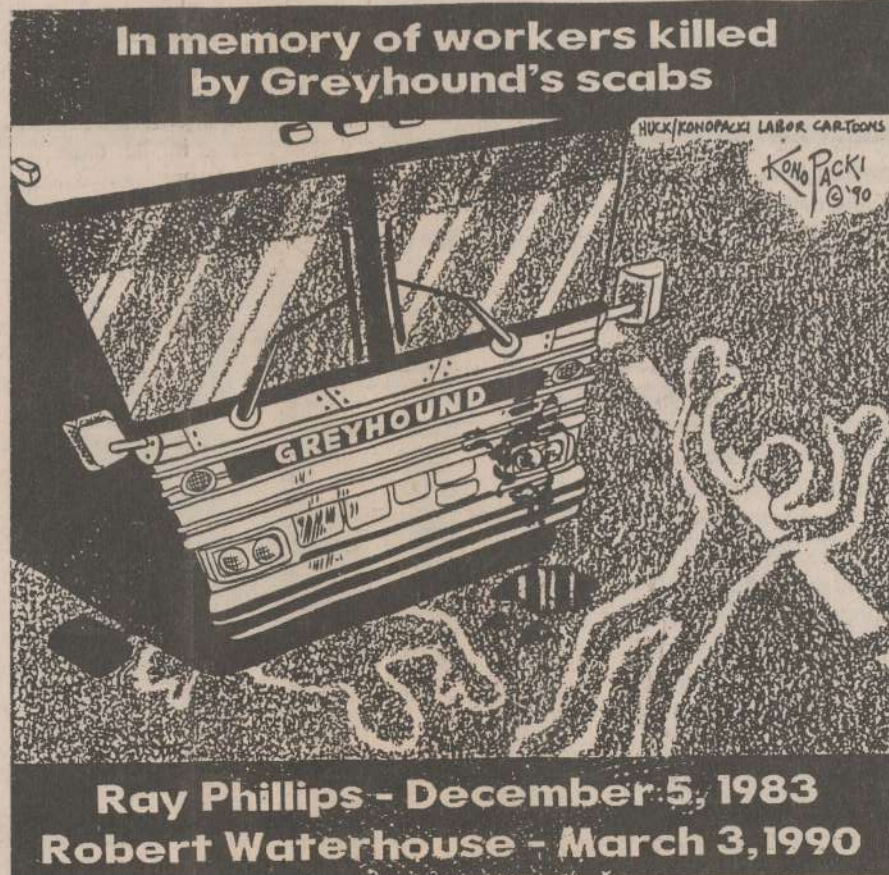
The Tired of Waiting Committee, P.O. Box 1112, Kent, OH 44240 (216)678-3807

The Remember Kent State Committee P.O. Box 22412 Pittsburgh PA 15222

Submitted by G.L. Doebler

### THE REBEL'S TOAST by Joe Hill

If freedom's road seems rough and hard,  
And strewn with rocks and thorns,  
Then put your wooden shoes on, pard,  
And you won't hurt your corns.  
To organize and teach, no doubt,  
Is very good—that's true,  
But still we can't succeed without  
The Good Old Wooden Shoe.



Ray Phillips - December 5, 1983  
Robert Waterhouse - March 3, 1990

## Of Interest To Unionists

### WORKERS STRIKE HAWAII HOTELS, Honolulu

The 7,500 members of the Local 5 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees union went on strike March 3rd in a contract dispute against 11 major hotels and resorts in Hawaii. Neither side expected a quick resolution to the strike, which centers on wages and a 5% surcharge that would be divided among all workers who don't get tips and a 15% surcharge on all food and beverage purchases. The hotels immediately began an advertising campaign to recruit scabs. Tony Rutledge, the union president, promptly responded by discussing the possibility of massive sit-ins on hotel property, observing, "You don't get too far walking in a circle."

Tour bus operators, both union and non-union, refused to enter resort property in solidarity with the strikers. Tourists using those buses had to walk to the hotel main entrances to board on public buses.

### ONE IN FOUR

According to a recent study of census and Justice (sic) Department data by the Sentencing Project, the U.S. is doing a better job of putting young black men into jail than into college. Almost one in four of all young black men is in jail, on probation or on parole, while only 436,000 black men of all ages are enrolled in college. This is a decline in the number of blacks in college, which as recently as 1977 was proportionately the same as whites.

### EASTERN MACHINISTS MARK YEAR LONG STRIKE

On March 4, members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers marked one year in their strike against Eastern Airlines with demonstrations at airports in New York, Miami, Cleveland, Atlanta and elsewhere. Many of the union's members at Eastern have found other jobs, and perhaps one fifth of the 9,000 members are now employed by other airlines, according to Charles Bryan, president of the Eastern chapter of the union. Bryan said that his last face-to-face meeting with Eastern negotiators was last November. The two sides have since exchanged brief notes to maintain communications.

Eastern pilots and flight attendants initially refused to cross the picket lines, grounding the airline, and forcing it/giving it the excuse to file for bankruptcy protection from its creditors last March 8th. Although still in bankruptcy, Eastern has rebuilt to two-thirds its former size by selling assets and using the money to hire scabs.

Leaders of the Eastern chapter of the Air Line Pilots Association voted to end their walkout on Nov. 22; the flight attendants union ended its strike the same day. Eastern continues to run on 1000 scab pilots and 1800 flight attendants, rehiring only 215 striking flight attendants and none of the striking pilots. If the company's reorganization plan goes through, the pilots and flight attendants now working for Eastern will face about \$78 million in court ordered concessions.

Meanwhile, about half a dozen striking machinists interviewed by the NY Times at La Guardia said while they had found new jobs and had little hope of getting their old ones back, they would continue to attend weekend protests. "As long as Lorenzo is in there running things, I'm going to show my support against him," said Richard Becker, a 27 year veteran of Eastern who now works for PanAm.

### LEGACY OF A WORKERS' STATE, Copsa Mica, Romania, March 1

Copsa Mica's pollution levels have put it on the map as the most polluted town in Europe. A two factory town in the middle of Romania, one of the factories produces black powder used in the manufacture of rubber and the other produces zinc, lead, copper, cadmium and other nonferrous metals. The emissions from the factories have coated everything within a fifteen mile radius black.

In 1977, 70 people in the town of 6,000 were diagnosed with excessive or dangerous levels of lead in their bodies; today there are more than 400. More than half of the workers in the metals factory have above-normal levels. The damage is not restricted to workers. In the region, hospitals have reported an appalling increase in the number of babies born with malformed hearts; 16 were reported in 1988 alone, compared with 5 between 1977 and 1983. Bronchial asthma and other respiratory illness are common among children. Children in Copsa Mica test more than 5% below average on intelligence tests, which many fear may be connected to general low level lead poisoning.

"Man is the most idiotic animal," a doctor in the occupational health clinic of the metals factory said. "Horses can stay here only two years. Then they must be sold and sent to the mountains, or else they die."

Since the December uprising overthrew Ceausescu, a new independent labor union has wrung promises from the government, and in early March half the metals factory was closed for repairs.

### JAPANESE WOMEN FIGHT SEXUAL HARASSMENT ON THE JOB

Sexual harassment has become a rallying point for Japanese working women. The phenomenon is old but the term "sexual harassment" (which was coined by Lynn Farley in 1977) was imported from the U.S. by Japanese feminists in the 1980's.

The first case to go to trial is scheduled for a second hearing in the Fukuoka District Court, Tokyo, April 26. The trial, which began in November, is a tribute to the awakening women's consciousness in a society where women seldom bring legal charges, even about rape. On a Saturday afternoon last December, a rally in Tokyo to discuss sexual harassment in the workplace drew 100 working women to hear an attorney for the case. Women have formed a support group for the plaintiff, raising money to help her through a membership fee.

The suit for \$25,000 in damages was filed last August by a magazine editor at a publishing house against her former boss and employer, alleging that her male boss spread false rumors about her that constituted sexual harassment and discrimination. When she demanded that the boss stop, there was a messy confrontation that ended with the company director suspending her boss for three days and demanding her resignation.

The woman's attorneys are basing their case on article 14 of the Japanese constitution which prohibits sexual discrimination and article 13 which guarantees the right to pursuit of happiness and respect, as well as basic labor rights. A decision in the case, which is being tried before three male judges, is not expected for at least a year.

"If we don't agree with the court's decision, we'll fight until we are satisfied," said one of the seven attorneys who have been working on the case pro bono. "To respect women's human rights is a main issue of today's history. We believe we deserve it."

"I never would believe that Providence had sent a few rich men into the world, ready booted and spurred to ride, and millions saddled and bridled to be ridden." - Richard Rumbold

### U.S. WOMEN WORKERS MOONLIGHT MORE

Amid the great wave of women sweeping into the U.S. workforce in the last two decades is a group whose numbers are increasing even faster: women who hold more than one job. The figures for men holding two or more jobs have changed little in decades, so moonlighting among women is becoming almost as commonplace as it is among men, in both percentages and absolute numbers.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics found in a sampling of the workforce in May 1989 that the number of women with two or more jobs

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# The INS: TERRORISTS OF THE BORDER

The situation on the U.S. / Mexican border is a tense, brutal and impoverished one. One of the heaviest border areas is Brownsville, Texas, the southernmost town in the Rio Grande Valley bordering Metamoros, Mexico. The region has become so active that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced new crackdown plans in early February 1990, and many of the current refugees come from war-torn Central America. Of 1,848 non-Mexicans arrested in January, 775 were from El Salvador, a figure almost double from December 1989 (396). Gene McNary, commissioner of the INS, who announced the \$11 million crackdown on February 7, said "The message for Central America is, don't drop in on our doors unannounced... We are prepared and the message is clear." (Brownsville Herald, February 8, 1990).

The biggest concentration camp in the region, the Port Isabel INS Processing Center in Bayview, TX raised its capacity to 10,000 but it was not explained how the camp could hold more than 2,500. To help in the crackdown Border Patrol Agents (La Migra) may be brought in from the east and north of the U.S., as well as the over 60 armed National Guard troops who are there for the phony "war on drugs". McNary added, "The message is: please apply legally for either refugee or asylee status. Do not violate our laws by coming across the border (illegally)." (Brownsville Herald, March 4, 1990).

McNary failed to mention the laws the U.S. has broken by funding military dictatorships, death-squads, and invasions throughout Central America, and he avoided the fact that applying for asylum in a country like El Salvador was like signing your own death certificate. In addition, most who flee are doing so because their own lives are soon to end due to government and military repression. Sister Juliana Garcia, the director of refugee shelter Casa Oscar Romero, said, "Here, crossing the river, are only unfortunate poor people fleeing the war, the hunger, and the misery caused by injustice." (Brownsville Herald, February 8, 1990).

McNary said his agency will return to the strict procedures of late 1988 in South Texas which led to the detention of thousands of refugees from Central America. By early 1989, the INS had crammed in 2,500 people at the Bayview camp, many in circus tents without running water and electricity. Greeting McNary on his visit to the camp to announce the "new" policy in the Rio Grande Valley were protestors from refugee rights groups in Brownsville and Harlingen, who carried banners that read "No Human Being is Illegal" and "Christiani= Death Squad govt. in El Salvador". After the action local INS officials made it hard for paralegals from Proyecto Libertad to visit detainees at the camp and receive bail information. Less than one month later, activists from Detroit, L.A., Houston, Baltimore, Chicago and New York converged on the valley for two days of protests. On March 2, a protest at the International Bridge, called as part of the "Campaign to Shut Down INS Concentration Camps" caused disruptions in the streets of Brownsville and on the bridge to Metamoros.

Odilón Garcia, 46, of Cameron Park, TX joined the protestors and carried a cross. Garcia told reporters in Brownsville that the protestors "are absolutely right... We need to fight back for all the years of oppression. We need to let them (the U.S. government) know that we are fed up." Another onlooker, a 60 year-old man who identified himself as an honorable German immigrant, said, "These people are full of shit. They are not going to tell me about concentration camps... Those people in there eat. They are fed every day. The Nazis never did that in their concentration camps." (Brownsville Herald, March 4, 1990).

Indeed, the Nazis did kill most of their prisoners. At the Bayview center, for those deported back to El Salvador, the INS lets the Salvadoran government do the killing. Pedro, a Salvadoran refugee who recently received political asylum in the U.S., said that if he had not received asylum and had been deported he would certainly have met death at the hands of the government. He was accused by the government of working with the FMLN, even though he was a Lutheran and driven towards social justice through non-violent means. He finally escaped to meet his wife and child, who had already fled to the U.S.

On March 3, another protest was held at the Bayview concentration camp, called "El Corralon" by local residents (Corralon is a prison or place where cattle are kept before slaughter). At the protest, troops

with riot gear, sawhorses and two large buses guarded the road at the entrance of the camp. Cecilio Ruz, manager of the camp, when asked why troops in riot gear were needed to deal with about 30 protestors holding banners and doing street theatre, said his men were there "to insure that no one gets hurt and just in case something happens... or things get out of hand." (Brownsville Herald, March 4, 1990).

During the protest at the entrance to the camp, six activists tried to scale the barbed wires of the camp at another entrance. They made it over one fence but were apprehended by police as they were about to scale the other fence. Four protestors were arrested and released that day.

Peige Fuller, one of the arrested protestors from La Resistencia in Houston said that the action had two objectives. One was to "send a message to the world that their fences (INS) are not permanent, and that people can take things into their own hands and shut these camps down." The other objective was to "get a message to our brothers and sisters in the concentration camp that thousands of people welcome them into this country, and we hate the xenophobic attacks that the U.S. is bringing down on the people." Fuller said that these objectives were met, adding, "We realize that it's going to take a mass movement of thousands of people taking things into their own hands to defy these xenophobic laws."



Reactions from local refugee rights groups to the protests by the "outsiders" were mixed. Some were concerned that the INS would make it harder for paralegals to enter the camp and work for refugees' release, which has happened before in the valley when the INS has been confronted. Others felt that the national exposure was important, and that since the protest was organized by outsiders the INS couldn't really blame the local groups.

Either way, if both the national and local protests are any indication, the INS and the U.S. government will have a lot on their hands. Due to recent events in Panama, El Salvador and Nicaragua public outcry will no doubt increase over U.S. crimes committed against Central Americans, both in their own countries and when they arrive in the U.S. at the border.

Brenda Sanchez, granted political asylum recently in the states, said that U.S. policies in the region were directly responsible for the refugee situation at the border, and that ending military aid and support of dictators and death-squads would certainly stop the massive flow of people to the border.

Brenda and her husband Pedro began a refugee support group, Refugiados Por la Paz, that provides food, clothes and shelter for refugees in the community. Run collectively by refugees, the group is an inspiring example of people taking things into their own hands and actively confronting the struggles they face. Of course, after leaving a war-torn country this isn't surprising, but some areas in the Rio Grande Valley (the valley of the cry) really do look like the Third World.

On a recent visit to the Valley a resident greeted me with "Welcome to the Third World." Although the conditions for some did parallel other "Third World" regions of the U.S., like Appalachia and

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## El Salvador

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they said we'll get you out of the country, protect your family, then they get meaner and threaten the children. The worst moment for me that made me the most angry was when they said, we know you have an eight year old daughter. If you don't collaborate with us, anything could happen to her.

What got our release was that we threatened to call a strike across the whole country. This obligated the director of our institute to negotiate my release with the treasury Police.

When I left, I was debilitated. My morale was low. They brought me to a hospital to be checked out. When the workers saw that I was being released everyone left their workplace. The whole staff was in the parking lot. They were happy, they were laughing. My morale went up. The next day, when I went to the office, I saw copies of letters that had arrived from other countries that called

for my release. This helps to strengthen us. All the strength that we can get we transmit to the workers. The workers understand what you are doing.

### THE OFFENSIVE

We need to explain that the FMLN had taken up positions in different parts of the city. They controlled different areas, and the government lost a counter-offensive against the guerrillas. The counter-offensive failed; they were not able to drive the guerrillas out. And since they could not beat the guerrillas they decided to initiate aerial bombings of the civilian population in order to take away the civilian support that the guerrillas had.

I believe that the major result of the offensive was that in San Salvador, where the majority of the people live, there was a realization that, yes, there is a war. While the war was only in the rural areas and only the peasantry was being killed, no-one was saying anything. But it's another thing when the bombs are dropping outside your door, it



helps people become concerned and bring about a resolution to the war.

I understand that the FMLN had a lot of support in those days. Where I was, the civilian population was very active in sup-

porting the guerrillas, building barricades, making food, tending the wounded. Because of this support, the bombers arrived.

### THE MASSACRE OF THE JESUITS

The massacre of the Jesuits took place on November 16th. The Jesuits ran the Central American University. This massacre, because it signified an attack against the church, against the Jesuits, was an attack against the intellectual sector in El Salvador.

We understand the Jesuits as people who contributed greatly to the intellectual development and analysis of our society. They gave to the people of El Salvador a need to conduct a critical analysis of their society. For this they were killed. The Jesuits had the respect and the political weight to mediate or participate in national negotiations.

Their murder caught the attention of the United States and generated a debate in Congress about the continuation of aid. Unfortunately, these very painful attacks have to happen within my country in order to call

international attention to what has been going on.

They say that a colonel and eight other soldiers executed the murder. We know the colonel and know that he doesn't have the power to make a decision like this. The Voice of America has been announcing over the past few days that they have information that the night before the Jesuits were killed there was a high level military meeting. In that meeting were the people responsible. We understand the judicial system in El Salvador and that they will not be prosecuted. Pressure against Christians and the government is important. If they're sure that the aid is going to continue without any problems, they'll continue things as they've been. The military aid from the United States is important enough that the Salvadoran government has admitted that it was a colonel and military men responsible for a massacre.

We admire the priests that were killed. I knew several of them personally. But the

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# Filipino Labor

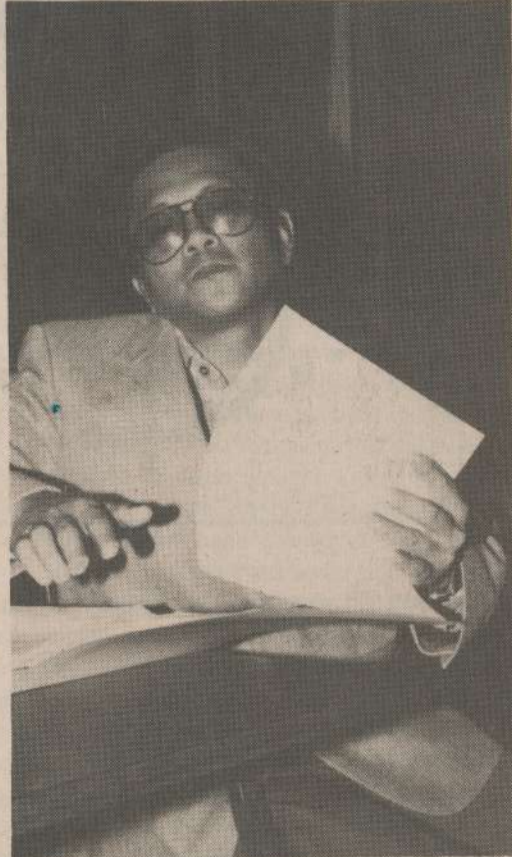
## Leader Speaks

The situation in the Philippines is worsening for workers, according to Ernest Arellano, the Secretary General of First of May Union or the KMU in the Philippines. Arellano spoke in Ann Arbor in mid-March and emphasized that at the time of Marcos' downfall, there had been great hopes for the Aquino presidency and unions such as KMU hoped that the situation for workers would improve. However, these hopes were not realized. Thirty out of fifty million Philippines continue to live under absolute poverty. Land reform proposals have been watered down in Congress. There have been six attempted coups with a seventh one imminent.

Trade union rights have been weakened under Aquino according to Arellano. Under Marcos, government employees and teachers were not allowed to form unions, engage in collective bargaining or go on strike. While Aquino said that she would repeal those laws, the rights of teachers and public employees to organize has not been restored. Aquino also has changed a provision in the law regarding violation of workers' contracts. These were considered unfair labor practices from 1951 to 1989, yet now are treated as administrative in nature, so workers cannot strike if their contract is violated.

The national minimum wage is set at a level where it is impossible for Philippine workers to provide for a family. Before Aquino, this wage was set at three dollars a day when the average family required six dollars a day. Now the wage is set at the equivalent of four dollars a day; yet the minimum requirement for a family per day has gone up to eight dollars and is still half of what is needed.

One of the most disturbing acts of the Aquino regime has been an executive order creating vigilante groups called Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units or CAFGUS. There are 200 of these vigilante organizations across the country. Regular CAFGUS are part of the military establishment meant to suppress "civil disorder"



Recently, the Chief of the Armed Forces created guidelines for a new type of CAFGU group where its members come from military reservists and from employees of large companies. These CAFGUS target militant labor leaders and arrest them to warn them to stop their labor activities. These CAFGUS act to break strikes. Their salaries come from the national budget and arms are provided by the military. Arellano described these groups as more threatening than Marcos' special forces, and the number of arrests and summary executions have increased due to their creation. From January 1989 to November 1989, 1875 arrests and detentions were made in the Philippines with only 136 of these arrests being accompanied by warrants. One hundred thirty one people were summarily executed during this time period.

### About the KMU

The KMU was organized in 1980. It started with a membership of four labor federations and 60,000 members and has grown to 13 labor federations with 150,000 workers. The KMU is the bargaining agent for the Atlas Copper Mining Corporation which has more than 8,000 workers and is the largest copper mining company in the Philippines. The Union also represents agribusiness, manufacturing and service workers.

KMU distinguishes itself from other more reformist unions in the Philippines. According to Arellano, more than eighty percent of trade unions are under control of lawyers and professionals and do not adopt a militant bargaining position. KMU was kicked out of the national Labor Advisory Consultative Council because they have included in their agenda issues that are traditionally considered "non-union" such as: genuine land reform, a dismantling of the KAFGU vigilante organizations, an end to the US military bases in the Philippines. Because of this agenda, KMU is often branded part of the communist insurgency by the Philippine establishment.

### Aquino Won't Betray her Class

Throughout the talk, Arellano continued to repeat that the hopes Aquino had inspired with her bloodless revolution were fatally shattered. Her underlying failure was in tolerating and even strengthening a right-wing military. Her only possibility to succeed would have been for her to neutralize the military through strengthening her links to the people's organizations that sprang up after the assassination of her husband, Benigno Aquino in 1982. She should have developed and encouraged a power base among the ranks of the workers, students, and the church to overcome the military's power. But, Arellano remarked, "The President comes from a wealthy family and will not betray her own class."

Ingrid Kock

## THE INS

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the major cities, refugees in the Valley have developed their own support networks like Refugiados Por la Paz, and many like Brenda Sanchez travel across the country to talk about U.S. policies toward Central Americans.

In considering how to confront the issues at the border, many questions must be reflected upon and answered. Already there is an extensive network of dedicated activists in the Valley working to change and operate within current INS policies. Jennifer Bailey, from Proyecto Libertad told me that right now there is a great need for bail money; the bails start out at \$3,000 per refugee, and the figure can go up or down depending on the quick hearings given by INS officials. She also said there is a need for paralegals and volunteers to come down to the Valley and help out. And the groups like Refugiados Por la Paz are always in need of more food, clothes, medicine and money.

At a national level, groups continue to raise the issues in their local areas and many support networks exist. Still, most Central American solidarity groups either look at the border question as a separate issue, or don't even talk about it. National mobilizations have been attempted, such as those described in early March, and another action, a 400-mile march along the border from Harlingen to Laredo, begins March 19. Duncan Murphy, a longtime peace-activist and WWII veteran, organized the march.

These and other actions will no doubt continue, and all address the situation in some way. But INS activities do not stop at the U.S./Mexican border. With camps similar to the Bayview center across the country, the "new" INS policies are sure to be used in heavy immigrant areas like N.Y., L.A. (where INS officials have busted into factories and searched all dark-skinned people), Detroit and Chicago. And with the employer sanctions (I-9's) written into the Immigration and Reform Control Act (IRCA), a clause which requires employers to demand proof of residency for all employees under penalty of heavy fines, many refugees can only find work where they are not only severely exploited, but vulnerable. Women who are "illegal" and work under-the-table face the constant threat of sexual abuse by men who threaten to turn them in to INS agents.

## EL SALVADOR

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people who died at the massacre at FENASTRAS were not any less important. The people who have been massacred recently in Guatemala are also important. All this needs to end.

better salaries for the workers. The accusations that these unions are front groups for the FMLN is a justification for the repression that has been put against the labor movement. And there is something here that is interesting. Up until the final day of the Christian Democratic party's power in the country, the whole of the UNTS and FENASTRAS were accused of being front groups for the FMLN. But UNAG, the national union of peasants and workers, was created by the American Institute for Free Labor Development and was OK because it was a social base for the Christian Democrats. But when Arena came into power and D'Aubisson took it upon

himself to arrive at all the co-operatives to take away their leadership and replace it with his own and when he started legal processes to take away the land from the campesinos, UNAG began to protest that they were not going to permit them to take away their land. From this moment onward, UNAG has also been accused of being a front group for the FMLN. The churches and priests, just for denouncing the violence and repression, are accused of being front-groups for the FMLN.

The workers cannot say that we are for or against violence. This might be hard to understand. When I'm in the streets and the army begins to fire on unarmed workers and they react angrily and violently, I understand that reaction. In 1987, when workers were on strike and the military fired on us I understood why the workers began throwing rocks.

### FOR A NATIONAL DIALOGUE

We believe that at this moment we can take this pressure that's been created and use it against the government. We can obligate the armed forces and the government to sit down at a national dialogue and to speak to all the sectors that are representative of the soci-

ety and to resolve the war. We believe that if the directors of the war participate in the dialogue, that is the guerrillas and the armed forces, in addition to every sector of the society that is affected by the war, there is a better chance of us coming to some agreement. Private enterprise should participate in these talks because they are directly affected by the war. They are affected by the economic sabotage that is directed at them. The popular movement and the labor movement has to participate because they are victims of the oppression. The National Committee for Permanent Trade has already been created and is a sufficient representative of all these groups. Also, all the political parties of the country should participate.

Only in this way, if people from all these sectors show up to talk and they are focused on what is best for the country, will we have the best chance of ending the war. We need the pressure of the U.S. Congress. We believe that if the Secretary General of the United Nations participates in an active way by mediating these talks he could help end the problems in El Salvador. We hope you understand this and that you will continue to

support us. I understand that there are people here who have supported the people of El Salvador. This support is very important to us. Please continue with your efforts and do not lose your motivation. Every small effort that appears insignificant to you is everything to us. It helps us see that we are not alone.

SISTER UNIONS  
FENASTRAS and STISSS have sought to form a campaign in this country of sister unions in order to promote solidarity. Basically, STISSS has 25 sister unions in the United States, mainly AFSCME, SCIU and nurse's unions.

Salvadoran unions have a long history of struggle. We understand that any achievements that have been made up to this date are the results of the sacrifices and deaths of union members. We have the desire to defend our organization and our unions.

Jeff Farrah

## Of Interest To Unionists



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had quintupled from 636,000 in 1970 to 3.1 million in 1989. The numbers of moonlighting men grew from 3.4 million to 4.1 million in the same period.

As the last two decades have brought a record number of divorces and families maintained by single women, many women take two jobs because it is the only way they can eke out a working class life and stay above the poverty line. The government survey showed that while most moonlighting men are married, most moonlighting women are divorced, separated, widowed or never married. And typically, a woman who moonlights has to work longer than a moonlighting man to earn the same pay.

But for both women and men, the pressure to moonlight has increased as it has become harder for people to manage on one paycheck. Government statistics show that when increases in the cost of living are taken into account, hourly wages have dropped 5% in the last 20 years.

### ON THE FRONTIERS OF WORKER CAPITALISM

Bal Harbour, Fla., February 19

At the annual gathering of the leaders (sic) of the AFL-CIO, the formation of the Employee Partnership Fund was announced by Jack Sheinkman, president of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in New York, and by the founders of a new investment fund, Keilin and Bloom. The fund would make available substantial amounts of money to support employee takeovers. The organizers of the fund took pains to present it as a sound investment operation. First, only plants with clear potential to survive would be involved. "This is not social investing," insisted Eugene Keilin. Next, the worker-owners would be denied any say in running the operations for at least several years. Last but not least, the worker-owners would be expected to take wage cuts, agree to long term contracts and possibly make other concessions. All in all, it sounds like something the AFL-CIO can really get behind.

Perhaps the best known example of an employee takeover is the former National Steel Corporation plant in Weirton, W. Va. Six years ago, the Weirton plant's 7,000 employees, mostly members of an independent steelworkers union, bought the plant which had been scheduled to be closed by National Steel. The workers gave up control to outside investors, but have since reclaimed control. The new company, the Weirton Steel Corporation is at least a success in capitalist terms. The United Steelworkers of America reports that 11 other steel companies have since then been taken over in much the same way. In November, members of the union completed a bigger deal, acquiring the Dallas-based LTV Corporation's steel parts division which has 8 plants in 5 states. Outside the steel industry, employee takeovers have had less success; notable failures include Rath meat packing in Waterloo, Iowa and a General Motors plant in New Jersey, both of which soon shut down.

Takeovers represent a tiny part of worker investments in companies permitted employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs). There are about 10,000 ESOPs, most of which are set up by management to get tax breaks or foil hostile outside takeover attempts, and almost none of which grant employees any say in running the company.

### DOLE VOWS TOUGHER ENFORCING OF CHILD LABOR LAWS, Washington, Feb 7

In the face of record levels of child labor law violation, Labor Secretary Elizabeth Dole promised "immediate action to step up enforcement" of laws, larger penalties for violators and a review of all regulations governing children who work. Child advocates, who have been pressing the department for years to toughen enforcement welcomed the statement but noted that the department is not adding money or personnel to enforce the laws. In 1989 the Labor Department found a record number of children, 22,508, working in violation of the 52-year-old Fair Labor Standards Act. That is more than twice the

number in 1982, and the highest since the law was enacted, possibly reflecting the decline of the U.S. labor movement. Cases of illegal employment of children, some as young as 10 and 11 years old, have become commonplace in the New York City's garment district, in fast food chains and supermarkets, in migrant labor camps and in door-to-door candy sales.

### ECONOMIC TURMOIL GRIPS ARGENTINA, Buenos Aires, March 3

Caught between hyperinflation - 79% in January and equal that in February - and recession, the real wages of Argentine workers have shrunk up to one-half since the first of the year, while one in five adult adult workers is jobless or has been forced into part-time work. Declaring the Argentine government to be on the verge of bankruptcy, the Economy Minister has announced that public employees over the age of retirement will be dropped from the payrolls and those within two years of retirement will be suspended with pay. About one-fourth of Argentina's 12.5 million workers are employed by the government, and newspapers speculated the layoffs and mandatory retirements might effect tens of thousands of workers.

In protest against the cost cutting program, about 2500 workers occupied a Buenos Aires bank. In the cities of Rosario, Tucuman and Mendoza, groups of slum dwellers, mostly women and children, looted supermarkets.

### TEXAN GUINEA PIGS IN FEDERAL WELFARE EXPERIMENT, Dallas, Feb. 12

Extra Medicaid and child-care benefits now go to about 8,000 people in five regions of Texas, in the hopes of encouraging them to take and keep entry-level jobs unlikely to offer health insurance or child care assistance. On April 1, those extra benefits will be available to more than 50,000 people statewide, but not 800 unlucky people selected at random as controls. The 800 face two years without welfare benefits so how they fare will be compared with those who do get the benefits. Officials of the federal division of health systems and special studies of the Health Care Financing Administration defended this type of benefit program, denying benefits to a control group, as vital to determine whether new programs work.

Critics like Philip Broyle, associate director for medical ethics of the Hasting Center in New York point out this experiment violates federal standards for medical experiments. Those standards include informed consent - that anyone in an experiment must be aware of it and all its consequences. And they must have the option to refuse participation. Neither informed consent nor right of refusal was offered to the participants in the Texas welfare study.

Once the Dallas Morning News broke the story, Texas officials said they would try to break their agreement with the federal government and provide benefits for the 800.

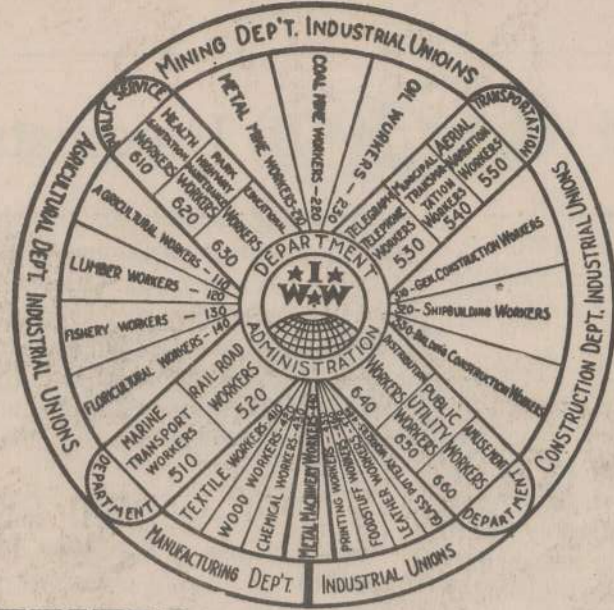
### BETTER BANGLADESH THAN HARLEM

In the 60's and 70's it was said that the underdeveloped world was only a subway ride away. Mere rhetoric, argued the wiser heads in the 80's. But as those wiser heads cut taxes for the rich and raised military spending, quashed a national health plan and concocted a multi-billion dollar war-in-space adventure, the people in Harlem NY languished in state of unhealth unmatched by some of the most impoverished nations on earth. An article in the January '90 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine documented what many long suspected: "black men in Harlem were less likely to reach the age of 65 than men in Bangladesh." And the leading cause of extra deaths in Harlem was not homicide and drug abuse, but cardiovascular disease - also the leading killer across the U.S. So from 1979 to 1981, the dates of the study, 2,421 people in Harlem died needlessly - 800 a year beyond the number that would have died if Harlem shared the wealth of the nation.

AFLD has used different methods to destroy unions such as STISSS. They have set up parallel unions but they have not been effective.

In addition to sister unions, a coalition of trade unions, womens and community organizations have set up a fund to help insure the survival and active operation of grassroots organizations in El Salvador. The fund is called the Febe Elizabeth Velasquez Memorial Fund. The fund is in memorial to Velasquez who was killed in the October 31, 1989 bombing of the FENASTRAS office. The fund will be jointly administered by FENASTRAS, CO-MADRES, and Building for the Voiceless in El Salvador (BVDS), which supports self-development in rural and urban communities. Donations can be sent to: Febe Elizabeth Velasquez Memorial Fund, 421 Seward Sq. SE, Washington, DC 20003 (202) 546-9788.





# IWW CONSTITUTION: PART ONE

## Introduction

In recent issues, we have been discussing the contemporary relevance of the Preamble to the IWW Constitution. This issue begins a second series of articles, discussing the IWW Constitution itself. While the Preamble offers a concise statement of Wobbly philosophy—explaining the reasons why the Industrial Workers of the World was organized and the goal towards which we are working—the Constitution spells out the structure and workings of the organization. Although free of the legalese that makes many constitutions all but unintelligible, many find the IWW Constitution either boring or somewhat confusing. The confusion, I believe, stems from the fact that our Constitution does double duty. It not only spells out the agreements we have made among ourselves as to how we will run our organization today, but it also sets forth a framework for the future—outlining how One Big Union of the working class can be organized and run.

The Constitution is explicitly a forward-looking document—anticipating the day when the IWW will once again be composed of functioning industrial unions, and looking forward to the day when (for the first time in our history) the IWW will have a major presence in every industry. But this can result in some confusion, as the IWW today is a much smaller organization than it needs to be to comfortably fit into this structure. The IWW's democratic character only adds to the potential for confusion. The Constitution is intentionally made easily amendable (though only by referendum vote of the members), in order to ensure that the organization remains firmly under the control of the membership. Amendments do not always fit as smoothly as might be wished into the main body of the Constitution, but major defects are soon spotted and easily remedied. Some criticize such democracy as inefficient, but our membership has always insisted on making its own decisions and running its own organization.

In this series, I will discuss the major elements of the IWW Constitution—the union's structure, who is eligible to membership, how the organization is governed, and how the IWW guarantees that membership control is not infringed.

## The IWW Structure

The Industrial Workers of the World is so named because we organize all workers, regardless of nationality, sex, religion or other such extraneous factors, along industrial lines into One Big Union. This organization is realized through Job Branches, Industrial Union Branches, and Industrial Unions. The Job Branch is composed of the Wobblies on the job. The Constitution provides that wherever there are five or more I.W.W. members on a job, they shall organize a Job Branch to further the organization of their fellow workers on the job, to carry out job actions where appropriate, to negotiate with employers, etc. The Job Branch decides all matters involving that particular job. Thus, it is the members who decide how an organizing drive is to be conducted, and who carry it out (though they can call on other IWW bodies for assistance); it is the members who decide upon industrial action; and it is the members who sit down and negotiate with the boss (though, again, they can seek assistance if they choose).

In the IWW, all workers on the same job belong to the same union. Most U.S. unions, to this day, organize workers by trade or craft. A 'well-organized' hospital, for example, might have a union representing the doctors, another representing the interns, a third representing the technicians and pharmacists, a fourth representing nurses. Other unions still would represent the janitors, maintenance workers, cooks, electricians, and all the other workers needed to keep the hospital going.

Not so in the IWW. All these workers are in the same industry, and are therefore organized into the same industrial union of Health Service Workers (IU 610). Similarly, all workers on the same job are in the same job branch, though on large jobs they might well choose to organize shop committees to address specific issues. Thus the entire workforce is welded together into One Big Union, to fight the bosses with our combined strength. This, experience has shown, is the most effective way to win our industrial struggles.

The Industrial Union unites all workers in the same (broadly defined) industry. The Industrial Union is envisioned, in the Constitution, as the basic building block of the international organization, with representation at Convention by Industrial Union (either by IU branch or by delegates representing the IU as a whole). At one time, the Secretaries of the various IUs (together with a Secretary representing IWW members without a functioning Industrial Union administration) served as the General Executive Board, though the organization decided long ago in favor of direct referendum vote for all general officers. At present, there are no functioning IU. administrations, though IWW membership in a couple of industries is approaching the point where there have been discussions of reorganizing either the Industrial Unions themselves, or at least informal coordinating structures to once again bring together all members working in the same industry to discuss common problems and to support each other in their struggles.

The Industrial Unions are grouped into Industrial Departments, uniting IUs dealing with Agricultural, Mining, Construction, Manufacture, Transportation and Communication, and Public Services. The intent here (and the IWW has never had functioning Industrial Departments) is to bring together unions in allied industries. In transportation, for example, railroads, bus lines, trucking firms, air lines and ships all provide substitute methods of transportation. If workers in these various industries are coordinated and act together, they can wield enormous industrial power—both in their own behalf and in the behalf of the entire working class. The Industrial Department is less an administrative body than a coordinating one, serving as a mechanism by which workers likely to face common problems and common enemies can remain in regular communication and establish a common policy where appropriate.

Increasingly, one company may operate in many seemingly unrelated industries. The company that sells Morton Salt, for example, also builds nuclear missiles. International Telephone & Telegraph not only manufactures and operates communications equipment, but it also makes bread and pastries. In such situations, it may prove advisable to also organize councils uniting all who work for the same employer. The IWW Constitution explicitly provides for such coordinating bodies.

## One Step To A Better World

Different people are unemployed for different reasons. Perhaps you are over 65 and "retired". Maybe you're looking for a job and can't find one; maybe you can't find work in your chosen field. Or, you could be one of those who doesn't want a 9-to-5 job. Instead, you may prefer to have control over your time and do art or music, or busy yourself with voluntary projects to help your sisters and brothers. Maybe you are working, perhaps raising a child, but simply don't get paid for the work you do.

In any way, you're still a slave of the wage-and-profit economic system. You may not punch a clock or get a paycheck, but you're still under the thumb of the employing class just as much as any wage slave. Was it your decision to retire at 65? Why are there no jobs to be found? Why are there no jobs for your particular abilities? Why can't you get paid for doing your art or music? Why aren't you paid for the good work you do raising children, serving in hospitals or soup kitchens, or campaigning for the environment?

In every case the answer is the same. Working or not, we are all trapped in the economic system that serves profits instead of people. It is a system that was invented in the Medieval Ages when there were lords and peasants. The system became a monster when the Industrial Age took over a hundred years ago. Private profits decide which work will be done and how much it is worth. Profits decide which people will be hired and which people are unprofitable because of age, sex, disability, skin color, haircut or political views. It doesn't matter if your work is valuable to society; you may save the entire community's water supply by campaigning against pollution. You may raise a child who becomes a great scientist. When you were younger, you may have built bridges and railways that are used by millions of people. It counts not a whit. Unless some capitalist



can make a fast buck off your sweat, you get nothing. No home for you. No food for you. No nice clothes, plane rides, computers or theatre tickets.

The IWW knows another way to organize the economy. Imagine that you're not forced to retire at 65—but if you want to, you can retire at 45. Imagine that you are invited to participate in all the vital work that makes your community a good place to live. When you go to work, there is no boss. You sit down with the other workers and together you decide what to do. You get hungry, you go for lunch. Late today? No problem. Glad you could join us. Or imagine that you still want to do your art or music. All day and half the night you're there mixing paints or plucking strings. When you're hungry, you take as much food as you need from the common store. The community recognizes that your art or music contributes to the well-being of all. You have children to raise? You get first pick of housing, food, clothing. And whatever you do, you have an equal voice in the running of your community.

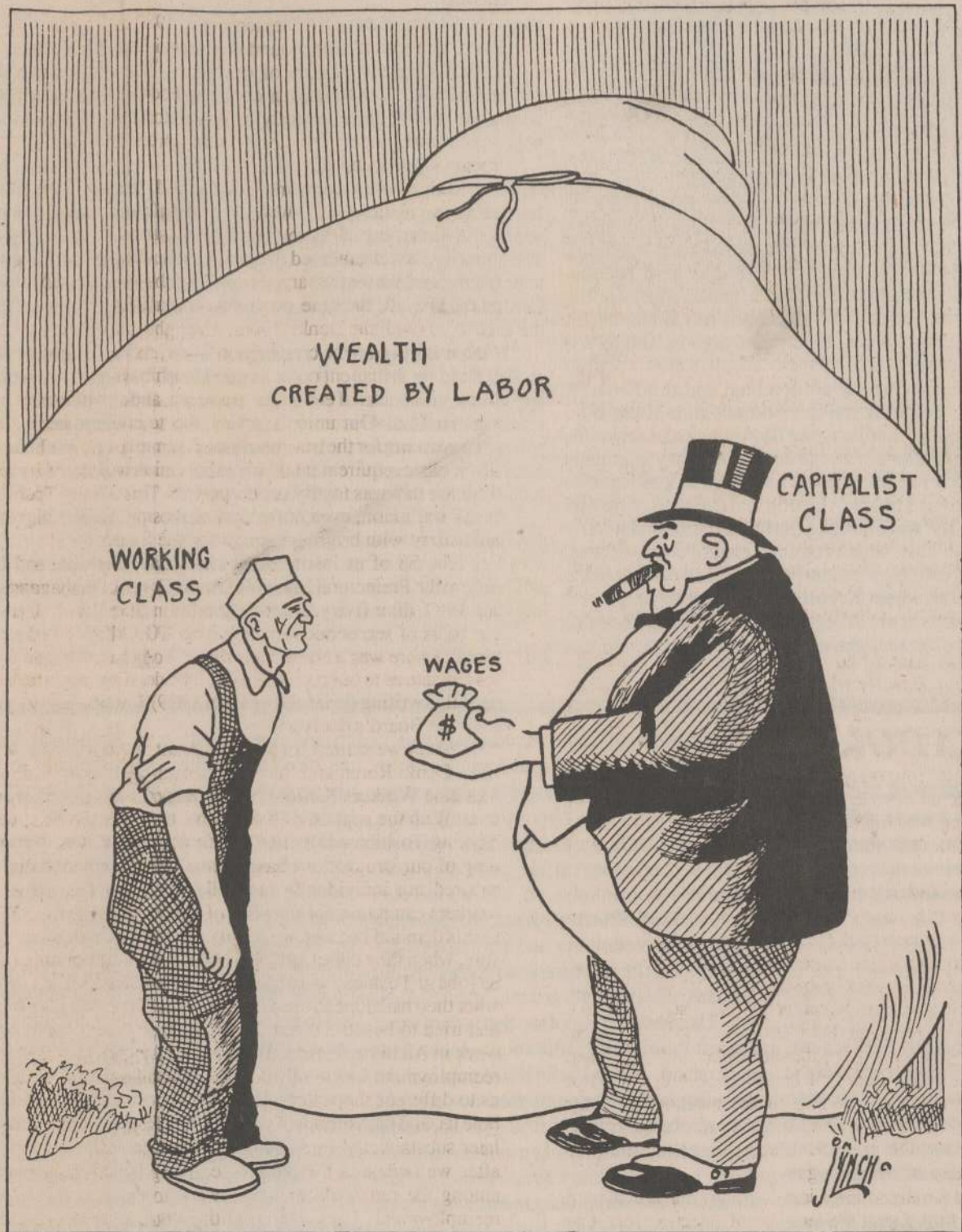
Sound like a dream? It's not as impossible as it sounds. In fact it's a lot simpler than

our present system. It takes only one step: the working people must seize the means of production—the factories, farms, ships, trains, computers and radio stations—and having seized it, the people run it themselves. No bosses, neither corporate nor political, just democratic sharing of the work. As soon as the people of the world seize the means of production, there will be an end to poverty. Would you stand by and let your neighbor starve when you had plenty? No, but a capitalist does. There will be an end to war. Would you go halfway around the planet to attack the people of another country? You have no reason to—but a capitalist has a reason: private profits. There will be environmental healing. Would you dump poison in the river where your neighbors drink? No, but a capitalist does. There will be an end to unemployment. There is plenty of work that needs to be done, and you will be free to do it your own way.

Think about it. Then do something about it. Join the IWW—the world is waiting for you

MV

## Organize and Take the Big Bag!



James Lynch (Industrial Pioneer, June 1925)

# A Blow Job is Better Than No Job

Maximum Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIC) and Welfare are better than no job, but for millions upon millions of wymyn (and numbers of men) in North America, sex work is the only job for us! It is a job to make money for the time being or, less often, as a career. It is a choice among few good options. We who are stigmatized through our gender, our race, our poverty, our lack of formal education, our sexuality, our mothering work and our previous work experience in the sex industry may find sex work more suitable to our needs and qualifications than "straight jobs". As sex industry workers, we are also men and wymyn too young to have the right to a living wage, "educated" people facing a job market full of boring, ethically despicable, underpaid and unsatisfying work, sole support mothers, homeless and drug dependent people who need money with "no strings" in order to survive, wymyn "between jobs" or on social assistance who cannot otherwise make ends meet. In other words, we are quite ordinary people trying to survive under capitalism.

For some IWW members, thinking about sex workers as fellow laborers in the struggle may be a challenge to the usual perception that sex work is a personality characteristic, a vice or, at best, a lifestyle! But to think of sex work—for example, prostitution—as a lifestyle is tantamount to thinking about food prep work as a hobby! Is mining a recreational activity? Is domestic work "fun"? Is working in a garment sweatshop the same as sewing myself a pair of pants in my spare



time? To put it bluntly, I may cook, pick up pretty rocks, clean my closet or have sex all night, but I WOULD NOT fuck this man, or strip at 6:16, or wiggle in men's laps for six hours, or pose for these photographs IF I WEREN'T PAID! It's work.

Please don't blame me for sounding defensive. I've struggled half of my twenty two years with this notion of prostitution as a character defect. GOOD GIRL/BAD GIRL, MADONNA/WHORE! My mother struggled with shame because we all had to live with a man she had to satisfy sexually in order for her to afford housing, food and shelter for us. I struggled against self hatred for being capable of cold bloodedly having sex for money. "She's got a taste for easy money. You can take the girl out of the gutter, but you can't take the gutter out of the girl. Mother's a whore—the daughter's doomed." But we all know that money is rarely EASY. And I know that my "gutter" is my class back-

ground and my inspiration to activism. I inherited the oppressions of poverty and womynhood from my mother, not my job.

I got a "straight job" as a telemarketer and discovered that I HATED working ten times the hours for half the money. I HATED being bossed around. I HATED being exploited for profit, and I HATED selling something to gullible people which I thought only contributed to garbage dumps and pollution! I'd never felt so "prostituted" in my life. For me, doing something relatively harmless for a living like sex work is the next best thing to doing something worthwhile for money. And few of us have that privilege!

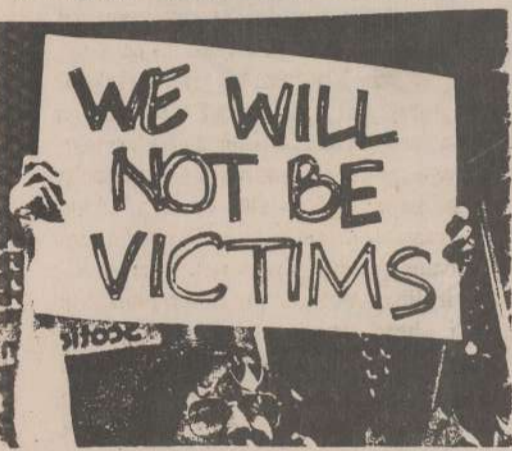
With excitement and anxiety a hundred and fifty wymyn sat down at the OWN (Obnoxious Wymyn's Network) Gathering in Oakland, California in July 1989, to discuss sex work. We were astonished that at least half of us "came out" as having worked in the sex industry. We cried with each other over stories of rejection from fellow activists for our work. We cheered London (England) peep show workers for their spontaneous and victorious strike over boss demands for a bigger cut of worker's tips (tips are the only pay for most workers in peep shows, strip clubs etc). We laughed when we discovered



we knew the same strong wymyn or had worked at the same places. We raged against working conditions, the Green River murders of more than 150 hooking wymyn, mostly black, in the Seattle-Vancouver area; the violation and killing of our beloved co-workers, the oppressions of poverty, racism, misogyny (hatred of women), ageism and classism. We marvelled over our heritage as sex workers; a heritage of activism, of solidarity, of charity, of strength and revolution.

The integrity of labour is safe in the hands of the millions of hard working wymyn and men whose struggle against stigma, unbearable working conditions and oppressive laws recall the early heritage of the IWW. We are workers without civil rights, protection from prejudice, without salary or wage, without job related benefits, worker's injury compensation or unemployment insurance. We work under laws which strip us of our dignity and access to the justice system and job training programs and which deny us our basic safety from violence.

Tracy Tief



## JAPAN: A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

The recent escalation of trade friction between Japan and the U.S. has brought with it a very strange phenomenon—the mystification of the wonders of "Japanese management" on both sides of the Pacific. Not only are economists and corporate managers in the U.S. speaking highly of it, but quite a few Japanese also proudly regard it as the secret behind Japan's apparently superb economic performance.

We hear that what are claimed to be the key components of this management style—such as labor-management cooperation, team concept, QC circles and other small group activities, paternalism, morning gatherings, and singing the company song—are being introduced to American shopfloors, with the plants operated by Japanese multinationals serving as showcases.

But beware of the wolf in sheep's clothing, because that is exactly what the much-touted Japanese managerial method is all about. This method is merely another expression of unlimited managerial authority that puts profits and efficiency before the workers' well being.

The Japanese economy is said to be prosperous. But the workers feel that their lives are far from fulfilling, that they are too busy, and that they are far worse off than their American counterparts. Even though Japanese firms can produce automobiles, home electric appliances and other glittering consumer durables efficiently and competitively, they have failed to make the lives of ordinary people rich and meaningful. And one of the primary causes for these imbalances is the Japanese management method.

As a typical illustration of how this method actually works in Japan, I would like to describe the situation at Toshiba, one of the largest electronics firms in Japan and the world, and also our union's enemy.

### Ostracization of a Machinist at Toshiba's Fuchu Plant

Toshiba's Fuchu plant in Tokyo, with a workforce of 8,000, is the company's largest. Mainly manufacturing equipment for office automation, the plant has an imposing appearance as the embodiment of state-of-the-art technology. The plant's shopfloor, however, is under a fascist or totalitarian rule; as has been exposed by an important court case, in process since early 1982, involving human rights violations committed by Toshiba against Ueno Hitoshi, a young machinist at the plant.

Before filing his suit, Ueno had been severely and routinely punished by the company. Exactly what crime did he commit in the eyes of the plant managers? A prize-winner in a nationwide contest of machinists, Ueno's competence was beyond doubt. His "crime" consisted of his exercise of his freedom of expression. Totally independent of any outside organizations, be they political or social, he tried to circulate a personal newsletter among a limited number of fellow workers expressing how he felt about the workplace, the union leadership, and environmental pollution—especially the danger of nuclear power plants.

Plant management considered criticism of nuke plants inappropriate for a worker employed by one of the largest builders of nuclear plants in the country. His criticism of the union leadership's compromising stance towards rationalization, speed-up, and a wage freeze was also taken as a blatant assault against labor-management cooperation.

The foreman and production manager of his shop, with the approval of their superiors, reprimanded Ueno severely for hours on end. They ordered other workers not to talk with Ueno, and reassigned him to do miscellaneous work alone. If he made even the smallest mistake, supervisors hurled abuse at him in the presence of other workers, and forced these workers—who used to be on friendly terms with Ueno—into harassing him as well. Then Ueno was forced to spend hours writing statements of apology.

A union does exist at Toshiba—a typical company union affiliated with the Denki Roren (All Japan Federation of Electric Machine Workers' Unions), which is one of the largest union federations in Japan. Upholding the ideal of "labor-management cooperation," the union leadership flatly rejected Ueno's requests for support. Instead they denounced him and demanded that management place him under intensive surveillance.

Toshiba is obviously determined to suppress any of its workers who are critical of the company. Indeed, democracy extends only to the

gate of a Japanese firm, beyond which is the terrain of fascist rule.

### Worker Solidarity: The Struggle of the Toshiba-Ampex Union

Toshiba-Ampex Co., Ltd. (TOAMCO)—the firm I work for—is a joint venture between Toshiba and the California-based firm Ampex, one of the world's top manufacturers of magnetic tapes. Regarded as one of the most important subsidiaries of Toshiba, TOAMCO enjoyed a reputation as a promising high-tech firm. It was performing well financially, with plenty of retained earnings. However, in order to bust our union Toshiba placed the firm into fake insolvency and closed it down.

On the morning of September 9, 1982 and in our usual rush to get to work we were dumbfounded to read in the Asahi newspaper a story announcing the closure of our firm. The news came on us like a thunderbolt, because not a word had been circulated on the shopfloor. Toshiba had been secretly planning to force TOAMCO into insolvency, announcing the closure through Japan's leading newspaper to create a fait accompli.

After plant management disbanded, 58 of us—out of a workforce of approximately 370—who were not fully convinced of the reasons for the dismantling of a prosperous firm, started to run the plant autonomously. We discovered the plans for busting our union and the letters exchanged between managers of Toshiba-Ampex and those of Ampex in the U.S. At the time, our union was affiliated, along with the one at Toshiba, with the Denki Roren. Even though our union was critical of "labor-management cooperation"—or, more accurately, collusion—upheld by the parent company and Toshiba Union, we were but a drop in the vast ocean of company unionism, and our influence was perforce very limited. Our union's policy was to concern itself above all else with working for the true interests of its members. We believed that this is the basic requirement of any labor union worthy of its name. But to Toshiba this was totally unacceptable. This is why Toshiba sought to break our union, even at the cost of closing down a highly successful subsidiary with bright prospects for the future.

The 58 of us instituted a suit against Toshiba, and laid a claim before the Prefectural Labor Relations Board of Kanagawa. In December 1987, after five years of deliberations, the Labor Board ruled—on the basis of secret documents left by TOAMCO managers—that the plant closure was a crime. It ordered Toshiba to reopen the plant, and to reinstate us to our previous jobs. The decision was a total victory, but as of this writing (in late November 1989) Toshiba has not yet complied with the Board's decision.

When we started running the plant autonomously, we withdrew from Denki Roren and joined Zenzosen (All Japan Shipbuilding and Machine Workers' Union), which respects the autonomy of its chapters. With the support of a wide spectrum of unionists, we have been fighting Toshiba while running the plant ourselves. From the beginning of our struggle, we have consistently demanded that our jobs be secured not individually but collectively, so that we as a group of workers can retain our network of unity and solidarity. We have held to this demand because we deeply distrust Toshiba's managers. To be sure, when they dissolved TOAMCO without prior notice they offered us jobs at Toshiba, its subsidiaries and affiliated firms. But we knew what they had done to Ueno at its Fuchu Plant. We also knew that they had tried to bust the union at one of its affiliated firms, Asahi Woodwork in Aichi Prefecture. We were well aware that Toshiba's offer of reemployment was totally deceptive, and that it was meant to disperse us to different shops throughout the country, break our unity, pigeon-hole us, and harass each of us as they did Ueno. And our suspicion was later substantiated by a secret management document we discovered after we occupied the plant, specifying which leaders and activists among the ranks of our union were to be denied the "benefits" of reemployment. Thus we are fighting not merely for reemployment, we are fighting instead for our collective and full reinstatement to our previous jobs.

### Workers' Autonomous Production

We believe that our struggle at Toshiba-Ampex is important not simply because it is the largest ongoing labor dispute in Japan's manufacturing sector but also because, with its experiments in autonomous production, it is opening a new horizon for the labor movement.

Since 1982, our worker-run plant has produced high-tech products including a highvision monitor, a TV conference system, a computer-aided educational system, medical equipment, plant operation control systems, ITV monitoring systems, surveying instruments for civil engineering use, mechatronic instruments, precision dies and plastic dies. These have been developed, designed, manufactured and marketed all by us workers. Our operation has been such a tremendous success both technologically and financially that even Toshiba has had to admire our competence. One measure of our success is that one of the major banks has extended a loan to finance our investment in machinery, which is unprecedented in the history of labor disputes.

In the initial stage of the dispute, we began autonomous production out of the sheer necessity to sustain our own livelihood and keep our struggle going. In the meantime, however, our shared anger about Toshiba's irresponsibility has made us aware of our capability to run the plant by ourselves, and induced us to think seriously about what a worker-controlled plant should be like. For instance, in receiving an order for and designing a computer-aided process control system, we cannot but ask ourselves whether or not the system as ordered would promote the interests of the workers of the client company and, if not, how the design concept could be improved.

The recessionary years of the 1970s saw a number of cases of plant occupation and workers' autonomous control. Today, however, when the mounting waves of industrial restructuring, privatization, deindustrialization and runaway shops are shaking the lives of Japanese workers, a new trend seems to be in the making. A few unions which have opposed plant closures for years, and several more that have recently begun their struggle against such closures, seem to share the view that developing socially useful products in collaboration with a wide array of popular movements outside the plants can be an important means of survival. And workers of these unions regard our union's struggle as an encouraging example.

### Let's Smash the "Japanese Management Method"

Toshiba has a number of plants and offices in the U.S. and is imposing Japanese management style on its American employees. If any individual worker or group of workers dares to object to this philosophy, Toshiba moves quickly to silence them and to force them to behave like sheep obedient to its management prerogatives.

The "team concept" which Toshiba emphasizes, too, is not for the promotion of a true sense of friendship, solidarity, or mutual help among its workers. Its true purpose is to pit a team of workers against all the others—to make workers discipline themselves, meet quotas faster and more efficiently than do other teams, to inform against each other. Thus the entire workforce succumbs to management's despotic rule.

By Capitalizing on the naive sense of group solidarity entertained by workers, the company can beef up its production and profits, with workers sustaining all the hardships.

It is most regrettable that the capitalists of our two countries collaborate with each other more closely than do we workers. For example, Toshiba's largest shareholder is General Electric, a tie that goes back to pre-WWII days. Recently, many more financial and/or technological ties have been reached—GE with Hitachi, Westinghouse with Mitsubishi Electric, Ford with Mazda, GM with Toyota, Boeing with NEC, and Motorola with Toshiba, to name but a few. And these multinationals, while joining hands with each other, are pitting American workers against Japanese workers. It is high time that workers on both sides of the Pacific joined hands to counter Japanese management methods and to promote our mutual interests.

We would like to learn more about how you American workers view these methods, how they are infringing upon workers interests and destroying worker solidarity on the shopfloor, and how you are fighting them. We would also like to exchange ideas as to how we might expand the struggle to the majority of Japanese rank-and-file workers, who we believe are our potential allies, even if they are currently coopted.

Let us fight together, and our best wished for you

Tsuzukyu Ken is Secretary-General of Toshiba-Ampex Chapter, Zenzosen, 523-1 Toriyama-cho, Kohoku-ku, Yokohama-shi 222, Japan.

## BRANCH NEWS

### DENVER

#### Colorado Branch News

The Denver-Boulder branch is a propaganda group composed principally of about a dozen active members, most Vietnam-vetted. Most have been or are active in AFL unions at work and several are or have been small-potatoes officers. (No full time union employees, but we have both friends and enemies in that category.) Most of us actively participate in other progressive groups, e.g. radical bookstore collectives, chicano groups, anarchist volleyball leagues, poet and musicians societies etc. So it seems that our spies are everywhere. Almost all members who attend meetings stay involved though they might get a little behind on dues, while those who remain detached from the internal life of the group quickly lose interest. Most are steadily employed, thus immune from immediate material high anxiety, but only by a couple paychecks. We seem to have no clear idea what to do about organizing in our own name, but the local AFL types know we're around; certainly no lack of crying about dual unionisms from CP moles & other national-socialists whenever we come around.

We have had spectacular success with a few well-planned media events, most notably the Columbine commemoration and are virtually alone in this area for pointing out potential for working class organizing past boring, narrow, defensive and ultimately ineffectual contract-mongering. We have missed some opportunities to contact workers in motion, due to the usual dogmatic inhibitions that plague the left whenever it's about to actually do something, plus simple limitations of time and space. Seems safe to say that the branch is young but has its eyes very open, and there's enough long term commitment to expect the basic nucleus to expand, god knows we've discussed it within an inch of its life. We are gradually hearing more from other IWW locals which is a trend we hope will continue; have recently received branch communications from Chicago & San Francisco and invite any groups or individuals to correspond with us for whatever strikes your fancy. Our major project presently is to begin pulling the Mayday constitutional (& other topics) conference together, and we look forward to seeing as many of you as can make the trip.

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The Chicago and Ann Arbor Branches are organizing a Midwest Regional Conference on June 1-3, in Ann Arbor. The purpose of this conference is to create some sense of regional solidarity in midwest Canada and the US, build ties between people in different branches and shops and find out what we can do to support each other's organizing efforts. At conventions, the most interesting conversations take place in the door ways; hopefully, at a smaller and less structured get together, the conversations can take place inside the hall. Ann Arbor has volunteered to host such a conference; Chicago is doing the organizing.

We're soliciting feedback on what sort of workshops people would like to attend and what workshops they are prepared to lead. So far people have suggested workshops on analyzing the results of the constitutional revision conference meeting in Denver in May; revising the old Industrial Union structure, at least in the IU6XX categories where the bulk of the IWW membership is; lessons from the past (the rise and fall of Chicago's Mid-America Metal Products drive and Ann Arbor's U Cellar etc; organizing IW coops; organizing IW shops; problems in ongoing IW shops, grievances; contract negotiations; maintaining an IWW caucus within a larger workforce.

Besides these, we may have concerts, if there are any midwest Wob musicians to be roped in and exhibits if anyone has anything they want to share.

It would be good if we had at least one person from all our midwest shops and branches—that would be Toronto GMB, Ottawa group, Blackbird Press, IWW Contracting, Chicago GMB, Champaign-Urbana Group, Southwest Michigan GMB, People's Warehouse, Ann Arbor Tenants Union, Minneapolis-St. Paul GMB, (the new Minnesota PIRG members that just signed up ought to be official by then), Madison GMB, and Lakeside Press. And of course, any unaffiliated Wobs, ex-Wobs and would-be Wobs would be welcome.

Please write the Chicago GMB with any workshop suggestions, offers to perform music, suggestions of people who ought to be contracted, questions or whatever.

## SAN FRANCISCO

### SEA BLOCKADE AT PASCO STEEL

At least one member of our branch took part in a sea blockade of a Korean ship which was bound for the Pasco steel plant in Pittsburg, CA. Pasco intended to have non-union workers unload the steel at their facility, much to the displeasure of the ILWU and other maritime trade unions. The blockade succeeded in quarantining the ship south of the Bay Bridge for nearly a week, by keeping the Bar Pilot offboard. Congratulations fellow worker!

### MEETING WITH SAN FRANCISCO RECYCLERS

Inspired by the success of the Ecology Center workers, and spurred on by their own bad working conditions, several employees of the S.F. recycling centers met with this delegate to discuss the possibility of organizing their workplaces. Besides the pathetically low wages endemic to the industry, their working conditions could literally be described as 'shitty'. The boss refuses to service the one porta-potty that passes for bathroom facilities; so when it piles up too high, they all go down the street to the gas station. Needless to say, these folks are ripe for unionizing, and the two I met are bright and energetic enough to pull it off. More later, hopefully.

At our February meeting, the financial secretary reported the usual rosy picture. As corresponding secretary, I went through the mailbag as quickly as possible (one curious item of note; we've found our way onto the mailing list of some neo-nazi hate group out of Texas — this piece of mail inspired more interest than any other, for sheer macabre value. We talked about a recent article in the Industrial Worker which perpetuated the fallacy that the IWW endorses the destruction of property (mistakenly called "sabotage"). Louis agreed to write a letter to the editor clarifying our union's understanding of what the word sabotage means (the conscious withdrawal of efficiency).

Utah Phillips has been pushing the idea of having our annual convention in Salt Lake City this year, to correspond with the AFL-CIO sponsored commemoration of Joe Hill's murder at the hands of a Utah firing squad. We discussed this, and came up with an alternative proposal. There are several problems with having it there the same weekend as the Hill anniversary. First, there's no active branch in Salt Lake City, so all the logistical arrangements would have to be made externally (hall, housing, food, etc.) Second, it would be difficult to focus on our own business while simultaneously trying to maintain a presence at the sure to be co-opted memorial. Third, the success of our conference would end up being at least partly dependent on the good graces of the trade union leadership, not a prospect I relish.

Yet we do see the importance of being there, making sure that Joe Hill is remembered as a WOBBLER, not some generic labor martyr. Having already offered San Francisco as a host city to the union, we propose the following; have the convention in SF the weekend BEFORE the Utah affair. Then, as many as possible of us can travel en masse to Salt Lake City and crash the Joe Hill party in style, prepared and invigorated by our own bash.

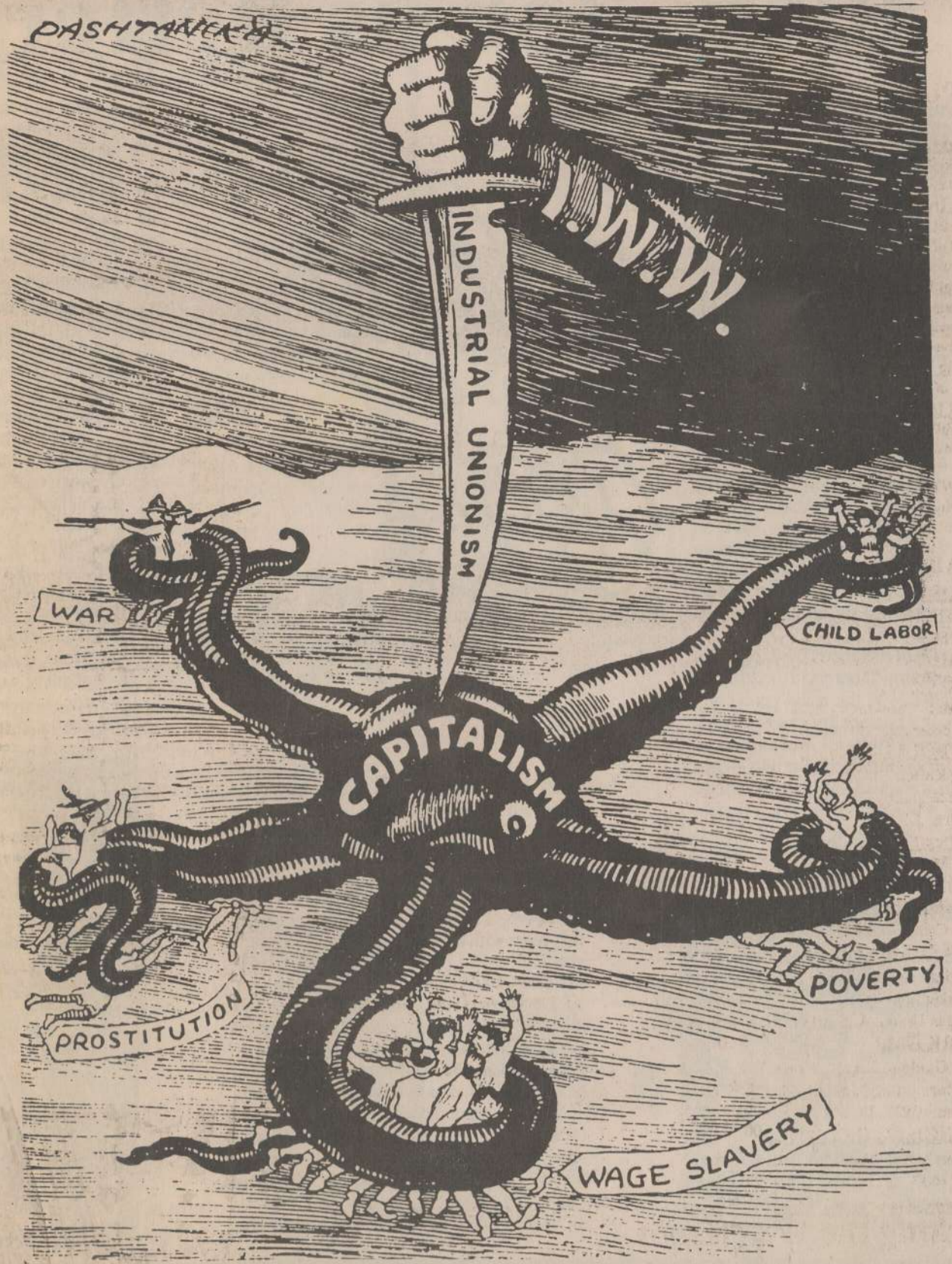
Finally, we had a long discussion with a guest who wants to organize the workers at her job. She works in a glass-cutting factory with about 25 employees, most of them East Indian women. Aside from some horrifying health hazards (acetone, lead fumes, no ventilation), the boss has peeved people with a discriminatory "points" system (the opposite of brownie points—so many points and it comes out of their paychecks). And she maintains control with a maternalistic "mother-hen" style of management. We offered what help and advice we could. More later, hopefully.

### GREYHOUND WORKERS FIGHT FOR THEIR LIVES

As you probably heard, a picketing Greyhound busdriver was killed two weeks ago by a bus driven by a scab. These workers are fighting to get back the wages they lost half a decade ago, when a new boss bought the company and forced a 23% wage concession down their throats. This struggle is particularly poignant for me as a new member of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU). It's discouraging as hell to see how little the international and my own local (BART workers) are doing to support our fellow workers. Did you realize these busdrivers are making 7 to 9 bucks an hour? Get out and show your solidarity at the Greyhound terminals.

### SF LABOR COUNCIL ORGANIZING CONFERENCE

On Saturday March 31st, beginning at 9:30 am, the labor council is hosting a half-day event for union activists on the topic of "organizing". The opportunities here for Bay Area Wobs are three-fold. We can network with trade union activists who know better than most the frustration of fighting both the bosses AND the union bureaucrats, but who may know the IWW only in an historical context; we can share our experience of organizing the unorganized; and we might even pick up a few pointers ourselves.



## REVIEWS

C.H. Mayer, *The Continuing Struggle: Autobiography of a Labor Activist*, Northampton, MA 01060, Pittenbruaich Press, 1989, forward by Scott Nearing, 187 pages.

C.H. "Hank" Mayer has been struggling for a better society throughout the entire Twentieth Century. The publication of his autobiography is important, not only because it is the record of his personal struggles, but also because it illuminates how the essential nature of the battle between capital and labor has not changed. In spite of new technologies and changing forms of social and political control, the basic fight is still between those who exploit and profit, and those who endeavor to end the domination and tyranny of a few over the many.

Hank Mayer's own story is particularly instructive because as a young man he managed to "profit" from the established social and economic order. Born a miner's son in 1902 in Rich Hill, Missouri, raised in a radical libertarian family in Virden, Illinois, he first had to struggle to make a living, and then to pay his way in college. He was so successful finding ways to finance his education that he left college and became a successful businessman. The twist in this story of a "self-made man" is that Mayer never stopped struggling for the working class. Whenever and wherever there was a fight he jumped in with both feet. Travelling to Pennsylvania in 1927 to work as a scab-undercover agent for John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers, delegate to the International Congress of Cooperatives in Moscow in 1929, activist in the hunger marches and unemployment movements of the early 1930's, Mayer was distinguished by a willingness to get down and work in mobilizing drives of all kinds; but he steadfastly maintained a critical and non-sectarian attitude towards organizing groups and parties.

The remarkable thing is that Mayer's life as a militant does not culminate in the 1930's; it rather begins there! In 1932, in the midst of the Great Depression, he sold his thriving business for a song, and hit the road looking for work. When he found work, he never failed to organize his fellow workers (and, consequently, he was often looking for new work). This is the life he led until recently.

How to explain Mayer's exemplary commitment to the struggle? The example of his friend, the late Scott Nearing seems to have been important. Nearing, who was fired from the University of Pennsylvania because of his opposition to the First World War, had made a radical change in his life that greatly impressed the young Mayer, who first met him in 1924. Nearing showed it was possible to overcome the temptations of a materialistic, individualistic society, by living simply and honestly. His was a vision of the "good life" that implied social commitment and a radical rejection of capitalist culture. He inspired Hank Mayer to make, eventually, a similar break in his own way.

The story of how Hank Mayer has continued to struggle as a labor activist until recent years is both instructive on a practical level and uplifting on a spiritual level. The struggle is continual, and so is the chain of human relationships that ensures that this vision of a better society in the future, and healthier existence today, will not fail to inspire new generations.

Larry Portis

To order Hank Mayer's autobiography, write to: P.O. Box 1335, Manchester Center, VT 05255.

### OPEN THE DOORS

Cassette Tape—Len Wallace singing and accompanying himself with Accordion \$10.00 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling. Order from Len Wallace, 346 Randolph Street, Windsor, Ontario Canada N9B 2T6. Lyrics and liner notes sent upon receipt of SASE.

Among the plethora of folk singers who deal with labor songs and other songs of social significance, it is rare to hear anything other than guitar or banjo accompaniment. Len Wallace, a Canadian IWW member of Russian-Ukrainian heritage, true to his background accompanies himself on the accordion, a time-honored folk instrument popular among the Eastern and Northern Europeans. At the age of fifteen he was the youngest to ever win the Canadian Open Accordion Championship. His inherited love for Slavic music has extended itself to folk music of other cultures as well as the classics.

As well as being a member of the IWW, he also belongs to the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 543.5 and the Windsor Local 566 of the American Federation of Musicians, is the Chair of the Windsor Coalition for Disarmament and edits the newsletter of the Windsor Occupational Safety and Health Group. In addition to all this he is a popular performer of Irish and Scottish music in the local pubs and clubs. He does not lack for credentials as a folk musician.

His versatility is amply attested to by the selections on this cassette. He opens with "Blackleg Miner", a song from the Chartist rebellion of England in 1844 where the miners were brutally suppressed and their activists exiled to other parts of the country. "They Gone and Closed the Doors" is Wallace's own composition dealing with the rash of factory and job-place closings as a result of the employer finding more tractable labor forces elsewhere:

They took our labor and used it up  
And they always ask for more;  
Now I can't believe  
They've gone and closed the door.

"Between The Wars" is a call for peace as well as for the reactivation of union militancy:

I give my consent  
To any government  
That doesn't deny a living wage.

"We'll Make the Mary Ellen Carter Rise Again" deals with the dangers of a merchant seaman's life while still expressing hope for those who daily buck the odds. Wallace takes Robbie Burns' immortal poem, "A Man's A Man For A' That" and sets it to music in an innovative and unforgettable rendition.

In "Viva la Quince Brigada" the first version is a composition by Christy Moore commemorating the 300 Irish volunteers of the James Connolly Battalion who fought against the Fascist invasion by Franco in Spain. It is done in typical Irish ballad style. The second version is the original Spanish version as sung by the International Brigades in Iberian tempo.

"No Man's Land" is by the Scottish singer and songwriter, Eric Bogle who, after visiting Flanders Field, made this paean to the slaughter of young lives in the First World War:

I see by your gravestone  
You were only nineteen  
When you joined the fallen  
of 1916.

"Two Good Arms" by another IWW singer, Carlie King tells of the Kangaroo Court frameup and execution in 1927 of the Italian anarchists, Nicola Sacco and Bartolo Vanzetti, two simple workers who were the victims of the red scare of that decade. The chorus was taken from Sacco's last statement prior to sentencing.

Len Wallace's virtuosity on the accordion is displayed in four instrumentals. "Chastushki Russkii" a variation of Russian folk tunes attests to his Slavic heritage while "Cuckoo's Nest" a hornpipe and two reels, "Pigeon On A Gate" and "Swallow's Tail" shows he is equally at home with Irish folk music.

But interestingly enough his Russian squeeze-box-style comes out the most pronounced in the opening bars of "L'Internationale", which is the closing number on the cassette.

He opens by singing the original chorus in French before going into the English version. He solves both the problem of gender bias and partisanship in the chorus by merely deleting a few words:

'Tis the final conflict  
Let each stand in place;  
The In - ter - na - ti - onal  
Shall be the Human Race.

You practicing folk singers will be able to see how expertly he adjusts the melodic line even with the missing gender word or 'party', 'soviet' or 'union'.

Your reviewer having grown up with Wisconsin Folkslieder and Tex-Mex squeeze-box has enjoyed this cassette immensely and trusts that this is only the first of many more to come.

Carlos Cortez

