



INDUSTRIAL WORKER

★ Education

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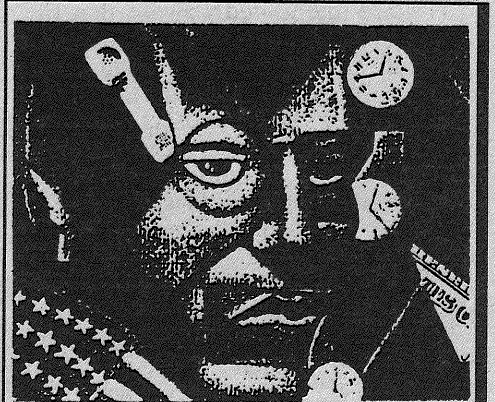
"There is no IWW" - That's What You Think!

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Lehigh Valley Bingo Workers seek reinstatement of fired workers, and recognition as an IWW Shop - but management is putting up a fight.



**Workers Rebellious!
Bosses Terrified by
DIRECT ACTION**
★ Special Focus ★
excerpts from
Martin Sprouse's new
book...see page
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Bingo Hall Workers Unionize

When Lehigh Valley first met the workers of the Boulevard Bingo Hall, we realized they were angry. How angry were they? Well, when was the last time you saw someone with a picket sign that stating, "IT IS TIME TO SLAUGHTER THE HOGS!" That's pretty damn angry, and rightfully so.

For 6 months, women workers at a Bingo Hall in Allentown, Pa. have endured verbal abuse, accusations of theft, threatened strip searches and drug tests. They watched as many of their friends were fired, only to be replaced by family members of management. Finally, management pushed too far and the remaining workers walked off their jobs in solidarity with terminated workers.

The Bingo Hall is managed by two non-profit groups called PASCAL (Pennsylvania Assoc. of Songwriters, Composers and Lyricists) and Allied Air Force. The money raised is supposed to go to charitable causes. In the case of PASCAL, the money is geared toward helping artists. Allied Air uses the money to finance the restoration of WWII aircraft. By agreement, the board members of PASCAL manage the Hall. Most of the workers are dues paying members of PASCAL.

Membership or not, the workers could take no more abuse and hit the picket line in defense of their rights. Their efforts gained attention through a local newspaper article where the workers stated their case and made public the fact that PASCAL has not been turning over profits to artists. Enter the LV IWW.

No matter how big or how small the conflict, the IWW has made it clear that we stand with any workers who have the guts and determination to fight their bosses. These workers are such people. We immediately produced leaflets, organized a rally and talked about affiliation with the IWW. Soon, other discharged workers and family members arrived on the picket line, and

we had ourselves a real live labor conflict. The women decided that they would not go back to their jobs until everyone was reinstated and the IWW was their bargaining agent in the workplace.

Management believed that these "helpless" women would give up and go away. Instead, the Bingo Hall was faced with non-stop, 10-hour picket lines. One night the President of the local Teamsters union showed up on the picket line to tell the workers that the IWW was doing a great job and was the only union who would help them to organize.

Reaction was swift and, at times, comical. One boss repeatedly ran out of the Hall, screaming her head off and waving her arms, cursing the strikers and threatening legal action. Her husband (and fellow fascist) repeatedly badgered a security guard to film us. So we smiled for the camera or pulled out shirts over our faces. The picket line freaked these people out so much that they called the police 6 or 7 times a day in the hopes we would be run off their property. After days of harassment, the cops began to understand that it was our right to be where we were. It became apparent to the cops that management, not the workers, had a screw loose. They informed the management that they would not return. This caused the boss, Charlene Havessey, to scream at the cop, "YOU ARE A FUCKING IDIOT!" This same boss had once told the strikers they were "unholy". Now she was swearing like a drunken sailor.

During this time a local TV station appeared to film the situation. The workers stated that they wanted reinstatement and recognition of the IWW as their union. Hours later, the bosses were heard yelling on the microphone inside the Hall to bewildered customers that "THERE IS NO IWW!" These outbursts caused one elderly patron to ask that he shut up so they could play bingo. Customers also

related that the sound of passing cars honking their horns in support was making it difficult to hear their numbers!

By the middle of the second week the workers had signed enough cards to form a job shop. The shop was immediately recognized by the General Executive Board of the IWW and sent organizing funds. Then things began to get nasty.

The bosses pulled up big trucks in front of the Hall in the hopes that cars passing by would not see us. FW Flank told one of the drivers that they were parked illegally. Upon hearing this, the driver threatened to break FW Flank's neck if he was ticketed. So this time, we called the cops. They arrived and ticketed every single truck. The tough-guy driver sent someone else from inside the Hall to move the truck. Nor did any violence occur because we made it clear to the management and police that we would not start trouble, but if attacked would defend ourselves.

Until this time the bosses had ignored the advice of police who told them to get a good labor lawyer. But they were beginning to understand that this was

no ordinary struggle. So they contacted a lawyer, paid \$700, and were told that everything we were doing was perfectly legal! They also looked into getting an injunction against us but were dissuaded when told it would cost \$6,000 up front. Again the bosses came running out of the Hall screaming their heads off in despair. They then attempted to provoke a fight so we changed tactics and said nothing. This confused them so much that they mistakenly picked a fight with one of their own customers who had complained about being filmed by security. The cops were called to rout us, only to find that we had no part in the whole fiasco.

In the midst of the conflict the scabs were not forgotten. At closing time, the strikers, their children and the LV IWW serenaded them with the song, "THIS LITTLE SCAB". The children especially liked the line about throwing a scab a stone!

At the end of the second week a new development took place. The local District Attorney decided to investigate the finances of PASCAL. It was found

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Letters to Industrial Worker

Battered Women in Prison

Dear Co Workers,

I am currently incarcerated at the California Institution for Women, serving a sentence of 15 years to life for killing my husband of 10 years. I am a battered woman who killed her abuser.

During our marriage, my husband broke my jaw, cracked my ribs, slit my eye open and gave me more black eyes than I can count. I was beaten so many times I can no longer remember the specifics of each occasion. I lived in fear and pain for 10 years.

You are undoubtedly aware that the governors of Maryland and Ohio have granted clemency to a number of women who were in prison for killing or assaulting their abusers. Various political and social groups are attempting to accomplish the same thing in other states. I have written to Governor Wilson asking that he consider reviewing my case. I am hoping that you might consider lending your support to my request.

There are many women like me, all victims of violence, abuse and hopelessness. They range in age from 24 to 76, each a sad and terrible variation on a horrifyingly common theme.

Living in an abusive relationship is a terrifying nightmare of pain, endurance and fear. I know that I am lucky to be alive today. I make no excuses for my

action, nor do I expect anyone to condone it. I struck out in a misguided attempt to save my own life. I believed that I had no other choice. And now the death of my husband is one more horror that I have to live with for the rest of my life.

I am not a violent person, nor a threat to society. I am a victim, just as my three daughters are victims. My husband was a victim too. I will live with this tragedy every day of my life, no matter where I am.

All the battered women here are victims who have paid for their mistakes with their bodies and souls, and now are paying with their lives. We will live with the nightmare every day of our lives. We are asking only to return to our children and loved ones, so that some healing may begin.

If you feel that you might be able to lend your support to my request to the Governor, I would be most grateful. Any thoughts or ideas you might wish to share would be very welcome. I thank you for your time and any other consideration that you may wish to extend to myself and other battered women. Sincerely,

-Brenda Aris
W-28867 Miller A 28U
Frontera, CA 91720

Searching for the Truth about Peru

Fellow Workers:

The article in the June issue of the IW on the situation in Peru may be quite misleading to people who are not familiar with the situation there. I have followed the Communist Party of Peru (Shining Path) since the early 1980's through their sister Maoist parties in the US, the mainstream press, and anarchist networks.

They are a classic proto-bourgeois gang led by some middle class intellectuals. Using the workers as cannon fodder, they hope to establish a dictatorship and enjoy the power and privileges of a ruling class. True, the workers of Peru are sorely oppressed and perhaps are ready for rebellion; but should we cheer when they are duped into sacrificing themselves to simply change their masters? Peru, like most Latin American countries, has a tradition of anarcho-syndicalism.

Perhaps the IWW or its members would like to extend material aid to the workers there, so that they can fight both the current ruling class and the Maoist slime. In the very least the IW should strive for some accuracy in its reporting, rather than reprinting the propaganda of wanna-be dictators. Like the Shining Path, the U.S. Army is filled with oppressed workers,-

(The end of this letter may have been lost in the email. The sender is unknown. We apologize for any inaccuracies. The info was abstracted from Peru Scholars News & Notes. We received a report, and the CW who entered it had never heard the bad things about SP, or any news at all from the workers in Peru. Of course we don't have time to research things that come

our way, and we appreciate coworkers pointing out any mistakes. If someone can get us real news from Peru, leaving aside rumors and US propaganda, we'll be glad to publish that.--CM)

Dear Companeros:

I would like to share my thoughts on your June article, "Peru Insurrection Gains Momentum." I try to keep in touch with what is going on in the world and that is why I try to get my hands on periodicals and magazines of the alternative press.

Anyways, I have continuously heard both the alternative press and the daily liars lambaste and denigrate the Shining Path. If all of what has been said about this group is true, then it's fine with me. However, I believe, there's a serious problem of credulity, and a serious lack of truthful information.

We are led to believe that this Maoist movement began recently, yet I read in William Mangin's book, *Peasants in Cities: Reading in the Anthropology of Urbanization* that there was a meeting between Indian leaders of Peru and US and Peruvian government functionaries back in 1952. One of the Indian leaders stated categorically that Peru would become like China if things didn't change. And the author goes on to say that the leader meant communist and that he meant that the landowners would face the same fate as they did in China.

Another thing that annoys me is the recent battle (or riot) at the prison of Canto Grande. It seems to me that the world has remained mute, and that not

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North America's
Only Radical
Labor News Monthly

Industrial Worker



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IWW Directory

For those unfamiliar with the IWW, we offer these definitions: Job Shop: IWW-organized group of workers at a particular workplace, either worker-owned, or owned by the bosses. GMB: General Membership Branch, a chartered branch of members linked by locale, rather than workplace. IWW Group: IWW members in the same locale, not large enough to be a GMB. IU: Industrial Union number assigned to a particular industry. Delegate: member authorized to collect dues and to sign up new members.

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NEW SOUTH WALES**
Jura Books - 110 Crystal St, Petersham, Sydney
Sydney Area IWW Group - Delegate: Ray Elbourne, Cnr. Dittons Lane & Old Illawara Hwy, Sutton Forest 2577, (048) 682883

**CANADA
BRITISH COLUMBIA**
Eastside Datagraphics Job Shop (IU 450) - 1460 Commercial Dr, Vancouver V5L 3X9, (604) 255-9559
SE BC IWW Group - PO Box 54, Balfour, V0G 1C0. Contact: David Everest (604) 229-4978
Vancouver Group - 110-511 Gatensbury St, Coquitlam, V3J SE7. Contact: John Barker (604) 936-1927

MANITOBA
Winnipeg Group - B. Mackay, PO Box 3204, GNPO, R3C 4E7

ONTARIO
Blackbird Design Job Shop (IU 450) - 394 Euclid Ave. #301, Toronto M6G 2S9, (416) 972-6293
Kingston Group - 472 Albert St, K7L 3W3, (613) 544-2382. Delegate: Brad Waugh (613) 549-6094
Ottawa Group - PO Box 2541, Stn D, K1P 5W6, (613) 231-2922
Toronto Group - 11 Andrews Ave, M6J 1S2, (416) 941-9945. Meetings 1st Thursday of month, 7 pm, phone for location.

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Delegate: F. Lee, 22 Vicarage Lane, Belgrave, Leicester, LE4 5PD. (053) 366-1835

**UNITED STATES
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Berkeley Recycling Center Job Shop (IU 670) - M. Carlstroem, 2515 Piedmont #8, 94607
IWW Local 1/Mendocino-Humboldt GMB-Delegates: Melissa Roberts, PO Box 2805, Ft. Bragg, CA 95437 (707/964-0164); Judi Bari, PO Box 656, Willits CA, 95490 (message 707/468-1660); Herb Jager, 114 E. Laurel, Ft. Bragg, CA 95437 (707/937-3457).

Los Angeles Group - Delegate: Andrew Willett, 1355 Hilda #5, Glendale 91205
New Earth Press Job Shop (IU 450) 1640

Addison, Berkeley 94702. Delegate: Dave Karoly (510) 549-0176.

Riverside Group - Delegate: Kathy Light (714) 369-9799

San Francisco Bay Area GMB - 1095 Market St. #204, 94103. (415) 863-WOBS
San Diego Group - RMR-Kroopkin, 2675 Fletcher Pkwy #211, El Cajon 92020. (619) 460-2907

Typesetting Etc. Job Shop (IU 450) - 1095 Market St. #210, San Francisco 94103
UC Berkeley Recyclers, Industrial Union Branch 620 --- 620 Eshleman, Berkeley 94720. Delegate: Daniel Widener.

COLORADO
Denver/Boulder GMB - 2412 E. Colfax, Denver 80206. (303) 388-1065. Office open Sat. 9-12. Meetings 2nd Friday each month 7 pm. Delegates: Cliff Sundstrom, 910 E. 8th Ave. #202, Denver 80218. (313) 832-7602. Dave Frazer, Box 6, Rollinsville 80474. (303) 258-3732.
P&L Printing Job Shop (IU 450) - 2298 Clay, Denver 80211. (303) 433-1852

FLORIDA
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GEORGIA
Atlanta Group - 340 Elmira Pl, 30307. (404) 524-1243

HAWAII
Honolulu Group - Delegate: D. Goldsmith, Box 469, University Stn. Honolulu HI 96822

IDAHO
Boise Group - Delegate: W. Cohan, 2701 N. 29th St, 83703. (208) 343-1699

ILLINOIS
Chicago GMB - (New World Resource Center) 1476 Irving Park, 60613. (312) 549-5045. Meetings, 1st Friday 7:30 pm.

LOUISIANA
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MAINE
Lewiston Group - M. Lunt, (207) 786-6273

MARYLAND
Baltimore GMB - R. Bey, Black Shield, Box 1681, Glen Burnie 21060. (301) 367-3024

MICHIGAN
Ann Arbor Tenants Union Job Shop (IU 670) - 4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor 48109. (313) 763-6876. Delegate: Jeff Gearhart (313) 994-5477
N. Michigan - John Patterson, PO Box 245, Conway 49722-0245

SE Michigan GMB - Delegates: Albert Parsons (313) 769-0695. Michael Kozura, 7252 Kendal, Dearborn 48126. (313) 581-2065

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Duluth Group - 1514 N. 8th Ave. E, 55805. Delegate: Jack Rosenquist

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Gulfport Group - C.G. Streuly (601) 896-3515

MONTANA

Contact: Mark Ross, 111 W. Quartz, Butte, 59701

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Tahoe Group - Larry Steinberg, PO Box 1114, Dayton 89403. (702) 246-3120

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NY GMB - Delegates: Brian Mahoney, 1717 N. Thompson Dr, Bay Shore NY, 11706. (516) 586-2103. Rochelle Semel, RD 1, Box 158-B, Hartwick 13348. (607) 293-6489

Socialist Party USA National Office Job Shop (IU 670) - 516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. (212) 691-0776

OHIO

SW Ohio Group - D.E. Slaton, Box 26416, Trotwood 45426. (513) 854-0051

PENNSYLVANIA

Lehigh Valley GMB - PO Box 4133, Bethlehem 18018. Delegates: Lenny Flank Jr. (215)759-7982. Mike D'Amore (215) 434-0218. Dennis Good (215) 921-2459
Philadelphia Delegate - Tom Hill, PO Box 41928, 19101

Wooden Shoe Books & Records Job Shop (IU 660) - 112 S. 20th St, Philadelphia 19103. (215) 569-2477

SOUTH CAROLINA

Harbinger Publications Job Shop (IU 450) - Merll Truesdale, 18 Bluff Rd. Columbia 29201. (803) 254-9398

TEXAS

Austin Group - PO Box 49523, 78765. (512) 416-9619

UTAH

Salt Lake Group - Tony Roehrig, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City UT 84152-0514. (801) 485-1969

VERMONT

Burlington Group - Anne Petermann & Orin Langelie, PO Box 804, 05402. (802) 658-2403

WASHINGTON

Bellingham GMB - PO Box 1580, 98227
Seattle IWW Group -- PO Box 95686, Seattle WA 98145-2686. (206) 525-1336. Delegate: Stacy-Alfwin MacFadden.

Street of Crocodiles Letter Press Job Shop (IU 450) - PO Box 20610, Seattle 98102. (206) 726-5924

Tacoma/Olympia GMB & GDC Local 4 - 2115 S. Sheridan Ave, Tacoma 98405. (206) 272-8119

WISCONSIN

Lakeside Press Job Shop (IU 450) - 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703. (608) 255-1800. Delegate: Jerry Chernow
Madison GMB - Box 2605, 53701. (608) 255-1800. Delegates: Tim Wong, Jerry Chernow

Judi Bari interviews L-P Mill Workers

Mill workers Don Beavers and Randy Veach have worked in the non-union, Ukiah L-P mill for 15 and 14 years, respectively. This radio interview with Judi Bari took place a few days after they criticized the company for safety violations in the local media.

Judi: I think a lot of people listening have never worked in a plant anything like L-P. Could you start by describing what it's like to work there?

Don: First of all, we're Graders, so it's our job to grade the lumber. We stand up all day, we breathe sawdust and dirt all day--it comes off the trim saws, comes off the lumber. About every 2 seconds we have to turn over a board and grade it...

Randy: ...as it's coming down the coming down the chain, it's constantly moving.

Don: It continually moves. It doesn't stop. They put in some new machinery a few years back and so now we not only have to turn over *one* board and grade it, but we have to split that board sometimes and put two grades on one board with trim marks and all kinds of stuff. So we don't have a whole lot of time to do this...

Randy: ...but we're expected to do it...

Don: ...and on top of that they change our marks and make new grades for us all the time, and they don't give us time to get used to this, they don't do anything but speed it up.

Randy: You're just expected to do exactly what they tell you to do without any argument.

Don: All the time, for eight hours a day, five days a week, day in and day out, every minute standing up working...turning lumber over, grading it.

Judi: And they have bells for when you start, when you take your break and stuff...

Don: Whistles.

Judi: ...or whistles. I mean really, a lot of people haven't experienced this kind of thing since elementary school, and I guess L-P is a little like elementary school in a lot of ways, but just presume you're talking to somebody that has no experience with this.

Don: No I would say more like boot camp.

Randy: Yeah, that's probably a better description.

Judi: A bunch of elementary school kids in boot camp.

Don: We're expected to be at our work stations exactly when that whistle blows.

Randy: We were late one time by 3 seconds to be at our work stations. This is a true story too. And we were told not to be late any more. And I was 15 feet from where I was supposed to be and I was on my way walking there...and the machine *wasn't even running*.... We get yelled at for things that are totally made up. The foreman looks for ridiculous things to yell at us for.

Don: And he apparently seems to enjoy it, that's why he does it.

Randy: Exactly, it's his head trip, he enjoys yelling at people that's why he's a foreman.

Don: That's what they want, really. I guess.

Randy: That's right. They intimidate the workers by fear and that's why they have him there. Everybody around here is so afraid that if something gets crossed up...lumber gets crossed up...they will try to fix it without stopping the machine for fear of being yelled at by the foreman if they do stop the machine. It's a constant environment of fear, totally.

Judi: A lot of the complaints that you cited in your letter and in the article were unsafe conditions that they make people work under just trying to push for production and production and production. Would you go into detail about that?

Randy: O.K. This happened just a few days ago.... What happened was that a board got crossed up on what's called the landing table that comes out of the planer. We had to stop the landing table chains to get this cross up fixed. Well, one of the workers was trying to do it, the chains were turned off and he was trying not to get up on the landing table, he was trying to do it from his work station so he wouldn't have to lock everything out...because he was safe from where he was. The foreman came along and started yelling at that particular employee. He told him, "We don't have all night to run this stuff." And that intimidated that employee to jump up there and fix it immediately. And that's what happened. The

Randy: Sure, Dean Remstead. Yep, he's...one of a kind. And, to our knowledge, the forklift driver got wrote up for [Remstead's accident].

Judi: He must be pretty bad if workers...I mean workers at the L-P mill very rarely go public with their complaints. So the fact that [a local newspaper] would even write an article about your complaints shows how unusual a step it is...how intimidated people really are to speak out. Are there other things about him?...that he does?...

Don: His whole attitude is a real problem.

Randy: He gets off on intimidating people, you know, bottom line.

Don: He thinks he's a warden, of a prison or something.

Judi: And he is.

Don: Exactly. That's what we feel like.

We go down, we punch a time clock and we put our chain and ball around our ankle and stumble up to our work station.

Randy: Where you're not expected to leave throughout the entire shift.



employee jumped up on the landing table. Nothing was shut down.

Don: They shut the chains off, but they didn't lock out or do any of the safety procedures that are required.

Randy: And in that particular instance, the foreman intimidated the employee to hurry up and get on with it instead of locking everything out like he was supposed to.

Don: Instead of following procedure.

Randy: Exactly. Total intimidation.

Don: And that's a common occurrence.

Randy: We do know that the foremen themselves have what we term "production wars" between each other...where one foreman tries to beat out the other foreman consistently. They take it as a little game...it's little soldiers on maneuver....

Judi: Can you tell some of the specific accidents that you've witnessed in the mill as a result of the way they run it?

Randy: Which one shall we start with? Well one we mentioned in the letter, which happened some time ago. It was when our foreman climbed onto a machine that wasn't properly locked out and the machine started its cycle and it knocked him off. He was probably ten to fifteen feet off the ground, it knocked him off the machine, he fell down onto other equipment below it. Fortunately he wasn't killed, he could have been very easily in that situation. But he did go to the hospital with some minor injuries.

Judi: And that's the foreman.

Randy: That's the foreman.

Judi: Do you want to say his name?

Don: Exactly. And we're not expected to voice our opinions at any time. We have no opinions as far as they're concerned. And apparently...Remstead we have more contact with than any of the rest of them...but apparently they all feel the same way, because whenever we do talk to any of the rest of them, we're expected to do exactly what we're told, when we're told, and not say anything back.

Randy: Right. Virtually all of [the workers] agree with us, but because fearing for their jobs, are afraid to speak out.

Don: Exactly. They're real brave when they're talking to us because they feel that we are inferiors. But they have no guts when they talk to their superiors, because they don't tell their superiors anything except, "Yes Sir."

Judi: Do you think other employees are as mad at L-P as you are?

Don: I think that overall they are.

Randy: I would say the majority of them, yeah. But there are the certain percentage who will back the company all the way.

Don: I've gotten more compliments after we've wrote this letter than I have for anything. I've ever done for the company.

Randy: We've had nothing but compliments on what we've done.

Don: Getting on to the Mexico mill...our opinion of the Mexican plant that they opened up was just purely for profit. L-P opened it up so that they wouldn't have to pay us what they do...they won't have to pay the insurance that

they would down there...they don't have to adhere to the safety regulations or environmental regulations down there that they would up here. So, for them it's investing a dollar and making a thousand. That's basically the way I feel about it.

Judi: So, so much for our community.

Don: Exactly. They snowballed the papers and stuff trying to convince the community on what nice people they are, when they come down to the mill...if the people in the community had to work for L-P they'd certainly know that this is not what it's all made out to be.

Judi: Alright, so...well, I want to ask, what do most of the mill workers...I know what a lot of environmentalists think about timber workers...and I think it's too bad, because I think it shows a lot of misunderstanding that they think that timber workers have any say at all over the policies of the company. I don't know who they think they're kidding. I wonder, what do the people in the mill think of the environmentalists?

Don: Well, we should answer this question like a two-part question. We should answer what it used to be and what it is now. Several years ago there was a lot of negative feelings toward the environmentalists. Everybody...not everybody...

Randy: The vast majority.

Don: ...yeah, the majority of the workers were intimidated by management to believe that the environmentalists were the bad guys.

Randy: And certainly management made them out to be exactly that. That *they* were the ones taking the jobs away...the environmentalists...totally untrue.

Don: But as a couple of years have went by now, a lot of the employees have been able to see through all of the red haze and lies that the management has been spreading, and I think a majority of them, now, don't believe that the environmentalists are responsible, they believe, as we believe, it's bad management by L-P. And that's what's caused all of these problems is bad management. Management doesn't care about the employee, we're a number. Management doesn't care about our feelings--it's insignificant to them. O.K.? Basically, we're just nothing but a paid robot. And we've been told...our jobs are graders...both of us...we've been told graders are a dime a dozen.

Randy: An expendable robot at that.

Don: Exactly.

Judi: And what do you think of L-P's logging practices?

Don: Well, I don't particularly like them at all. I don't like clearcutting at all. I have a personal vendetta against clearcutting. Up in Trinity county, they've clearcutted some areas that were totally beautiful...it was right up next to the wilderness line and I went up there to go backpacking and it was gone! It looked like somebody had dropped a bomb on the place. Management had tried to condone these type of practices by saying it's good for the forest to clearcut it. So that all the nice little trees can grow up healthy and strong because there's no big trees in the way. That's total ridiculousness.

Randy: Yeah, what they were really saying was that they want to take a forest, cut it down and replace it with tree farms.

Don: Yeah, exactly...it won't be a forest any more, and they're not even very good at their tree farms, 'cause as far as I know, most of their trees die when

International Notes

Union Death Toll Rises: Some 200 unionists from various countries were killed under repressive regimes in 1991, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) says in its annual report. 2,000 trade unionists were arrested and 50,000 were maltreated by authorities last year. Among the most repressive countries were Guatemala, Colombia, China, El Salvador, Iran, Peru, Sudan and South Africa. The ICFTU found close links between industrialists, the police and paramilitary groups who violate human and trade union rights with complete impunity.

"The fall of communism, the end of one-party political systems in various African countries and the end of military dictatorships in Latin America were reasons for rejoicing," ICFTU secretary-general Enzo Friso said, but often marxist dictators have simply been replaced by free market dictators.

The report said Latin America is the most dangerous region in the world, with more than 50 trade unionists killed last year in Colombia alone. It blamed multinational companies like Eternit of France and Exxon of the United States for violent campaigns against unions in that country.

Another dangerous country is South Africa, where at least 47 union members were killed in 1991. In Brazil rural farm workers were the main victims of repression, while in Cuba unions are controlled by the government.

ICFTU also denounced serious violations of workers' rights in the United States. In Africa, workers' rights continue to be violated despite the major role they played in the struggle for democracy. Among African countries that violate human and trade union rights are Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Zaire, Mali, Zambia, Cape Verde and Guinea.

Authoritarian regimes in Saudi Arabia, Oman and Qatar ban trade unions. Workers' organizations are barely tolerated in Bhutan, and are practically non-existent in the United Arab Emirates.

The secretary of the General Confederation of Workers in Peru, Pedro Huilca Tecse, said accusations that his country violates trade union rights "are correct, and based on the kind of life Peruvians suffer daily." He said that since president Alberto Fujimori dissolved parliament in April, "Peru has found a new and original variant of dictatorship." Huilca Tecse said 47 percent of families in Peru live in misery and the government denies workers their right to strike, using repression with complete impunity. "For these reasons, it is legitimate to say that in Peru a dirty war is being fought with clean hands," he concluded.

PERU The government under dictator Fujimori is moving ahead with plans to privatize the mining industry.

Prisoners were forcibly transferred by the Army from Lima prison to outlying regions of the country, where torture and execution are common. May 6, prisoners requested mediation by

international agencies. Red Cross, Amnesty International and Inter-American Human Rights Commission attempts to negotiate and observe were denied by the government. Lawyers for the prisoners said on May 11 that of the 650 political prisoners in Miguel Castro, more than 100 were dead or missing.

Latinamerica Press reported new armed organizations being formed among the Peruvian population. Since the military coup, more than 150 judges and prosecutors have been fired. (Peru Scholars/News & Notes)

Kosovo Union Headquarters Ransacked: Serbian authorities ransacked the headquarters of the Union of Independent Trade Unions in Kosovo (BSPK) June 22nd, destroying all the union's equipment and stopping union members from entering the building the following day.

Workers Councils in Iraqi Kurdistan: An Iraqi labor activist interviewed in the *Marxist Worker Today* reports that Kurdish workers organized workers' councils in Spring 1991 as part of their resistance efforts against the Iraqi regime. "After the defeat of the Iraqi regime by the US and its allies, everywhere in towns the

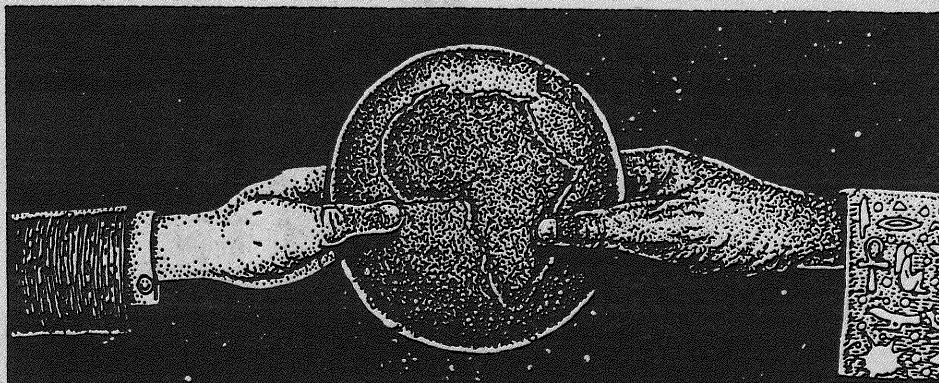
political assemblies were dominated by the councils. The industrial centres were the supporting points for the councils. The workers' movement declared its opposition to the economic and administrative system of capitalism through its demands: dismissal of managers, the return to work of sacked workers, 35-hour work week, housing benefits, unemployment insurance and a working-class labour law."

Predictably, this initiative was condemned both by the Iraqi government and by the dissident "Patriotic Front" which hoped to replace them. The Front ordered the councils to shut down and urged people not to participate in them, posting troops in front of factories to keep out fired workers and council activists. Today the movement is largely suppressed, although there have been demonstrations to protest food shortages and other grievances. But the article suggests that workers have learned valuable lessons about self-organization and the gulf between their interests and those who would replace the current set of bosses with themselves.

The economic situation is very serious throughout Iraq. "No worker in Iraq can today provide for his family even a bare subsistence merely through the sale of his labour-power. They therefore have to sell today the things they bought yesterday."

The newspaper *Serinji-Karikar* (*Workers' View*), published in Iraqi Kurdistan, has appealed to the international labor movement to give support to labor activists: "The working class in Iraq is denied of the most elementary economic and political rights. It lives and struggles under very harsh conditions: low wages, long working hours, layoffs, mass unemployment, and the denial of the right to strike and organise (in trade unions or workers' councils).

see IRAQ, page 5



Russian Workers Take Action

'KAS-KOR Bulletin

Lessons of the Spring Strikes: Medics and teachers showed the Government during the last 2 months they are ready to strike and fight. The government worked hard to break the strikes. "Representatives of the people" visited strike committee chairpersons and threatened physical abuse. But the medics held out, though in Moscow only 40% of workplace collectives were on strike and a still lesser percentage of teachers.

Although the government ultimately conceded substantial wage hikes, rapidly rising prices will devour new wages before they are received. The lack of banknotes has led to indefinite postponements of pay. This is a problem throughout the economy.

New laws hinder unions' direct participation in strikes. When the Tver city federation announced a strike of cultural employees, the federation was penalized with a huge fine. Their way out was to organize strike committees which cannot be brought to court. This has worked up to now but some government action is expected.

The spring strikes gave precious experience to their organizers. But more stable victories are needed if workers are to survive ever increasing prices.

Russian Unions Plan United Action: April 27th the Coordinating Council of Russian Free Trade Unions Confederation gathered representatives of the strike committees and striking unions to coordinate actions. Medics, teachers, oil workers, metallurgical workers and military servicemen were present. Conference participants decided a unified program of actions to include demands of different professions. A political demand was included: the creation of local parallel structures of power in the form of local committees of self government at the level of territorial unions. It would constitute a social but not a political opposition to the government.

Workers Demand Unpaid Wages: Workers at the Cheliabinsk electrode plant were not paid in March, and so organized a protest in the town square. The plan was supported by workers of the Cheliabinsk metallurgical plant,

electrometallurgical plant and others.

The Cheliabinsk Tractor Plant has adopted a 4-day work week. 240 million rubles have not been paid for March and April. The lack of money is caused by its absence in the banks and also because tractors are priced high.

Workers Protest Mandatory "Union" Dues: The union of social service employees brought action against the "Uralmash" administration for appropriation of union dues paid to the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FNPR--the former official union center).

In Nizhny Novgorod, management at the "Krasnoe Sormovo" plant collects dues for the official union, even though all plant workers have submitted an application objecting to such payments. The Free Trade Union is preparing for trial and the administration continues to put pressure on workers. For example, a "cucumber war" began in a shop of the plant where workers did not get cucumbers at the lower prices granted to supporters of the official union.

In St. Petersburg, a strike is under consideration at the huge Izhorsky plant. Management is deducting union fees from wages for the official union even though 186 workers are already members of an Independent Trade Union. A strike is being discussed.

Transport Workers Strikes: Bus and trolley workers have been striking across Russia, demanding pay hikes to cover rising cost of living, reductions in management personnel, bus repair, and an end to automated supervisory systems. The autotransport Trade Union's Central Committee said 650,000 employees of 980 enterprises in half the regions of the country took part in the action.

Medical Workers Strike: Nizhny Novgorod emergency medical workers held a warning strike April 29th, and announced support for a general strike of all medical workers. In Moscow, medics escalated their job actions May 5th, restricting medical care to emergency cases. The strike was supported by 40% of medical institutions. By May 27 collectives of 10 scientific research institutes joined the strike.

Teachers Strikes: Teachers mounted

a 2-hour warning strike in Balakovo April 29 demanding increased wages. Teachers did not interrupt lessons but postponed them for 2 hours.

On April 22 Omsk teachers picketed the local newspaper and TV station. As a result they managed to get truthful accounts of their demands.

In Moscow, the city teachers strike committee held a warning strike at 47 schools on April 27-29. From 8 to 10:55 a.m. there were no lessons. After teachers were urged to abandon the strike by union officials, a conference of 220 representatives voted no-confidence in the union.

A May 5 Moscow teachers conference decided to begin an all-city limitless strike on May 22. It was decided to hold parent meetings to explain the position of teachers. According to the city union committee 850 schools and 750 pre-schools were ready to join the strike.

However, on May 15 the city strike committee of public education employees declared it would not join the All-Russia strike, after President Yeltsin issued Decrees providing for 1.8-fold pay increase and bonuses for checking homework, class management, and other kinds of non-class work. The average salary of a teacher from May 1 this year will amount to 1400 rubles. The Moscow administration will pay teachers bonuses up to 70% of their salaries, provide 500 hectares of land near Moscow to teachers for gardening, and promised to open new schools.

President Yeltsin's Decree No.1 provides for financing of schools. But the Labor Minister, speaking to the strike committee, stated bluntly that the Decree could not be realized. Therefore teachers speak of resuming the strike from September 1, 1992, the beginning of a new school year.

Ukrainian Teachers Strike: May 12 all schools and kindergartens in Donetsk region were closed 2 days to protest high prices and low wages. The same day a limitless strike was called by half the city doctors seeking better living conditions and socialized medicine.

May 13 the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet raised pay in education and medicine by 2.25 times. The Donetsk city council raised the pay another 80%. May 14,

teachers stopped their strike. A delegation of Donetsk teachers went to Kiev to participate in a program to win their other demands--regional bonuses, and the announcement of the Donbas coal basin as a region of ecological catastrophe.

Despite new salaries, medics continue their strike. They do not believe in the promises of the authorities and demand real results.

Workers Council Formed: Representatives of Independent Miners' Union of the Ukraine, air crews of the civil aviation, locomotive drivers, air controllers, and aviation engineers and technicians, on May 21 established the Consultative Council of Free Trade Unions of the Ukraine.

Kazakhstan Striking Anew: On May 4 a strike began at the Saranskaya coal mine, and was joined May 7 by miners from Karaganda coal basin. Miners demanded that workplace collectives be allowed to sell 15% of production. They also demanded pensions fund transfers from the official to the Independent Miners Union.

A strike at coal mines in Kazakhstan continued. On May 15, 9 out of 19 mines of the "Karagandaugol" association were on strike.

In Shakhtinsk, a united strike committee was organized by miners, medics and teachers. They demand that the Kazakhstan government reach an agreement with the Independent Miners' Union, create a free economic zone in the Karaganda region, stop deducting money for the state fund of Social Security and stop paying part of taxes until the region is supplied with necessary goods.

Coal Miners Discuss Inter-Republic Cooperation: Coal miners unions met in Moscow May 13, to discuss inter-union relations in the aftermath of the breakup of the Soviet Union. Among the problems posed are that shipments of coal between regions undercuts miners' gains. For example, now that Ukrainian miners have won higher wages, Ukrainian coal is more expensive and cannot compete with other regions' coal. Miners are developing measures to try to stop coal deliveries to the Ukraine from Kazakhstan and Russia.

SOUTH AFRICA: UNIONS CONTINUE STRUGGLE

South African TV Workers on Strike: A strike by the Media Workers' Association of South Africa (Mwasa) against S.A. Broadcasting Corp. continues despite union attempts to reopen negotiations. Management is prolonging the strike in order to break Mwasa and disempower black employees, and because the effective news blackout to black communities resulting from the strike serves the government interest. Discrimination on the basis of color is rife in SABC's employment and management practices.

Boipatung Massacre: COSATU General Secretary Jay Naidoo blamed President FW de Klerk for the Boipatung massacre, speaking at the funeral of 38 victims of the attack which police now concede was carried out by residents of a nearby hostel known to be an Inkatha stronghold. The hostel is owned by steel manufacturer Iscor, and workers at dozens of factories and shops in the region have been on strike since the massacre demanding that the hostel shut down. The National Union of Metalworkers of S.A. has been warning for over a year that the hostel had become a source of violence. Ten previous attacks by hostel inmates on

local residents, in which 50 people have died, have been recorded.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and Anglo American signed a wide-ranging Code of Conduct agreement on June 25 aimed at eliminating violence from the mines and entrenching labor and civil rights, including rights to peaceful picketing, peaceful assembly and freedom of expression. Management also committed to a "positive program of jobs and skills development." The parties agreed to compulsory third party arbitration of contested dismissals.

Health Workers Strike: NACTU has pledged solidarity with the national strike called by the COSATU-affiliated National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union. The strike started at Baragwaneth Hospital in Soweto after negotiations over pay and working conditions reached deadlock. Intimidation and arrests of strikers was rife, and 5,000 workers were dismissed on June 29 for participating in industrial action. 3 NEHAWU shop stewards have been murdered during the dispute.

Repression: A Woman worker was killed and 3 men injured in a shooting attack on a food cannery east of

Johannesburg June 25. It is suspected that the attack was related to a longstanding conflict between Cosatu's Food and Allied Workers' Union and the pro-business Inkatha United Workers' Union of S.A.

The home of NACTU general secretary Cunningham Ngukana was raided by armed police on June 25. This is the 3rd time Ngukana's home has been raided in 6 months. NACTU is South Africa's 2nd-largest union center. **General Strike:** COSATU has called a general strike to begin August 3, designed as a form of "shock treatment" to force the government to agree to an interim government, the election of a constituent assembly, and transition to real democracy. The length of the strike is still under discussion at press time. Proposals range from four days to an indefinite strike to be called off only once demands have been met. The National Council of Trade Unions will meet with Cosatu to discuss its participation in the action. COSATU also is calling for an end of tax payments to government. Instead, taxes would be paid to a special fund to finance the process of transition.

dislodge the occupants while the workers tried to dialogue with them.

As the police advanced towards the workers they proceeded to capture the president of the Association of Ministry of Justice Employees, Roberto Lopez, and to chase and beat others. Observers from the United Nations Mission of Observers in El Salvador (ONUSAL), witnessed the incident without intervening. Minutes later, as news spread about the violence, leaders from other grassroots organizations arrived on the scene to support the embattled workers.

The action left three people captured and several wounded, from both employee and police ranks.

India - 16 Workers Gunned

Down: Indian unions and human rights activists are up in arms over the gunning down of 16 workers by security forces in the central industrial township of Bhilai. Security forces opened fire on 3,000 workers squatting on the railway track to press their demands for reforms in provincial labor laws. Protesters had blockaded trains to highlight their exploitation by locally powerful factory owners. They said they had not been paid wages for two years and complaints had met with arbitrary dismissal by their employers. They also

Korea Unleashes New Wave of Labor Repression

As Korea prepares for new presidential elections, the government of president Roh Tae Woo, increasingly unpopular because of economic difficulties, is attacking the country's labor movement apparently to have a scapegoat to blame for its troubles. Among recent incidents:

On 19 June, 1,200 riot police stormed the Seil Heavy Industries plant in Changwon to break a strike by 100 workers. The workers struck June 10, after failing to reach a wage agreement (management insisted on following government directives restricting benefits and bonuses). That same day the government issued arrest warrants for 8 union leaders.

The workers were arrested and released after interrogation, except for 5 union leaders who fled to the top of the smokestack and threatened to go on a hunger strike aloft if police did not withdraw. On June 20, all 12 members of the union's executive committee were arrested. Among those arrested are: Ahn Jun-hwan, 36, president of the union, Hwang Son-yup, 27, vice president of the union, Hong Sang-bom, 26, chief of labor disputes, and Kim Chong-wan, 36, secretary general of the union.

On June 22, police arrested Kang Pyong-jae, 30, the chief representative of the Pusan Federation of Taxi Workers' Associations, without warrant on a complaint by the Songdo Transportation Company accusing him of "third party intervention." On June 22, police in Taegu, arrested Chong Woo-dal, 31, chair of the Taegu Area Federation of Trade Unions, charging him with "third party intervention." According to the government Chon gave a speech May 30 to 300 union members criticizing the government's planned "combined wage system." Police not only arrested Chong but raided the Taegu Federation headquarters and confiscated union papers.

Hyundai Blacklist: On June 17, officials of the Hyundai Auto Company union, who were themselves being sought by police, announced in a press conference that they had uncovered a Hyundai Company blacklist of 1,118 workers barred from employment for labor activism. The union leaders asserted that the company has used the blacklist to weed out autonomous labor leaders in order to replace the union with a pro-company "yellow" union.

Also on June 17, Hyundai Auto at Ulsan fired 23 key union leaders who had been arrested last January in relation to an attempted strike. The 23

had been sentenced June 15 to 2 to 5 years in prison for "leading an illegal strike." With these convictions, the number of workers arrested in connection with the January strike at Hyundai has reached 72.

June 22, the Ulsan Criminal Court sentenced 33 more Hyundai workers to prison terms in connection with the January strike. 15 union leaders were given 2 1/2 year sentences. 18 others were sentenced to 18 months plus 3 years suspension of civil rights.

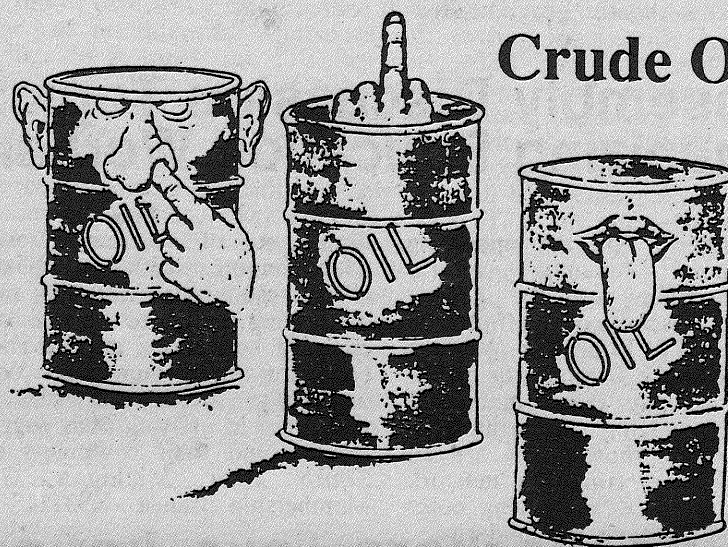
Teachers

After teachers throughout Korea began a campaign to demonstrate support for the more than 1,600 of their colleagues fired since 1988 for joining the outlawed teachers' union Chonkyojo, the Ministry of Education ordered school administrators to put all teachers who had signed petitions on notice that their own jobs were in danger. Schools were ordered to install a "report box" to enable teachers to report on each other for pro-union sympathies.

Ms Yang Gun-mo, president of the Korean Federation of Hospital Workers' Unions, was arrested in June and accused of organizing an illegal union and of third party intervention.

The government announced June 19 that it was withdrawing financial support for the Federation of Korean Trade Unions. The FKTU, formed by the government in the early 60s to counter autonomous unions, has been since then the only legally recognized trade union center in Korea. The action was taken, according to press reports, because the FKTU has fought the government's "combined wage system." Some FKTU trade union officials have cautiously welcomed the break in government support as an opportunity for the FKTU to be reborn. Non-FKTU union leaders have welcomed the move and called for reorganization of the labor movement to take advantage of FKTU's newly-imposed independence.

Protests regarding the arrests of trade unionists described above should be sent to: The Honorable Chung Won-Shik Prime Minister 1 Sejong-ro, Chung-ku Seoul, Korea Fax: 011822-739-5830; The Honorable Choi, Byung-yul Minister of Labor Ministry of Labor 1 Chungang-dong, Kwachon-City, Kyunggi-do, Korea; The Honorable Kim, Kee-choon Minister of Justice Ministry of Justice 1 Chungang-dong, Kwachon-City, Kyunggi-do, Korea.



...IRAQ

continued from page 4

The Kurdistan Front is now the major force in the cities of Suleimanieh, Valir and Dehook. It has functioned as the direct executor of the policies of the West, in particular the United States. It has taken upon itself the task in line with George Bush's New World Order - the task of suppressing the ongoing labor movement in the region, particularly in Iraqi Kurdistan.

"...A number of labour and council leaders have been summoned to the offices of the Kurdistan Front and threatened with death."

Iraq Arrests Labor Activists: In April the Iraqi government arrested several labor activists in Baghdad and Kurkook. Five of the workers - four women and one man - were arrested while at work in a tile factory in Kurkook, on the charge of "activity among workers to struggle for higher wages." The jailed workers are under abuse and torture and face danger of execution.

Djibouti Unionists Arrested: Two trade unionists arrested in early May were due to appear in court on June 29. The two founder members of the Democratic Union of Work (UDT), Ahmed Djama Egueh and Mahamoud Ali Boulaleh, were detained for having distributed a newsletter on May Day.

Salvadoran Workers Face

Repression: Workers from the Ministry of Justice carried out a peaceful occupation in the surrounding areas of the Ministry of Justice building in the early hours of June 26. The action was designed to press for a salary increase and to show solidarity with the prolonged teachers strike by the National Association of Salvadoran Educators (ANDES), giving a more public profile to a labor stoppage that organized workers had begun hours earlier inside the office. At about 10:30 local time, dozens of anti-riot police arrived at the site with orders to dislodge the occupants. At mid-day, police received definite orders to

demand re-employment of more than 3,000 workers retrenched from the factories in and around Bhilai.

Protesters also said the government was dragging its feet in charging the killers of central Indian union leader Shankar Guha Niyogi, who was instrumental in drawing attention to their plight. Niyogi, championing the rights of factory workers in and around Bhilai for over a decade, was murdered in September last year. Human rights activists and labor leaders allege Niyogi was eliminated by Bhilai industrialists who were afraid of his growing clout among the workers.

Mass Arrests: Thousands of people were taken into custody as a "precaution" June 15, on the eve of a 24-hour strike in protest of attempts to "reform" the economy. The strike was called by ten national centres. Twelve million workers reportedly observed the strike.

Europe's Coca-Cola Workers:

Union delegates representing Coke workers from 11 European countries met in Geneva in April to discuss the consequences of the restructuring of the company's operations in preparation for the Single European Market, achieving equality for women workers, union organization and industrial relations. Delegates condemned the so-called "Code of Business Conduct" which Coke is asking individual workers in several countries to sign. The Code demands that employees agree in advance to any provisions the company may decide to introduce in the future, thus giving the company a blank check for any changes it may unilaterally and at its own discretion impose on their working lives at some future time. It commits employees to "avoid conflicts between their personal interest and that of the company." And it calls upon employees to denounce fellow workers breaching the Code "by action or by omission." It specifies that the failure to denounce, in itself constitutes a breach of the Code.

...Around the Union

General Assembly Update

The 1992 General Assembly hosted by SE Michigan GMB, will be held Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4-7, at the Brighton State Recreation Area park, about 30 miles north of Ann Arbor. We have rented a 3-cabin compound, capable of housing 44 people. Bunkhouse-style beds with mattresses are on site. Attenders should bring their own bedding. There is also a tent campground within the park, and hotels within 15 miles. If needed, special housing arrangements should be made in advance with the SE Michigan GMB.

If you need to be picked up at the airport, train station or bus station, please let them know in advance.

Some of the planned highlights include a musical event in Ann Arbor Friday night featuring several artists, among them Darryl Cherney (confirmed); entertainment at the cabins on Saturday and Sunday nights provided by other musicians and a radical workers theatre group, called

Workers Lives-Workers Stories (IU 630); bonfires, swimming and guided hikes for nature-lovers.

Please inform the Assembly organizers if you plan to attend, so they can make sure there is enough food, etc. We intend to provide meals for all attenders featuring vegetarian fare. Members attending Assembly are requested to contribute \$6/day or \$15/weekend for food; however no one will go hungry. Attenders will be asked to volunteer some time to help with the preparation and cleanup of meals.

Children are of course welcome. Let us know if you are bringing yours, so we can provide adequate childcare during the meetings. Additional information will be forthcoming in a special membership mailing at the beginning of August. For more info, call Fred Chase (313) 662-1529 (lv. message); Ingrid Kock (313) 581-2065; or Carol Landry (313) 483-3478.

Assembly Discussion Topic: Organizing Education Workers

Fellow Workers, At the upcoming IWW General Assembly, several education workers will be getting together to discuss our efforts to organize an IWW Education Workers Industrial Network. Among the issues we will discuss are this column and ideas for organizing the education industry. Among those ideas are an education workers computer network where we could post organizing notes and proposals, appeals for solidarity,

discussion of current trends in education, etc., which would be open to all interested workers in the industry; developing literature on the ongoing crisis in education; and reviving the education workers newsletter. Wobblies unable to attend the session but interested in offering their suggestions should send their comments c/o the South East Michigan General Membership Branch. -X331117

New IWW Job Shop

Time Tested Books, 1114 21st. St., Sacramento, CA 95814, has applied for a Wobbly Shop Card! Workers decided to unionize the shop to give the IWW more visibility in Sacramento, and to serve as an organizing center for other workers in the community.

Workers at Time Tested Books can offer aid to the Union in finding books and historical material, and also will offer space to performing singers and poets.

The Shop is owned by a friendly boss, who gives workers time off for union organizing and helps with postage. But the workers are interested in pursuing the goal of worker ownership as well as benefits such as medical and vacation.

New GMB

An application for GMB Charter from Philadelphia members had been submitted as we go to press. The new GMB will include members in Philly and surrounding suburbs.

New Song Book on the Way

Songbook Committee reports that the new book of 75 songs will be out in October or November. "Solidarity", "Internationale", and "We Shall Not Be Moved", will appear with both English and Spanish words. Billy Bragg's new version of "Power in the Union" will appear, along with many old favorites and newer songs.

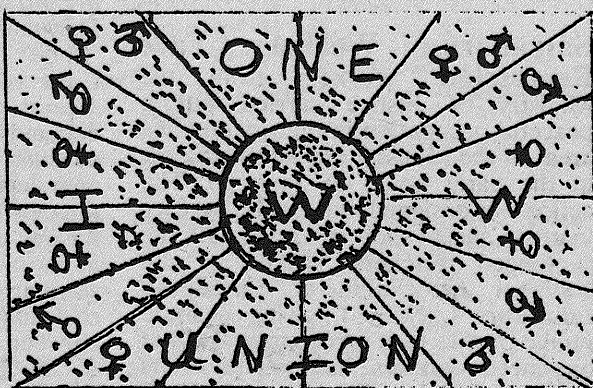
IW Sticker Design

Dear People,

Here is our entry for a new sticker. The dots represent people, women and men out in the world - separate, but finally converging to the center for solidarity and unity and the final realization that an injury to one is an injury to all. "Solidarity in our diversity."

The central densely dotted - populated - area could represent collective anarchy-rebellion against the ruling class.

Sincerely and in Peace, -Margaret & Frank Roenchild



(editor's note: All sticker design submissions will be printed together - we hope to have them in September IW.)

Vincent St. John Memorial



FW Henry Anderson addresses a group of Wobblies and sympathizers at the dedication of Vincent St. John's new headstone.

Nearly 30 people gathered in Oakland's Mountain View Cemetery on June 21, to dedicate the new red granite headstone of former IWW General Secretary Vincent St. John. St. John died in obscurity and poverty in 1929, after many years of leading the IWW through some of its most important labor battles. It wasn't until a couple of years ago, however, that anyone knew where he'd been buried.

Labor historian Archie Green was doing research in Portland, Oregon, on an unrelated topic, when he ran across a reference in another long-gone unionist's diary about St. John being buried in "Mountain View." Green at first assumed that this was somewhere in Portland, or possibly nearby Tacoma, Washington. Further research, however, revealed that it was really in Oakland, California, just 20 minutes across the Bay from Green's home in San Francisco.

Green and Fellow Worker Henry Anderson put together a fund-raising drive in order to buy a simple stone marker for St. John's unmarked grave. The campaign was wildly successful, bringing in funds from such diverse groups as the arch-conservative Laborer's Union, as well as a Spartacist League front-group called the Prometheus Library.

The event itself was quite lively considering the setting. Both Green and Anderson made short and

interesting presentations, followed by a short set of original music by current General Secretary Jess Grant. Current Executive Board member Marc Janowitz was also on hand to throw in his two and a half cents. Then members of the gathering stood up and gave moving testimonials. Several of them had been raised at the knee of radicals, and had known the name "St. John" since they were babes.

Eventually everyone retired to a house in Oakland and ate and drank the afternoon away. St. John was properly honored.



The red granite slab now marking the previously unmarked grave of former IWW General Secretary, Vincent St. John.

Assembly Resolutions

The Chicago GMB has voted to send the following resolutions to the 1992 General Assembly:

1. IWW Organizing - Major theme for 92 Assembly

Resolution: The major theme of this Assembly and most of its time and energy will be devoted to organizing.

Resolution: IWW establish a committee to develop a new organizing and orientation package - printed materials, discussion materials, video - for new members.

2. What is a local branch?

Resolution: General Membership Branches are local entities. By the word "local" we mean some combination of the following: (a) a locally recognized - economic, rural or urban, social - geographic unit. (b) a region where people can and do work, socialize and take organizing action together. (c) maximum travel time to center of GMB area and/or where people meet in the GMB, of approximately one hour. (Varying from this, would tend towards being higher in sparsely populated areas, towards lower in densely populated areas). Branches are local entities because it is locally that members can take action together. Horizontal relations between branches are encouraged. Spinning off new branches (as the GMB at Bethlehem has assisted the establishment of a separate GMB at Philadelphia PA) is encouraged. On the other extreme, expanding the definition of a "local branch" to span hundreds of miles creates an alienating and undemocratic branch structure and is therefore prohibited.

3. What is a job branch, job shop, who uses the bug?

Add to Resolution section (following Bylaws):

"Shop Cards" **Resolved:** The GEB shall not issue a shop card to workers at any non-traditional business - such as a cooperative or collective - that does not have written by-laws which ensure equal voice and vote for every worker member of the cooperative or collective and prohibits use of non-member workers."

4. What are the unions international goals?

Resolution: It is the policy of the IWW to establish contacts with all revolutionary unions around the world. These contacts shall be informal starting through exchange of information, and building according to agreement and cooperation towards solidarity actions and ways of working together.

The goal of actions exploring affiliation with the AIT shall be that all revolutionary unions and libertarian socialist workers organizations should work together. We are interested in practical international solidarity.

International affairs of the union are to be conducted by a volunteer committee chaired by a member of the General Executive Board. -R. Miles Mendenhall,

FAST WORKERS DIE YOUNG THE SLOW DOWN AND LIVE THE JOB

fan the flames

Direct action at the workplace and in the community avoids compromising politicians and bureaucrats. It is direct and democratic. It opens up the possibility of a real people's movement, from the grass roots up, reaching for emancipation. Our freedom is the nightmare disturbing the sleep of ruling classes through the ages.

Wobblies on the front lines today share a burning desire for a better world with the Wobblies of old. And they share a class war perspective and a wildness. A knowledge that *now only* radical action makes a difference. When the wildness of the Wobblies gets loose in the working class the bosses aren't going to be able to control this place.

From South Central LA to Berlin, from Ulsan to Cape Town, a wind of change is blowing. Wobblies! be the flames of discontent!!

If you like this special section of the Industrial Worker send a donation to the IW Sustaining Fund.

If you have a story or a strategy to share, an idea to inspire other workers to more conscious and mass acts of direct action send it to the IW:

Captain Swing & Ned Ludd
Industrial Worker
PO Box 2541, Stn D
Ottawa ON, K1P 5W6 Canada.

Some Definitions

Direct Action: By direct action is meant any action taken by workers directly at the point of production with a view to bettering their conditions. The organization of any labor union whatever is direct action. Sending the shop committee to demand of the boss a change of shop rules is direct action. To oppose direct action is to oppose labor unionism as a whole with all its activities.

Sabotage: Sabotage means "strike and stay in the shop." Striking workers thus are enabled to draw pay and keep out scabs while fighting capitalists. Sabotage does not necessarily mean destruction of machinery or other property, although that method has been indulged in and will continue to be used as long as there is a class struggle. More often it is used to advantage in a quieter way. Excessive limitation of output is sabotage. So is any obstruction of the regular conduct of the industry. Ancient Hebrews in Egypt practiced sabotage when they spoiled the bricks. Slaves in the South practiced it regularly by putting stones and dirt in their bags of cotton to make them heavier. When the workers face a specific situation, they will very likely continue to do as their interests and intelligence dictate.

Frank Bohn IWW *Solidarity*, May 1912

Direct action means industrial action directly by, for, and of the workers themselves, without the treacherous aid of labor misleaders or scheming politicians. A strike that is initiated, controlled, and settled by the workers directly affected is direct action. Direct action is combined action, directly on the job to secure better job conditions. Direct action is industrial democracy.

Sabotage is the conscious withdrawal of efficiency.

The word "sabotage" has a non violent origin. It means "to work slow." In early industrial days when leather shoe wearing urban workers would go on strike the bosses would recruit scabs from the countryside where people still wore wooden shoes — sabots. When the striking workers got back on the job they would work like their country cousins — that is withdraw their voluntary efficiency and work like one not used to the pace and skill. Sabotage in French means working slow. In Britain the word was ca'canny. The French word has since become widespread, showing up in many languages to name the universal tactics of on the job resistance to the boss and profits.

The better known, but false, story of workers throwing wooden shoes into machines to break them and then standing next to the machine with one shoe on and one shoe off trying to deny the deed is simply not believable.

During the red-scare and the criminal syndicalist (the forerunners of today's RICO laws) trials of the 1910s the union stopped using the word "sabotage." Wobblies were jailed for being union members if judge and prosecutor agreed to the fiction that the IWW practiced violence against employers. It was the employers who used (and still do) violence, but with Wobblies going to the penitentiary for passing out IWW newspapers it was unwise to use the word sabotage when other words carry the same message.

Sabotage is the only joy at work.



FIRE THE BOSS tactics

The long strike — workers on the picket line, bosses in possession of the factory — has been a part of the class struggle for a long time. When work and profits are completely shut down this can be effective. But going outside the workplace is not always the most effective tactic. Most workers are just a handful of paychecks from eviction and poverty, so any amount of time without income is dangerous, and, as collaborationist union bureaucrats know, can have a pacifying effect on worker rebellion. Most bosses, backed up by the violent power of the police, courts and national guard are better able to survive the strains of the long strike.

There are other tactics and strategies open to workers. The ones that don't work are those where the lead is taken by professional union bureaucrats, politicians, or lawyers. When the union bureaucrats get pragmatic, stifle rank and file initiative, keep an eye on the bottom line or their own careers -- then the members have been sold out. We've had sixty years of union bureaucrats censoring and limiting worker expression, and doing the bosses bidding in putting down rank and file initiative. It is more than enough.

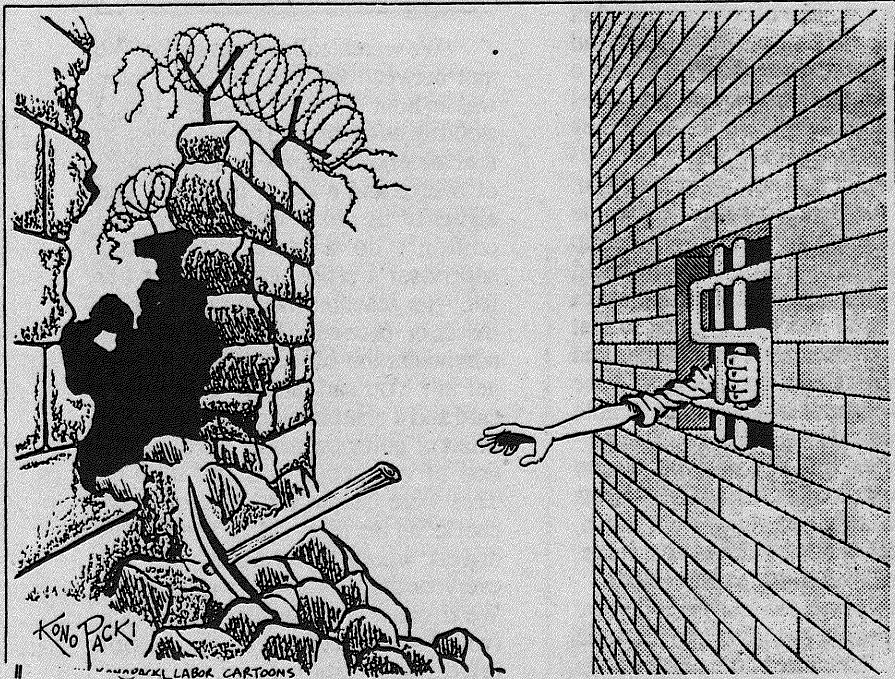
What we need is an unleashing of rank and file initiative. Recognition that the anti-labor law system is set up to protect the bosses and that abiding by it is a ticket to disaster. We need a return to the old IWW idea that the union doesn't need to protect

-- continued on page 10 --



German Rail Workers block tracks

a brick wall falling down



Capitalism is entering a new and increasingly totalitarian stage. Armed with the new technology, it is in the process of extending its dominion into every sphere of daily life. Capital is being consolidated into fewer and fewer hands; multinational corporations have become more powerful than nation-states. Capitalism has extended the field of battle and raised the stakes: This time, *all of life is at stake*. The aims of those seeking social change must be equally comprehensive. The only way to win against Capital today is to organize across all boundaries.

We must realize that major social changes — not to mention revolutions — are necessarily *against the law*. They are made by people "taking the law into their own hands." Thus, the growing trend towards direct action and nonviolent sabotage is an exceptionally important development, challenging the dominant

ideology and revealing US imperialist "democracy" as a sham.

As more and more people begin to recognize government as the con-game it really is, more and more people will resort to their own initiative, their own actions, thus stepping out of passivity and realizing that they, individually and collectively, are agents of historical change.

The black cat — that black cat of repressed desires, the sab-cat of the Wobblies — is once again crossing the path of Government and Big Business, and chances are that in the not-so-distant future we'll have the pleasure of witnessing some pretty hilarious sights: cash registers falling on the bosses; battleships falling on the generals; pianos falling on the false poets and other minions of bourgeois culture; trees falling on the US Forest Disservice; and hopefully, if we all come together to fight this struggle, a brick wall falling on this whole stupid system!

Dave Wells *Arsenal* 1989

on this whole stupid system ...

DIRECT ACTION WIDESPREAD

"Sabotage is everywhere in American society," concludes Martin Sprouse, editor of a new collection of first person stories of sabotage at work. Sprouse spent two years talking with scores of people across the country who work all kinds of jobs. The result is a wonderful new book from Pressure Drop Press.

Sabotage is everywhere! Basic rule — foreman gives you shit, you give him shit. The bosses study where our strengths are and constantly redesign the workplace to weaken it. But it goes on. The unions know about direct action and do what it takes to squash it. But it goes on.

The question for Wobblies is how does direct action become a conscious mass tactic.

The new book *Sabotage in the American Workplace* uses this definition for sabotage "anything that you do at work that you're not supposed to do." Out in the street and on the phone Sprouse pursued his basic idea—document reactions to the day to day frustrations and conflicts of earning a living in America — by interviewing people all over the country. Accompanying the oral histories of workers are hundreds of short excerpts from other sources—management manuals, news stories, statistics made up by management consultants — which document sabotage from another point of view. What bosses have to say about sabotage is pretty funny.

The book accomplishes its purpose of documenting the widespread

frustration that work brings to everyday life. Letting workers tell their stories anonymously *Sabotage in the American Workplace* shows that breaking the rules is going on everywhere everyday. Some describe organized use of sabotage, many tell of individual exploits.

During a radio interview Sprouse was asked what could be done to solve the problem of sabotage. He responded, "Sabotage is not a problem, but a necessary and valid reaction to dissatisfaction caused by work."

Read this book. Share it with your co-workers. Hide it from the boss.

Let the messages here spread like a virus of joy and rebellion through the working class.

The *Industrial Worker* celebrates the publication of this important new book with excerpts and this special direct action section of the August 1992 *Industrial Worker*. Excerpts by the permission of the editor.



sabotage in the american workplace

anecdotes of dissatisfaction, mischief and revenge

ASSEMBLYLINE WORKER NICK

I worked for a year in a typical World War II-style plant with a sawtooth tin roof and smoke stacks billowing oily gray smoke. There were 1,000 of us poor bastards working there, doing mindless arm and wrist repetitions thousands of times per day, producing a basic industrial product.

The accident rate was enormous. Our sign out front read IT'S BEEN _____ DAYS SINCE OUR LAST ACCIDENT. It had no number on it as it would be too embarrassing. Almost every day there was a work-time lost accident. There were three shifts a day, and most of the accidents happened in the wee hours of the morning, say just after your 4:00 am lunchtime of chili con carne served warm in the can from a vending machine. The nurse was

To prepare for the walkout, it was essential to plan ahead. Production went way down. The last shift to work before the walk-out had a myriad of mechanical problems. It was uncanny.

only on duty during day hours, when no one got hurt.

One time a co-worker got his leg jammed in a machine. The foreman pulled me off the line and ordered me to take him to the hospital; an ambulance cost too much. I ran to get my car and drove around town looking for the damn hospital, which I had never been to before, while my buddy moaned in deep pain. Once there, I helped him out to the emergency room and they took him away. I had to stay up front to fill out the papers. When I told the admitting nurse where we were from, I didn't even have to sign anything. She said, "We have an open account with your company."

This was a union shop and contract negotiations were on. The contract expired and the big union bosses told us to work without a contract. We

walked instead. To prepare for the walkout, it was essential to plan ahead. Production went way down so as not to have a big stock of finished goods. The last shift to work before the walk-out had a myriad of mechanical problems. It was uncanny. The laser quality assurance probes started breaking, their bloody red eyes getting skewed every which way. The box machines started getting jammed and glue was dripping all over the conveyor belts. Forklifts were falling apart, parts from them disappearing mysteriously. Finally, with the factory so disabled, we walked off the job. The next shift was massed by the main gate, cheering, taunting the bosses and pleased at not having to cross the gate and enter the monstrous plant. The international union boss and the company boss ordered us back, but no one balked. Out of 1,000 people perhaps seven went back, and we took their pictures for future shame.

During the strike, the management desperately needed to truck the warehoused goods to market. Often, however, dump trucks of broken concrete would get dumped in front of the plant gates, preventing the big tractor trailers from entering. Despite not having strike benefits (the union declared our strike illegal) and no unemployment benefits (the company lawyers got it cut off), we stayed out for a month until we won the strike.

MAIL HANDLER JUDI

The Washington Bulk Mail Center is one of twenty-one centers in the United States. I worked there from 1976 to 1980. They spent lots of money and put together factories that just plain didn't work. These computer nerds design factories and they've never seen one in their whole lives. They didn't want to admit that it didn't work. They set an efficiency rate for the factory but since the machinery didn't work, they couldn't achieve that rate. Instead of hiring more employees and admitting it was a failure, they forced us to work overtime. We worked at least sixty

hours a week, and in December they would work us eighty-four. A major problem was that we worked all the time, and started to go crazy.

Overtime was the main issue, but accidents and industrial injuries were two other ones. General harassment was a problem too — they gave a ten point preference to veterans, so everyone thinks they're still in the army. The real army ass-kissers rise to supervisor. Since you don't have to make a profit in the post office, it lacks the semblance of reason you get in capitalism. In the post office it didn't matter how much money was wasted.

I unloaded and sometimes loaded trucks. It was supposedly all mechanized. We had these great big things called extended conveyor belts that went into the trucks. We froze our butts off in the winter and roasted in the summer.

Parcels and sacks were unladed an sorted separately, but the machine was always jamming up. The best way to break up the jam was to throw some sacks on the parcel system because they were heavier and would push the jam through. This of course meant that they'd be landing on the parcels and squashing them to bits. That was a kind of sabotage that was actually endorsed by management because they wanted us to work faster.

There's no back-up in the plant. If there's a tangle somewhere, the whole line shuts down. When the non-zip chute backed up, everything we wanted to know the zip code of would shoot back up, and everything going to that place stopped. For every piece, you had to have a non-zip option, so if the non-zip chute closed down, the whole line closed down. We'd key everything in as non-zip, and the system would overload. All the red lights came on and everything went down. When New York was in a wildcat strike, we keyed everything to New York.

As we began to feel our collective power, people got more obvious and flippant. We started doing little things like sending things to the wrong places and deliberately shutting things down. But as we got to be more organized, one of the games we played when we were bored was to deliberately break the machinery and make a bet on how

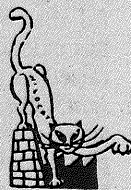
long it would take the mechanic to figure out what was working. We'd try to break it in the most bizarre manner. One of our favorite things to do was to turn of emergency stops to see how long the mechanic would take to figure out which one it was. We would take turns banging on the sides of the trucks while we were unloading them. The supervisors would get very upset and run back and forth trying to figure out who was doing it.

Eventually we began to do really organized things. When they ordered us to work overtime on Thanksgiving, everybody left. We were real proud of that one. Another time, we did a sick-out, where a lot of people went home sick at the same time.

Eventually we began to do really organized things. When they ordered us to work overtime on Thanksgiving, everybody left. We did a sick-out, a lot of people went home.

We weren't allowed to strike. We met between the two shifts — there was an hour break in between — and I stood up on a table and gave a speech in the cafeteria. We drew up a committee of twelve and a list of demands, and eighty of us did a walk-in (since we couldn't do a walk-out) to our supervisor's office and gave her our list. Her reaction was to put locks on the door between the plant and the administration office so you couldn't get in. You had to have a computer card and a combination and all of that. Short of going on strike, the culmination of our action was the trash-in. They were famous for losing our paychecks on the night shift. The forklift drivers would drive around and tell everyone that they lost the checks again. We'd cause the machines to wreck (which was pretty easy), the forklift drivers would drop pallets everywhere, and everyone keyed everything non-zip. One night we brought the place to a standstill. We trashed everything that came in.

The unions were very corrupt and



the overtime didn't decrease in most of the country. But we won. They stopped giving us overtime. As we did such a horrible job on the parcels, people started using UPS more and the post office less. The volume started to go down, so the trashings and overtime and accidents went down. The safety conditions improved. After a year, when we did the wildcat strike, the union crumbled and fell into our hands. We ended up taking over the union and I became the Chief Shop Steward (the highest position in that plant) and began to expedite grievances. They got rid of the worst of the supervisors and brought in new ones specifically to appease us.

Everyone makes jokes about postal workers smashing up mail because they think they don't care. But postal workers don't like the fact that we can't do a good job no matter how hard we try.



GROCERY CO-OP CASHIER DIANE

The first thing that interested me in working for the co-op was that they paid well, had paid holidays and health benefits. When I started there, I didn't think of it as a company because everyone supposedly had the same interest in providing food to the public at a cheaper price. Later I saw that the structure wasn't really arranged that way and that all support workers, myself included, were being used to make the co-op "fat" for the people who ran it. Nothing I said made any difference because everyone made more money and got more benefits than I did.

You were hired as either a collective worker that did a bit more of the office backroom type of work (and got about \$2.50 more an hour), or as a support worker who did more of the grittier work like stocking the shelves and doing the cash register. It was mainly a difference of duties and pay. It was kind of sketchy who got to be a collective worker and who got to be a support worker. There were collective workers who were really inept and support workers that were completely

Over time, I got more confident about what I could get away with. Sometimes I'd let the customer slide through & not ring them up.

capable of doing any part of the job. The company decided which position you would be in. A lot of it had to do with if you had a college education or not. It was frustrating to be a support worker and know that you weren't getting paid as well as collective workers, who seemed to have an easier job than you, when the place called itself a collective.

The longer any support worker worked there, the less able they were to be collective workers. See, support workers got disgusted with collective workers because we got a better view of the whole structure by not having the power that other people had. The people in the collective couldn't understand why we, of all people, should get our insurance paid for, even though we made less money and couldn't afford doctor bills. Because they paid us less, they felt we should get less benefits. These are the same people who sign petitions for Justice for Janitors and other noble causes, but wouldn't look at what was right under their noses.

Over time, I got more confident about what I could get away with. Sometimes I'd let the customer slide through and not ring them up. I wouldn't let the customer know I was doing that. I would give the twenty percent employee discount to the elderly and people that used food stamps and just write down that they were workers. I would purposely mark down new shipments of inventory that came

in. I would make a basic guess about the price, then lower it. With produce, a lot of the time they would mark it up then add five cents because they figured a percentage was going to go bad or get bruised. When I priced the produce, I usually didn't include the extra markup, just for the hell of it.

I got frustrated that the company wasn't really living up to what they claimed to be and that they had a reluctance to deal with support workers' questions about the company structure and why things were the way they were.

I think what I did was some type of self-empowerment. I never thought of it as revenge. It seemed like the only outlet to vent my frustrations. The little things I was doing were so nit-picky, that if I wanted to do something to drastically undermine the company, I would have looked at it from a completely different angle. I was just splitting hairs but it made it easier for me to work there.

RECYCLING CENTER TRUCK DRIVER

JOE

The recycling center that I work for has a board of directors that basically lives on another planet. It's funny; they consider themselves very progressive — some of them would even describe themselves as radicals. But they're not radical when it comes to dealing with workers fairly. Most of them don't think about the fact that we're running a recycling center and they don't think about the workers. Yet they're very happy deciding what to do with the money that we make.

Some of us were pretty disgusted about this and with the fact that the board decides where the money goes. We wanted a little more control over the money, so we did something to make sure that the money really went to people who need it.

We wanted a little more control over the money, so we did something to make sure that the money really went to people who need it.

I drive a truck for the center, making pickups from different apartment buildings and selling the full bags of aluminum to Reynolds. There's always homeless people out there at Reynolds, selling the cans they've collected on the streets. A few times, when me and another fellow were feeling particularly venomous towards the board, we played Santa Claus and handed out some bags. Each bag was probably worth \$15. We wouldn't say anything, just give the bags out. They'd be surprised. Sometimes we'd put bags around the yard at night for some of them to find.

I don't think the board would take to kindly to this, particularly since they're such a "moral" organization. But there's no way they could ever find out.

books & music for rebel workers

Sabotage in the American Workplace

\$13 postpaid



IWW Lt
1476 W. Irving Park
Chicago, IL 60202



from an IWW shop in Michigan

WAREHOUSER BEAR

The contract was due to expire in two weeks and negotiations were deadlocked. All management was offering us was a litany of concessionary demands. We were demanding pay raises and improved benefits. Everyone was aware that the business had not been doing well, and many believed the constant cries of poverty by management.

The union was meeting almost daily. We had already begun a series of noon time rallies to demonstrate our solidarity. We decided that these rallies would last progressively longer, creating longer and longer work stoppages with each passing day.

The first day people were apprehensive, but except for a couple of brown nosers everyone stayed to the end of the rally, and we marched back into work together singing "There is Power in a Union". Despite the attempts at intimidation by management flunkies hanging over peoples shoulders that afternoon, the spirit in the workplace was tremendous.

The second day our rally lasted a half hour past our break, and the third day 45 minutes. On the fourth day management gave up trying to intimidate people. On the fifth day management presented us with their first non-concessionary proposal.

Everyone was giving each other high fives and commenting about how management had been lying all along about how broke they were.

Despite their offer of a pay increase, management wasn't offering us anything near what we thought they could afford. We decided that we needed to do another major action to shake up management. Inventory was to be taken the week before the expira-

tion of the contract. The inventory work was all weekend overtime work. A massive flu outbreak seemed to strike everyone that Friday night. Management showed up on Saturday, and were unable to accomplish anything.

On Monday management presented a payroll offer that met our minimum negotiating position.

Our series of actions were all collective efforts, and required overwhelming support to be successful.

There are some key components of our two week direct action campaign.

1) None of us lost a single dime of income that we would regularly have received. The lost overtime was ok, after all overtime is scab time. 2) Our series of actions were all collective efforts, and required overwhelming support to be successful. 3) All of the actions were taken in such a manner as to minimize management propaganda against the union. 4) All decisions were made in a democratic manner. 5) For months leading up to the campaign the union had engaged in an educational effort which demonstrated the businesses ability to meet all of our demands.

The combination of these elements went towards building militant solidarity. People laughed at management attempts to bring us into line. The moral and psychological effects of those two weeks helped build and maintain the "No Concessions" attitude of my co-workers, while all around us unionized workers were rushing to give concessions to the bosses.

Now it's your turn

The above story is printed for the first time here in the *Industrial Worker*. The *IW* wants to print your stories of workplace direct action too. Send them to the Ottawa Ontario *Industrial Worker* address listed elsewhere in this paper. And remember the class war is happening at work *everyday*.

A TROUBLE MAKERS HANDBOOK

The most useful how-to book of worker rebellion currently available in this country is Dan LaBotz' *Trouble Makers Handbook*. Published in 1991 this large-size, 250+ page, book has two dozen different chapters of tactics and strategies, including shop floor tactics, sit-downs & wildcats, inside strategies and corporate campaigns. The stories are contemporary and told through interviews with union staff and rank and file participants. Many chapters have a list or set of questions to get people oriented as well as referrals to other sources for more information.

The stories of working people fighting back in this book will inspire you and give you ideas. A labor conspiracy in print.

Labor Notes is a monthly magazine project and occasional conference series based in Detroit and carried out by people close to the socialist group Solidarity and the union reform organization Teamsters for a Democratic Union. The next Labor Notes national conference is scheduled for April 23-25, 1993 in Detroit Michigan. These conferences consistently attract more than 1000 participants. Many are auto workers or teamsters. A sizable minority are progressive people with union staff jobs. Generally about three or four per cent of participants are IWW members with ten or twenty per cent more being rank and file activist "wobblies without red cards" so while the mucky-mucks dress up and talk about a new labor party from the stage the general talk and networking among rank and file folks is worth going for.

For information on the conference or to order the book (\$19 postpaid) write to Labor Notes 7435 Michigan Avenue, Detroit Michigan 48210.

DIRECT ACTION BOOK SUPPRESSED

The how-to manual of Earth First! monkeywrenching *Ecodefense* was published through the '80s and can be found in the homes of many IWW members. This is a book that inspired a movement and landed its editor in court.

Ecodefense is a hefty collection of methods of slowing development. Tactics range from disabling the heavy equipment of environmental destruction to methods for spray painting on billboards that are too high to reach. The book was edited by Earth First! cofounder Dave Foreman and Bill Haywood (an ironic pseudonym).

In May 1989 four Earth First!ers were arrested and charged after an FBI agent provocateur set them up with a plan to knock down power lines. Foreman was not involved with that act. He was arrested the following morning to, in the FBI's words send a message to the radical environmental movement. The original indictment claims that Foreman handed a copy of *Ecodefense* to FBI informant Ron Frazier. Foreman pled guilty to an act of conspiracy to commit property damage allegedly occurring in October 1987 and was sentenced to five years probation. No one else was charged with conspiracy although conspiracy is defined as being between two or more parties. Foreman was convicted of conspiracy for handing a book to another person.

you have the right to remain silent

The book has gone out of print and Foreman has declined an offer by the *Earth First! Journal* to reprint it. You can argue with some of the specifics — emphasis on individual heroism, or the tree-spiking tactic disavowed in 1990 by EF! in the northwest at the instigation of IWW-EF!ers — but the fact that a court case has driven a politically inspirational book out of print remains.

As the hip-hop and rock musician Ice-T put it: "We only got one right left in the world today. Let me have it or throw the constitution away. Freedom of speech. Just watch what you say."

PREAMBLE OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system and live in harmony with the earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the every-day struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

HYUNDAI UPDATE

Korea is one of the countries the US Corporate system likes to point to as a democratic success. As US Capital retreats in the international market it will bring all its well learned relationships to the military, the secret police, and the death squads home with it. What kind of face will Capital show as it re-colonizes this place? Consider this news from Korea as you ponder that question.

MORE AUTO WORKERS IMPRISONED

Also on June 17, in Ulsan where the giant automaker's plant is located, Hyundai Auto fired 23 key union leaders who had been arrested last January in relation to an attempted strike. The 23 had been sentenced to 2 to 5 years imprisonment for "leading an illegal strike." On June 22, the Ulsan Criminal Court sentenced 33 more Hyundai workers to prison terms in connection with the January strike. Fifteen union leaders, including the president of the union, were given 2 1/2 year sentences. Eighteen others were released after having been sentenced to 18 months plus 3 years suspension of civil rights.

In December of 1991 Hyundai workers began a plant wide slowdown

in order to win wage demands. A month later the company threatened a lockout and 3000 workers seized the plant which was ringed by thousands more on the outside. Within a week the company and government had moved in 15,000 police and military troops equipped to assault the plant by land, sea and air. The strikers pulled out of the plant, held street demonstrations for a few more days then went back to work. Since then almost 100 workers have been convicted on charges related to the January strike.

HYUNDAI "BLACKLIST" DISCOVERED

On June 17, officials of the autoworkers union at Hyundai, who were themselves being sought by police, announced in a press conference that they had uncovered a Hyundai Company blacklist of 1,118 workers barred from employment for labor activism. The company has used the blacklist to weed out autonomous labor leaders in order to replace the union with a pro-company "yellow" union.

IWW International Committee
1476 W. Irving Park
Chicago, IL 60613 USA



1992 - Korean Auto Workers guard factory gates

FIRE THE BOSS

-- continued from page 8 --

a fat treasury but must instead use all its resources to fan the flames of discontent and spread the movement. Only that way -- large scale propaganda and effective organizing -- can the unions grow and get stronger.

Direct action is striking on the job, pressuring the boss by reducing profits while workers collect paychecks. There is a long (stolen) history of direct resistance. From the English Luddites to the Brazilian Rubber Tappers workers history is more dynamic and daring than either the bosses or the bureaucrats would have us believe. Direct action means using the power that is in our hands to fight the daily class war. This starts on the shop floor. It means building class solidarity fighting the real enemies in the communities we live in and without regard to borders.

Direct action and solidarity works when it is based in democratic self-organization. This requires going far beyond the AFL-CIO-CLC failed social contract with the bosses or the reformers "elect me instead" brand of "change." It means unleashing the creative energies of the rank and file through direct action and direct democracy. The IWW suggests that creative energy is vast and unleashable.

Direct action and direct democracy coupled with radical demands and a No Compromise policy does make more and more sense to working class people. You can hear it like a whisper. Fan the flames.

TACTICS WORK TO RULE

Many workplaces have thick rule books covering every thing and which are there to create an illusion of quality or safety standards, but in practice are ignored daily in the name of profits.

A "work-to-rule" campaign means dusting off the rule book and following it to the maximum degree — French railway workers checking every bridge for safety, United Parcel Service (UPS) employees following every "method" the bosses have written down. As a shop steward at UPS reported "Production just falls apart."

SLOWDOWN & INEFFICIENCY

The classic act of sabotage. Withdrawal of efficiency or "working slow." Stretching out the time it takes to get a job done. Bumbling. Disabling or breaking machinery. Sending lots of assembly line products to the repair crews to back up.

Whatever paces our work the efficiency we give the boss is reducible. Everyone knows how to disrupt systems the bosses have carefully designed to squeeze the most profits from us.

GOOD WORK STRIKE

In some jobs where withdrawing our labor can hurt other working class people other tactics may be in order. The good work strike is providing service while cutting profits.

The classic, widespread, international example is public transit workers who report to work, operate the

trains and buses, refuse to collect fares while educating passengers to the unions situation.

SICK IN

The sick-in is a way of striking without striking, particularly important if striking itself is "illegal." The workplace is crippled by having all or most of the workers call in sick on the same day or days. It can be used by workers in key departments, and often can be used without formal union organization.

DUAL POWER

Often the best way to get something done is to organize and do it ourselves, bypassing any semblance of negotiations and going straight to implementation. Timber workers in the 1920s had very basic goals: the eight-hour day, clean bedding in the bunkhouses and decent food. When an IWW timber worker strike brought repression the workers returned to work and changed tactics. They blew quitting time whistles after eight hours and quit work. Diseased, bug-infested bedding was burned. They won their demands.

SILENT AGITATORS & POSTERS

The early wobblies printed and distributed millions of small, lick and stick, silent agitators. Today a copying machine and some evaporated milk can bring your message to hundreds or thousands everyday.

City laws banning the sale of spray paint or postering are a sign that bosses fear any direct communications.

SITDOWNS, QUICKIE & ROVING STRIKES

A short strike is an effective strike.

Sometimes a strike can be won in minutes if the production process has a point where the product must be moved or it will go bad. Seizing a plant and sitting in keeps the scabs out. The roving strike shutting down various sites of a multi-sited workplace on different days has been successful for public service workers.

OPEN MOUTH

Sometimes telling the truth about what happens at work puts a lot of pressure on the boss. Non profits with images to protect and various service industries — restaurants, food processing plants, hospitals — are the most vulnerable. Although bosses lie constantly about products and services workers who tell the truth — "whistle blow" — inside or outside the company can be fired.

PUT DOWN ROOTS

All of these tactics at the workplace require something else too from workers to achieve maximum power. Community support is necessary to keep scabs out, provide material support, make boycotts effective, blockade plant gates, spread the message, and carry the struggle to other workplaces. We need to build that support on an everyday basis, not waiting til the crisis of a long economic strike. In the chemical producing region of Louisiana and elsewhere the relationship of the workplace and the ecology of the surrounding area has been common ground for worker and environmentalist anti-corporate organizing.



Left Side

C.C. Redcloud

The allegation by the four cops defense attorneys that King was in constant control of the situation as he was being beaten up by them is paralleled by a recent case in NYC, where four of that city's finest are facing a \$5 million lawsuit, charged with beating up a 12 year-old epileptic. The 4 Byes in Blue, however, filed a \$1 million countersuit, asserting it was actually the 12 year-old epileptic who brutalized them, causing them to be "sick, sore, lame and disabled."

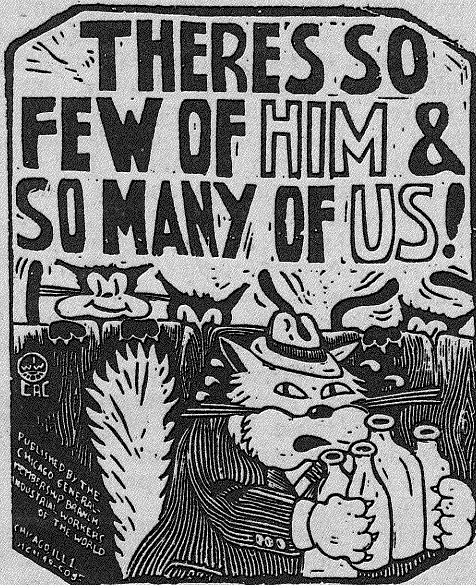
One has, at times, to question the stalwart upholders of law and order. Our present-day economic is becoming increasingly conducive towards making it hazardous to venture out in the streets at night, even in lily-white suburbia, but if you want to see some cops, you had better go to some all-night eatery where they are caging their coffee...on the house. Yet let there be some boycott picket line or protest rally and our stalwart protectors are there, johny on the spot, just aching for an excuse to bash in some heads. Of course the fact that protesters and boycotters are less likely to offer physical resistance than some desperate mugger or burglar could have some significant bearing on the choice of congregating places on the part of the boys in blue.

Lest it be said that your humble scribe is a bit uncharitable towards the defenders of lawn' order, some useful information does come from those boys. They do issue crime-watch warnings to the general public. They remind us that most victims are taken completely unawares and never see the offender. As it is with the petty criminal, so it is with the big-time operators. Look how long Capitalism has been catching us unawares!

Meanwhile preparations for the quincentenary of Columbus' discovery proceeds even with the attendant disagreement about what his background really was. Because Chris is credited with having "brought" christianity to the "New World", there were attempts in the past century to canonize him which failed when it was disclosed that he had "lived in sin" with a woman. That he initiated the genocide of the Taino Indians was a lesser sin in the eyes of these good christians.

The fact that the only way old Chris could have any crew at all for his voyage was with "volunteers" from the Spanish prisons, says something about what kind of a boss he was to work under. The reader is advised to peruse the history books with the same scepticism one uses with the daily blurb or even monthly blurbs like the one they are now reading.

The writers of this stalwart little blurb have no fear of comparison with our larger colleagues. In fact we heartily welcome such comparison, knowing damn well who would benefit. -C.C. Redcloud



The Tactics of Riot

by Leslie Fish

Why hasn't anybody considered the King Verdict Riots in terms of strategy and tactics? A mob is supposed to be totally brainless, but the actions of California rioters shows a remarkably good sense of tactics. Likewise, the tactics of non-rioting citizens show intelligent, quick thinking.

By contrast, the tactical sense shown by the media in general was only fair at best, while tactics displayed by police and politicians was embarrassingly bad.

In Los Angeles, few citizens expected a complete not-guilty verdict. After all, how could anyone who saw that video believe the police weren't guilty? As a result, the city's grass-roots political and social organizations were not prepared. There was little or no planning for political actions, strikes, boycotts or other legal retaliation. So when the verdict came down, the explosion of outrage had no planning, almost no organization and very little communications. Under those circumstances, the resulting actions were surprisingly sensible.

In San Francisco, on the other hand, various community organizations suspected a not-guilty verdict, and had prepared for it. A demonstration was planned, parade permits obtained, and a line of march laid out in advance. Marchers came from 4 different quarters of the city and a 5th from the east bay across the Bay Bridge, intending to converge on city hall. The outrage had a prepared channel in which to flow. If police and politicians had let the demonstrations go as planned, none of the subsequent mess would have happened.

In LA, only local activist Michael Zinzun called for a spur-of-the-moment march at police headquarters. When news of the verdict came, the demonstration drew a far larger crowd than expected - including 2 major street-gangs, the Crips and Bloods, who had signed a peace treaty just 2 weeks before. Demonstrators stood outside the police building making speeches, demanding action on their grievances - but nobody came out to talk to them, hear their grievances or take the

petitions. The crowd grew angry, tore down a parking kiosk, and finally started smashing windows. At that point some public officials did come out, but not to talk. Nearly 100 police in riot gear ran out and charged the crowd with riot-batons, driving demonstrators away from the building.

That was when the real riot started. The crowd ran south down Spring street, smashing windows and burning every building they could reach. The first firefighters to show up were driven off, and one wounded, as the rioters made it plain that they wanted the downtown LA area to burn. The riots spread, attacking businesses, and property of landlords against whom they had grudges - but no more interference with firefighters. From this point on, police were conspicuous by their absence. Rioters attacked with the success that encourages excess, and the outrage expended itself in an orgy of unorganized, often aimless looting.

While this looks like pointless violence, it made good tactical sense. The rioters' intent was to hurt the city government, and they did that. Whether they won their secondary goal - to stop the government repression of non-whites and the poor - is still undecided.

Meanwhile in San Francisco, demonstrators began the march toward the civic plaza in the early afternoon. They'd taken care to get a parade permit, announce their route of march, pledge their members to non-violence - and alert the media. There were less than 1,000 demonstrators, but far more people watching on the sidelines. Marchers were angry but orderly, and there was no reason for the city - which had seen countless similar demonstrations - to be worried.

Nonetheless, as the demonstrators knew, the city had a brand-new mayor and police chief who had made much public noise about "getting tough on crime." Demonstrators suspected that

A Lefty Boss is Still A Boss!

Jeff Kelly

Anyone familiar with the writing game knows that the initial rush of getting published fades quickly because the writer then has to deal with "The check is in the mail" syndrome. This is even more the case when you write for lefty rags and mags.

Most publications of the left are up front when they say writers will not be paid. Writers trade off their work for no money in the hopes their articles will reach a larger audience.

I recently had an article published in IN THESE TIMES on the US/Guatemala Labor Education Project. I was informed that the piece would run and that I was going to be paid, although the money would not be forthcoming because there was a "financial crisis." Weeks passed and there was no correspondence from ITT. In fact they had not even bothered to send me the standard two free copies. Finally I gave them a call and asked what the holdup was. They replied that they had lost my address! How did ITT ever expect to pay me?

It didn't take too long to realize that they had no intention whatsoever of paying. As it turns out, ITT has not paid its free lance writers over the past few years, to the tune of thousands of dollars. Over 450 writers have not received payments totalling \$130,000. The old "financial difficulties" reply is standard. But then, what do they do with the funds they raise, why is the regular staff and management still being paid, and why is the paper still being published? There doesn't seem to be much honesty with these "progressive" types.

As a result of these shoddy practices, ITT has gotten itself into problems with

the National Writers Union (NWU). NWU is affiliated with the UAW, but built along lines similar to the IWW. Members form locals when 15 or more writers apply for a charter. Membership is open to anyone who has had an article or book published and dues are collected on a sliding scale in relation to earnings. Members have voting rights within the UAW, although UAW is still in the stone age when it comes to direct democracy for the rank and file. Despite it all I joined anyway, hoping to learn more about the problems with ITT and also to be a pain in the ass to the boss like any good Wobbly.

NWU has a contract with ITT assuring that writers are paid 12 cents a word. NWU has said that it is not the intention of the union to put ITT out of business. So far the NWU has been able to secure \$20,000 for 64 union members during the last year. The claims of remaining grievants (including me) together total \$22,000. I'm 50th on the list. So even with the grievance there is no guarantee that I will be paid in a reasonable amount of time. There is a chance I will eventually collect, but what about the hundreds of other non-union writers left to twist in the wind?

ITT has considered this also. They have begun sending letters to free lancers suggesting options for settling their debt. The NWU bargaining council is considering membership input and will be planning future actions against ITT. In my mind the answer is clear: I will not accept anything less than full payment.

So fellow workers, a boss is a boss. Not only have they not paid me, ITT referred to us as the "International" Workers of the World. You have to wonder what these "progressives" are thinking!

While this looks like pointless violence, it actually made good tactical sense

Mayor Jordan and Chief Hongisto would "over-react," and made sure the media and city council were watching.

The contingent marching across the Bay Bridge informed the California Highway Patrol of their intentions, and the CHP promised to stop traffic on the bridge so the march could pass. The march set off with a line of CHP behind them, traffic crawling behind that, making a good pace with no trouble. But when they reached the middle of the bridge they found a phalanx of San Francisco police barring the way,

ordering them to "disperse" when they clearly had nowhere to disperse to. The marchers

had enough numbers to break through the police lines, but having taken the non-violence pledge they simply sat down where they were. Hongisto ordered them arrested for refusing to disperse. The police were obliged to pick up and carry away the demonstrators one by one, stuff them in buses and drive them to Santa Rita jail. This tied up traffic on the Bay Bridge, the major traffic artery from Oakland to San Francisco, hours longer than the march itself ever could have.

TV helicopters circled continuously over the bridge, catching the whole "betrayal" and resulting traffic jam. The news hit the air within the hour, warning the marchers in the city. Meanwhile, 4 columns of marchers from the city proper converged on San Francisco's civic plaza. There they found 1/6 of the city's police force surrounding city hall so nobody could present the petitions. They also noted another 1/6 of the city's police setting lines across the access streets behind them, to cut off their retreat.

The demonstrators settled into the civic plaza and began making speeches, giving the impression they could stay for hours complaining about racism and poverty. Chief Hongisto grew impatient and ordered police to move in on the crowd. Police moved in slowly, nudging

demonstrators into a smaller area of the huge civic plaza. The demonstrators crowded tighter - and kept saying nasty things about the mayor and police chief. Finally Hongisto, without so much as "reading the riot act," ordered his troops to charge into the crowd with riot-batons swinging. News cameras caught the action in full color and detail.

The demonstrators, who knew about the betrayal on the bridge, didn't wait to be clubbed and arrested; they fled the plaza in all directions, breaking through the thin screen of police left to block the access streets.

Police chased them through the heart of the city and into the commercial district, indiscriminately clubbing demonstrators, onlookers, passers by, and a few reporters. The chase continued until the sun went down.

At that point the tables turned. Onlookers who'd seen what happened to the demonstrators went smashing and looting all through the Market Street district, which kept police scattered and running all over the area. Mayor Jordan promptly declared a curfew, a state of emergency, called for the National Guard, and appealed for federal troops and money. This made him look like a prize idiot to the city council, whose offices overlook the civic plaza, and who had seen the whole fiasco.

What looks like pointless violence in fact had a solid tactical purpose. It made plain to the city government that if it attacked a non-violent protest march, the demonstrators would stop being non-violent and would hurt the city by attacking its tax-revenue base.

It also became clear to everyone that the city government and police were unwilling or unable to protect civilian property. This fact was not lost on the local population.

In Los Angeles, rioters turned particular attention on Korea-town. At first, news reporters claimed this was "reverse racism," but after a while they began to notice that the rioters weren't attacking the Chinese, Japanese or Vietnamese neighborhoods. Then a reporter remembered that a year earlier a Korean shopkeeper had shot and killed a teenage African-American girl for stealing a bottle of soda - and got a

see Tactics page 16

French Truckers Shut Down Roads Farmers Close Railways

Thousands of French truckers parked on the highways of France starting June 30.

"We'll stay as long as we have to. Why give up now?" said one driver near Lyon on July 3.

France's "routiers" are angry about a new point system for traffic violations, which could result in lost drivers licences. The government is imposing the point system as a measure aimed at reducing traffic accidents.

French farmers who, like farmers everywhere, are being sold out had their own reasons for protesting vigorously against EEC and GATT policies, which worked to aid the truckers.

Police trying to use violence against the protestors only resulted in thousands more workers joining the shut-down.

"When we run out of food, we'll take what's in the trucks," said one *routier*. "We can hold out till next week if necessary."

Tons of perishable food was perishing in the summer sun.

Thousands of tourists were immobilized on their summer vacations to the Riviera and Spain. At Lyon and Toulouse, truckers also cut off gas stations.

"It would have been easier going by bicycle," commented an elder tourist who made the journey from Rouen, near the north coast, to the beach at Cannes.

At Carpentras, a Belgian truck driver released 268 pigs on their third day without food. After the pigs were

sprayed with water in a nearby soccer stadium, the herd revived. The animals then broke loose and ran wild in the town, where they ate up hundreds of melons dumped on the streets the night before by protesting farmers.

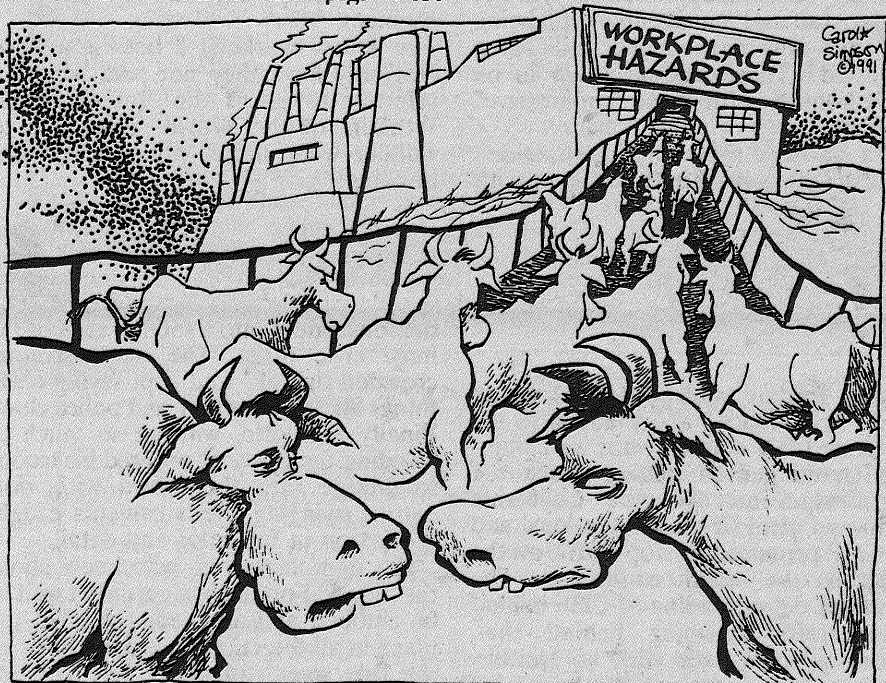
Some blockades were lifted July 3, but others sprang up quickly to block access to major cities. Forty people were injured in a battle with police at Cherbourg July 2. Unable to get needed parts, companies in France and England laid off thousands of employees.

The nation-wide protests are leaderless. Truckers monitor police by radio, and use CB radios to keep each other informed.

On the weekend farmers drove their tractors to train stations and blocked rail lines. French farmers are violently opposed to the EEC changes to agricultural trade policies.

13,000 police and military were mobilized but had little success in clearing the roads. Tanks were used to drag trucks off the highways in some cases. At an oil refinery roadblock near Marseilles, petrol and chemical tanker trucks were strategically placed in front of the blockades. Drivers threatened to set them afire if police moved in. This tactic was immediately copied elsewhere. After the police attacks, roadblocks increased by 50% and appeared at new locations. Farmers again blockaded the railroads on July 7.

Finally the government realized it was powerless against the united action, and gave in to the truckers demands.



"YOU DON'T BELIEVE THOSE SILLY RUMORS THE UNION ORGANIZERS ARE SPREADING?"

Letters

continued from page 2

even a modicum of praise has been given to the courageous spirit shown by the Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru. What has become of us when we don't even question the fate or treatment of others that for various reasons -- which might differ from our own -- are fighting to eradicate a tyrannical government.

Most of us will argue that the Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru fight only to replace the current system with a worse tyranny. This might also be true, nevertheless, who are we to judge the outcome of this struggle? What leads us to believe that amongst these groups there aren't any individuals who are of a discerning, evolutionary mind? If they, as we, haven't learned anything from history, then we all are truly lost!

I am in prison and I'm tired of the shit that has been fed and inculcated into me. I'm tired of the poverty, inopportunity, hopelessness and oppression that is my future, and it is depressing to realize that it is the only inheritance that I'm leaving my children. The furnace of rage goads my spirit so I clamor for evolutionary changes. I search for them, but to search also means to analyze what comes before me.

The way I see it, the Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru fought so valiantly at Canto Grande because either they feared that they would be quietly "disappeared," or their despair had reached a level beyond what most of us can imagine. Howsoever skewed the ideals of those who so hopelessly defended themselves at Canto Grande are, I must recognize and praise their courageous human spirit.

I believe we have to start questioning everything more, especially aftermaths. As in Panama, in Canto Grande, in Los Angeles, there has been a constant dearth of information. What happened to the living victims of El Chorrillo (Panama)? What happened to the prisoners of Canto Grande? What has happened to the people languishing in the jails of L.A. because of the riot? And what do the aforesaid have to say about their being victims or participants in those bloody events? The daily liars are in the habit of forsaking aftermaths that don't benefit the policies of the government or of the rich. Do we really have to follow them in tandem? No aftermaths! Just focus the camera on another part of the world and the herd follows.

I believe that desperation and hopelessness in the USA is rising to that unimaginable level. As the recent riots in L.A. should have shown us, frustration is manifested into ways that

don't always seem morally correct to all of us. I see the same thing happening in Peru, and all over the world: an utter sense of frustration at the current conditions under which we are living. This frustration extends to the methods presently available toward seeking change.

Many workers coalesce with groups and movements that are readily at hand and that have a semblance of being a viable shining path. Should we be so quick to forsake our brothers and sisters for this human flaw -- hope? If tomorrow's rifle barrels are leveled at you, do you not wonder if someone will at least speak up on your behalf, or if someone will question what has happened to you?

I heard that Nicaragua is thinking of trading its Russian-built helicopter gunships to Peru for ambulances -- death for life. And I also heard that an American diplomat was given an Ortega medal by Nicaragua (probably for having the decency to wash his bloodied hands before eating). How senseless it all does seem.

I hope someone will have the sense to dissipate the fog that surrounds Peru by bringing us an in-depth analysis (with interviews of the leaders) of the diverse groups and movements. If this has already been done, please be so kind as to let me know.

Sigamos luchando y aprendiendo,
Jaime Enrique Baxter
#88410-012 F.C.I.
8901 S. Wilmot Road
Tucson, AZ 85706

Dear FWs:

I was surprised to see that your cartoon on "accused looters" featured Henry Ford as stealing "profits from his workers all his life." Henry Ford was a remarkable man. The only American to be given a medal by Adolph Hitler, Ford had very strong ideas about Jews (at fault for the world's evils); morals (to be enforced at the point of a gun); and how to get the economy moving again (during the Depression, he said that people just had to roll up their sleeves and get to work).

The worst thing about Henry Ford is not so much what he did, although it was abhorrent; it is how he has been treated by American history books. If you believe high school texts, Ford was a hero who invented the car, paid high wages, and invented the assembly line. Not a word about the anti-Semitism, his goon squads and their raids of his workers' homes, etc.

Henry Ford didn't just steal profits. He also stole his workers' privacy, and often, their health; sometimes, their lives. And, through complicity with Hitler and the Nazis, he indirectly stole many European lives as well. For the OBU,
D. Sacz

Challenging the New World Order

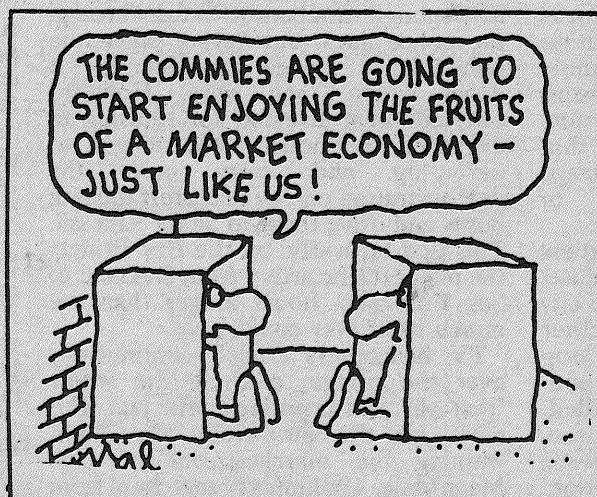
by Steve Zeltzer
Labor Video Project

What is required today is a strategy based on the defense of workers rights, as well as environmental and health and safety protection for all people in the world. For labor, the key ingredient is direct communication links with workers who work for these multi-nationals in every country.

Labor must confront the multi-nationals in all countries that they operate in. This can only be accomplished by education and solidarity action links by the workers of these multi-nationals. Eventually, it also means the merging of the unions on a hemispheric and international scale as well as workers control of these multi-nationals.

Direct International Labor Links

In Europe, the union leadership has been forced by rank and file pressure to allow direct working links between Ford stewards' councils in Germany and the UK. At the last conference of the Amalgamated Engineering Union in



Britain, the youth section even called for unification of the AEU and the German Metal Workers union in order to seriously challenge the multi-nationals. Other links include BTR/Dunlop workers in South Africa, the UK and the USA; Grand Metropolitan workers in Mexico and the US; and Levi workers in Texas and Guatemala.

One important experience was a struggle against the Mitsubishi company

to stop one of their "development projects." The project was met with a 3-day electronic blockade that tied up the faxes, phones and telexes of Mitsubishi in Italy, Japan, Europe and the U.S. Imagine what the labor movement could do.

We can begin by building an international computer "LaborNet" on the Association of Progressive Communication (APC) systems and other computer networks. The IGC/Peacenet system in the US and the Twics system in Japan are already linked, and this network can cheaply transfer electronic mail from Canada to the US and parts of Latin America such as Brazil, Nicaragua, Australia, Japan and Mexico. It also allows electronic conferences with international labor discussions.

Labor Video Network

Alongside the labor computer network is the development of labor videos in all languages. This network has already begun with formation of LaborTech in San Francisco in 1990 (LaborTech will host another conference Dec. 5-6, 1992). Videos that deal with international

labor struggles include "Dirty Business," "Cleto Presente," "Locked Out" and the "Global Economy." The United Mine Workers video on the Pittston strike, "They'll Never Keep Us Down," was brought to Japan by a UMWA delegation with a Japanese voice-over. The Labor Video Project has also used footage from the Japan NRU railway workers.

Low-priced technologies such as camcorders, faxes and computer networks can make international links a daily part of the labor movement's work.

(The above is excerpted from a document posted on the apc.labor conference on PeaceNet. The Labor Video Project can be reached at P.O. Box 425584, San Francisco CA 94142; e-mail LVPSF@IGC.ORG. Several IWW members are already members of PeaceNet and/or LaborNet, and the IWW headquarters recently went on line. IWW education workers are also considering a proposal to establish an education workers conference on LaborNet. Those interested in more information on IWW computer networking can contact Jon Bekken: Box 762, Cortland NY 13045; e-mail jbekken@igc)

20,000 Lose Jobs To Fishing Ban

The Canadian government has extended the moratorium on cod fishing off Newfoundland until at least the end of 1993. Cod fishing has been the staple of Newfoundland economy and a way of life for 400 years. The ban covers an area from the south and east coasts of the Avalon Peninsula along the northeast coast of Newfoundland and the entire Labrador coast. 400 villages and towns depend on the cod industry.

Federal Fisheries Minister John Crosbie made the announcement July 2 from a St. John's, Nfld. hotel. Crosbie promised \$225 a week aid for fishers for ten weeks, to help them qualify for unemployment benefits. Within minutes of the announcement, angry fishers attempted to break down the door into the closed press conference.

"Come out and face us, you bastard! Tell me and my family how to live on \$225 a week!" Fishers pushed security

guards aside.

"Are you going to stop fishing for that man? I'm not!"

Crosbie was forced to make a hasty exit from the hotel through a cordon of police.

"When they give you \$225 a week, that's telling you to go out fishing. That's not going to pay the mortgage."

While some fishers have vowed to ignore the ban, most people acknowledge that the ban is needed to allow dwindling cod stocks to regenerate. But the government is heavily criticized for not acting 10 years earlier to reduce over-fishing by European ships, when evidence showed the fish were being depleted.

"This is peanuts," Richard Cashin of the Fishermen, Food and Allied Workers Union. "We're talking about the biggest layoff in Canadian history."

In a normal year, July and August

would net fishers \$25,000, and a plant worker would earn \$15,000. At \$225 a week, the season will pay fishers only \$1,800.

Reg Best of a fishers co-op in Petty Harbour expects some to continue fishing, though catches have been low. Best thinks it will take more than the 2 years to restore the cod stocks.

The federal government proposes to pay older fishers to retire, and to buy out licences. Even when the fish become plentiful, a re-structured industry would only employ half as many people. This planned re-structuring will no doubt include shifting control of the industry to large companies, doing away with the small family operation which is the basis of Newfoundland society.

In addition to the fishers themselves, jobs are being lost in the fish processing plants, trucking, boat-building and suppliers of equipment. Already, a

February ban on offshore cod fishing, and cut-backs at Hibernia offshore oil operations, had cost Newfoundland over 10% of its jobs. The island province accounts for 1.5% of all Canadian employment, but absorbed 16% of Canada's job losses in the past six months.

On July 3, National Sea Products said it would close a fish-processing plant at LaScie, Nfld. and lay off 20% of its 3,600 workers.

Cashin, of the FFAW, told the workers they must force the federal government to come up with better compensation. But many workers jeered at the suggestion.

"My gear is in the water and I'll shoot any fisheries officer who touches my gear while I've got it out there," said a Portugal Cove fisherman. Others vowed to arm themselves to protect their nets.

**"I'se the b'y that builds the boat, and I'se the b'y that sails her; I'se the b'y that catches the fish, and brings 'em home to Liza-"
This folk song describes a way of life that has just been wiped out by government incompetence**



Striking Drywall Workers Turn To Direct Action

by Jon Bekken

More than 150 striking drywall hangers have been arrested in a Southern California strike that has spread to hundreds of residential construction sites throughout Orange County since its beginning a few weeks ago.

Several hundred worksites have been closed by the strike according to Mike Potts, Executive Secretary of the Orange County Building Trades Council. Although the drywall workers have not been unionized since 1982, when residential contractors broke a strike by drywall and other construction workers, nearly all of the county's drywall workers have joined the strike.

Since their union was broken, ten years ago, piece rates for drywall hangers have fallen from 10 cents per installed foot to 4 to 5 cents per foot. Drywall work is handled by subcontractors who offer no health or pension benefits and force piece rates downwards as they compete for jobs in the depressed construction market. Thus, skilled drywall hangers earn about \$5 an hour, less than half what they

would have been paid 10 years before for the same work (ignoring inflation and lost benefits).

The more than three thousand strikers are mostly Mexican-American, and many are undocumented workers. Although contractors did not hesitate to hire these workers when they needed cheap labor, the Immigration and Naturalization Service plans to deport them now that the strike is underway.

Orange County authorities initially turned over 74 arrested strikers to the INS for deportation. But all of the workers have demanded hearings, which could take several months, and the INS has already conceded that several were in the country legally. As of July 14, according to Jay Lindsey of Hermandad Mexicana Nacional, the INS held 51 strikers. More than a dozen other strikers were being held in Orange County prison.

These were among 153 strikers arrested July 2nd while picketing a Mission Viejo job site. The Orange County District Attorney initially charged strikers with "felony conspiracy to commit trespass" and "felony

conspiracy to commit kidnapping." After a storm of outrage from latino and labor organizations, most strikers were freed and the remaining charges were reduced to misdemeanor trespass. A handful of other strikers have been arrested in other picketing incidents.

Without union representation, workers have spread the strike through mass picketing--going to non-striking workplaces to persuade their fellow workers to join the strike. Drywall workers have shown very strong solidarity, according to Mike Potts, and very few scabs are working. Contractors claim that workers are relying on force and intimidation to pull workers off the job, but they have presented no evidence to substantiate these claims at their numerous press conferences. Instead, they continually replay old footage of strikers kicking in drywall as they walked off the job when the strike began.

Residential construction has been largely unorganized in Orange County ever since the 1982 strike, although some crafts remain unionized. Those unions have continued to work during

the drywallers' strike, but more and more jobs are closing down as contractors reach the point where they cannot continue without hanging drywall--and cannot hang drywall without either settling with the workers or hiring in scabs and teaching them the work.

The strikers want to organize a union, Lindsey says, and win back the losses of the past 10 years. Potts agrees, noting that workers have tried to reorganize ever since the 1982 strike. But while the Building Trades Council is offering the strikers advice, he says, it's not seeking union representation. To do so would allow contractors to bring the entire National Labor Relations Act machinery into play against the strikers.

As it stands, the strike is shutting down the building contractors through direct action, and shows no signs of weakening despite the arrests and threatened deportations. Contractors are learning that they can't hang drywall with labor laws or INS agents, and will have to meet their workers' demands if they hope to get construction moving again.

Who Looks Out for the Computer Worker?

Jim Davis

Once there were companies that could pride themselves on their no-layoff policy. Engineers and other "design workers" could count on high pay and benefits in exchange for what often was personally rewarding work. The work week was whatever it took to "get the job done". Free sodas, Friday afternoon parties, informal work environment, and other perks were part of the compensation.

The last year has seen a rude awakening as 90,000 jobs have been lost in the electronics industry. Besides job security, other issues have surfaced. Potential VDT dangers, repetitive stress injuries, and other stress-related



illnesses have appeared. The absence of civil liberties, glass ceilings and other discrimination persists.

Who looks out for the interests of the computer industry worker?

There's the widespread use of

temporary and contract labor. And the technique of moving work to lower wage areas...not just manufacturing, but research, design and technical support work as well.

Design and integration work -- knowledge work -- has been identified as the key source of value in modern economy. Computer engineers occupy a strategic position in this economy, a relatively well-paid, high-skilled strata of the workforce.

At the same time, technologies that we help produce are eliminating millions of jobs.

There is the question of how design workers -- programmers, system analysts, technical writers, graphic designers etc -- relate to all the other

workers who are equally necessary to the production of a chip or a computer or a software program: the clerks, production workers, and janitors.

As the computer industry matures, questions surface that have faced other industries for decades: What is the nature of the work we do? How do computer industry workers resolve the conflicting demands of their status as "professional" and "worker"? How is the situation of workers in the computer industry similar to (or different from) other workers with regards to job security, layoffs, health and safety, and organization? Do (am I still allowed to say this word? -- unions -- have a place in the computer industry? Again, who looks out for us?

...L-P Mill Workers

continued from page 3

they plant them 'cause they don't take care of them.

Judi: Yeah, and there's a lot of other reasons too. You can't keep taking out of soil and not put back into it...and expect the trees...it took 10,000 years for the soil to build up for the first cut.

Don: Exactly.

Judi: And second cut was 100 years, third cut 20 years. So you can see why the forest is dying. I think if L-P's logging practices were as good as they say, then maybe they'd have some trees left.

Don: It all comes down to the almighty buck, you know. They want to make as much as they can, as fast as they can, and they're not concerned about how they do it. And then after they leave Mendocino county, or northern California, or whatever it may be, the rest of us that are still gonna live here are gonna have to walk outside and see nothing but a bunch of dead trees.

Randy: Right, we're going to be left with the mess to clean up.

Don: Exactly. While they move on to some other fertile hunting ground and kill it.

Judi: Since 1989, Louisiana Pacific has laid off approximately 50% of their work force in their western division. And there's hardly any logs at the mill anymore, I've never seen it so low. What do you think are the prospects for the future for L-P mill workers in this area?

Don: Well, pretty dismal. It's real touchy. It could make it for a few more years, but I don't see any long-term future. I don't think so.

Randy: Certainly neither do I.

Judi: So, what are you planning on doing? What do you think people can do?

Don: I don't know.

Randy: Yeah, hard call.

Don: Yeah, we're just going to have to find the best we can. The only thing we can say is that people should certainly be considering that that is an almost certain probability, that the mill won't be there, and they should start looking elsewhere for new careers.

Randy: Exactly. I'm certainly not depending on that place being there tomorrow.

Judi: Out in Albion right now, there's a controversy going on over an L-P cut, and people have been filing lawsuits to try to save this little piece they call "Enchanted Meadow". In court this week, Louisiana Pacific argued that if they didn't get to cut the Albion watershed--this 280 acres--that they were going to have to close the Ukiah mill. And that weighing environmental impacts against this whole sawmill closing, that they should be allowed to cut to keep the sawmill open. So there are two questions I would like to ask you. First of all, do you think that's true? And secondly, how do you feel about them taking cuts like that to keep the mill running?

Randy: Well, first of all, if our sawmill depends on a 280 acre cut, I think we better start looking for a job right now.

Don: I would have to agree.

Randy: And the amount the board feet that's going to come out of that small of an area isn't going to run our sawmill for any significant amount of time at all.

Judi: Well how do you feel about these last little pieces? Do you think that we need to cut them? What do you think we need to do to keep the mill open?

Randy: Well I think we need to replace the managers first.

Judi: That sounds like a great start.

Don: That's certainly where you need to

start. Start at the top.

Randy: Yeah, if we are down to these last couple of dinky patches that we need to go out and cut these down to keep our mills running, well, then, what's the use?

Don: We're in big trouble.

Randy: We're in a lot of trouble. And the management has brought us to this point. And with bad management, comes bad decisions. And these people have been making bad decisions for as long as I can remember. And now they blame all their problems on environmentalists and employees where they ought to just look in the mirror, 'cause that's where all their problems really are. None of this had to come about. These mills didn't have to be shut down. The timber didn't have to be slaughtered like it was. If they would



have used proper management, and done everything environmentally sound, it would have been O.K.

Don: But that's not the corporate way!

Randy: Nope. Nope. Certainly isn't. They want to build up their pocket books and run!

Judi: So, I think the fact that they're a global corporation, that they're not even based here, is why they don't care about us. They're not even from here, and they're not staying here. So I hear y'all have written a poem about what it's like to work for L-P. So maybe we'll end with a little bit of culture here.

Randy: Well, as our reading rights were taken away...we're not allowed to read anything unless it has to do...concerns our job. And there is considerable down time at times. And so we've turned to writing instead. Don and I wrote a little poem...one night here, just recently, and it's entitled: "I'm Just Here". And, I got that title from asking someone what their reason was for basically living that day and working. And they said, "I'm just here." So it's an appropriate title.

I'M JUST HERE

Punch in at the clock. In this job, feel trapped.

Resistant to change, how my life has been mapped.

The trees disappear, the mill just runs on,

"They're out there! They're ours! Cut them all 'til they're gone!"

We're not allowed to read. Don't know that we write.

Nameless. Just numbers. Gone are our rights.

Safety is veiled, the attempts to comply, Fall short of the law, from fear, and a lie.

Expendable, we are. No pats on the back.

Just threats of replacement, regardless of fact.

My opinion means nothing, my mind is a blank.

I'm an L-P employee! Just one of the rank.

Logging Halted at Albion River

After more than 60 arrests and 6 weeks of continuous protests near the Albion River, logging has been halted in the 286-acre tract of second-growth Redwood. Loggers and mill workers in large numbers are now uniting with ecologists. CoWorker Bari reports that the loggers and mill workers are talking about "organizing" and the word "union" is often heard.

By early July, a surprise series of 7 favorable court decisions shut down L-P's logging operations in the Albion region, forcing L-P to withdraw one of its logging plans.

Daily protest events began in April and included tree-sitting, interference with logging operations, a children's blockade, an automobile blockade of a logging road and rallies with up to 200 people attending.

A number of Wobblies were arrested, among them Earth First! activists Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney. Acting on orders from an L-P security person, police grabbed protestors and dragged them onto a restricted area so they could be arrested. But everyone sat down and refused to allow their friends to be taken away, and L-P was forced to release them. A lawsuit is in progress for the false arrests.

As of mid-June, the Mendocino Sheriff's Office had spent nearly \$20,000 in overtime to keep the peace at the protest site.

L-P representatives, saying they were "fed up" with protestors' demands, broke off talks with activists, state and county officials.

L-P and Masonite have threatened to shut down Ukiah mills if the timber supply is restricted. Ecology activists say the threats are part of a "coordinated effort" to block the proposed county rules, which would require private lands to be managed for non-declining, even flow of timber.

...Lehigh Bingo

continued from Page 1

that in the early 1980s, the Mafia was skimming proceeds from PASCAL. It was also noted that in their most recent financial statement, PASCAL had collected \$160,000 but only contributed 2 or 3 thousand dollars to artists. This is in direct violation of existing Pennsylvania Bingo Laws which state that Bingo operations can only be used for charitable purposes. In one fell swoop, the workers were proven to be correct and the bosses were discredited.

Christina Gaffney, delegate of the new job shop had this to say: "Management is ignorant and self-serving. Each of us feels we stand justified in our cause. Of course, we workers are sure we're right in this instance and plan on fighting until we win."

The struggle is far from over and the outcome is in doubt. Attempts at organizing an effective boycott have been limited. The workers estimate that business is down around 25%. The real problem is that Bingo, like other forms of gambling, is addictive. Many customers are elderly and their main form of entertainment is a trip to the Bingo Hall. While sympathetic to the strikers, many of the customers cross our lines. Still, others have turned away once they talked to us.

The workers' main goal is to pressure the board of PASCAL to relinquish leadership of the organization to a new board. The membership of PASCAL is small and ripe for takeover. If this

cannot be accomplished, they plan on tearing the foundation of PASCAL apart and installing an organization that understands dignity and also the rights of workers to unionize. Another non-profit group has been contacted and is agreeable to IWW representation. The workers are attending IWW meetings and discussing tactics. Because of past experiences, the workers understand that they can not go back to work unless they have a contract with union recognition. Whatever happens one thing is clear: Kick-ass women workers aren't taking it anymore! -X341104

Update: Management is putting on the heat as we go to press. LV Wobblies have been threatened with violence and a picketer's car was struck by a car driven by a boss. Managers have tried to provoke the strikers and lure them onto private property. But LV Wobblies are keeping themselves fully under control. They have filed with NLRB and have made sure their position is completely legal. Pickets have been reduced to 6 or 7 hours a day, focussed on busy hours. Though management is desperately fighting back, they have also begun to feel the pressure. On July 13, 5 or 6 workers received some of their back pay which had been withheld.

LV Wobs are holding raffles, concerts, and asking for contributions from all friends and supporters, in order to pay the expenses of the struggle. They request donations immediately if you can, no matter how small to:

Lehigh Valley GMB, IWW
PO Box 4133
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Join the IWW

No Bureaucrats! The IWW has only one paid officer, the General Secretary-Treasurer (GST), and pays its General Administration office workers the same wage of \$10 per hour. The 7-member General Executive Board is elected annually by the entire membership, and its job is to oversee the running of Union affairs, not to set policy. All officers may be recalled at any time by referendum.

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Energetic and musically varied hellraising Wobbly from Pittsburgh, with a reggae "Bread and Roses", a rocking version of FW Harry Stamper's "We Just Come to Work Here", country "Your Nursing Heart".

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Citizen's Band

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"Timber Wars" originally appeared in the *Industrial Worker*. Most articles are from the *Anderson Valley Advertiser*, others reprinted from *New York Times* and elsewhere.

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Martin Sprouse, editor

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...Tactics of Riot

continued from page 11

suspended sentence. The Korean community took the hint: they called up relatives, got out their guns, and stood guard on their shops until dawn. Whether this defense was effective, or whether the rioters had no further quarrel with Korean shopkeepers, the important point is that the store-owners believe that personal defense - not police protection - saved their property and possibly their lives.

Elsewhere in LA, people turned out with bucket-brigades and garden-hoses to put out fires. Local firefighters - who rushed in where police feared to tread - said all they had to do was hook up a hose, tell the volunteers how to aim it, and go on to the next hose. TV newsmen reported this, showing that civilians are quite capable of suppressing arson by themselves, given the tools.

LA citizens of all races turned out with guns and barricades to defend neighborhoods. They closed off streets to traffic and to police, who usually took one look and went away. Such districts were untouched by the riots, which taught the citizens that while the police could not be relied on to protect private property, the citizens could protect communities themselves.

Outside of the street-gang alliance which attacked the police station and were repulsed, none of the rioters used guns. They stuck to rocks, molotov cocktails, and shopping carts. They didn't intend to harm individuals but institutions. The defenders turned out with firearms, and had only to display them to turn rioters away. Given the number of guns available this shows interesting restraint on both sides.

News-media tactics varied according to the degree of management control. Media managers see the media business in terms of money and advertizing - which includes advertizing profitable politics. Reporters, on the other hand, are interested in making names for themselves and winning Pulitzers. There's a wide gap between what reporters and media managers want to broadcast, and it shows most visibly in a fast-breaking crisis.

In LA, reporters still resentful of censorship imposed during the Gulf War finally had their chance. So much news was breaking everywhere in the city that management couldn't censor all of it. It helped that candidate Jerry Brown came into LA and went around the city making speeches. Media managers had been running a news blackout on his campaign - and now here he was, popping up on camera everywhere. In the scramble to censor Jerry Brown, media managers had no time to censor anything else.

Viewers got to see volunteers fighting fires, while police "massed" with National Guard off in the safe zones; rioters boldly stating that they looted goodies they didn't want, to hurt specific targets; and community leaders deploring the violence but listing its causes. Along with spectacular shots of burning or looting, reporters showed a wealth of close-up and unrehearsed interviews with normally unnoticed

people.

Once the riot died down and police "moved in" with military backup, media management reasserted control and the reporters were reined in again. Now the scenes were all long-distance shots or rehearsed interviews with officials. There were no pictures of all the looted material donated to churches and charities.

There were no pictures and little said

police attack and riot, the demonstrators came back. Again the SFPD attacked the marchers - including several camera-operators and a city council member. The demonstrators who stayed to be arrested made a point of shouting in fast, concise sentences to the cameras; this allowed reporters to record the demonstrators' side of the story, in quick "sound bites," while looking obedient and passive. The reporters also got considerable footage from the angry city council member who'd accompanied the march.

Media reports contrasted footage of the demonstrators being carried off to jail with clips of further rioting that happened again that night. Though no comment was made, the footage made it plain that the demonstrators couldn't possibly be the rioters, since they were in jail at the time.

These tactics, though subtle, did get information across to the public, and past management "policy." Unfortunately, they didn't make the media themselves look any less biased.

Still, police and city officials did far worse. The LA Justice Department should have had the sense to let the bigots-in-blue take the fall they deserved. Instead the city delayed the case, discouraged witnesses, moved the trial to a jury of dependable bigots - and then argued that an unarmed man "threatened" a half-dozen cops by raising a hand to protect his head and trying to get up onto his hands and knees.

It's no surprise that the Simi Valley jury accepted this argument. What's astonishing is that the LA Justice Department and police thought the population would accept it. They totally underestimated the resentment, energy and intelligence of the "enemy".

And they did worse. When the LA ghetto exploded in looting and burning, police did nothing to stop it. They huddled in stations or drove fast around the borders of the riots, and left civilians to fend for themselves.

Worse, the death toll during the riot itself was just over 20; but after the LAPD's punitive "confiscation" raids into the ghetto, the death-toll jumped to almost 50. That figure is going to be quoted in somebody's court.

Why did they do it? Not that they were alone in stupidity: San Francisco did almost as badly.

Why did Chief Hongisto and Mayor Jordan attack the demonstrators? Didn't it occur to them that demonstrators who got a parade permit and took the non-violence pledge would think to notify the media too? Didn't Hongisto notice the 2 TV helicopters circling over the Bay Bridge when he entrapped the marchers there? Why didn't Jordan and Hongisto realize that the demonstration was on a working day, with the already-hostile city council in session, where council members could see the attack on the demonstrators just by looking out the window?

And it gets worse. When they knew

the demonstration was *marching* to the civic plaza, why did Jordan and Hongisto order the city's mass-transit system to shut down all stops within a mile of the plaza? All that did was strand 50,000 commuters in the city until well after dark, which annoyed them considerably.

The crowning stupidity was to repeat the same tactics the next day, this time with more media and a city council member in tow. Hongisto's excuse for the first day's attack was that marchers were "throwing rocks" and "damaging private property" - but everyone knows there are no rocks, no private property, and not even parking anywhere on the civic plaza. His excuse the second time was that demonstrators "left the line of march" - but reporters and the council member pointed out that police repeatedly blocked the official line of march and tried to trap the demonstrators between police lines. His official excuse for both attacks was "to prevent rioting" - but the riots happened both nights *after* the demonstrators had already been carried off.

By then the city council had had enough. They rescinded Mayor Jordan's state-of-emergency and curfew decrees, flatly ordered police to leave the next demonstration alone, and told Jordan to get rid of Hongisto. Next day the persistent demonstrators returned a third time. This time there was no circle-and-attack by the police. There was no rioting that night, either. But Hongisto pulled one last incredible stunt - he ordered his underlings to confiscate copies of a local newspaper that had an unflattering picture of himself on the cover.

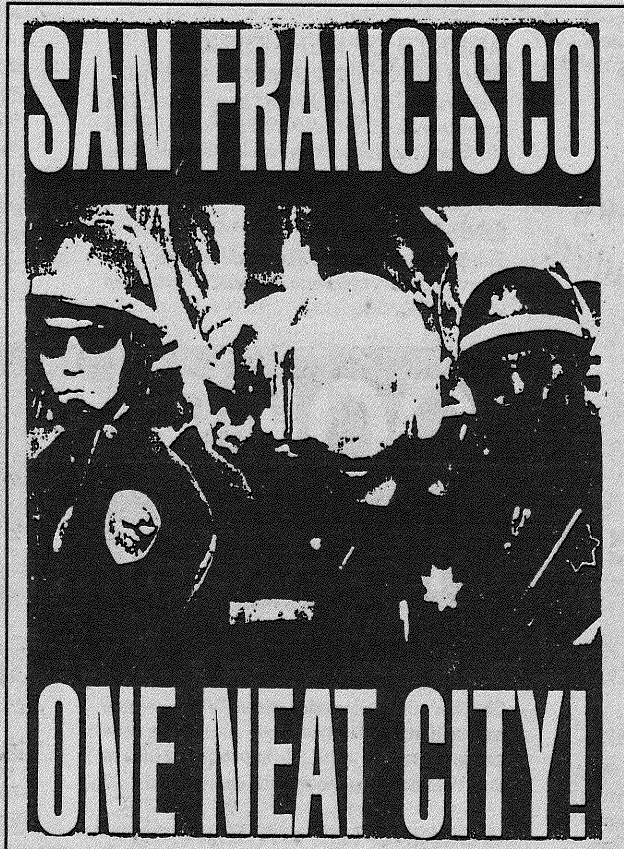
A week later, the city council fired Hongisto. Jordan promptly offered to hire him back in some other administrative position. Recall petitions against mayor Jordan started circulating.

Were Jordan and Hongisto merely looking for an excuse to upstage the news from LA, by provoking a riot? Or did they simply prefer to attack unarmed pacifists, to look as if they were doing their job, rather than face angry crowds armed with rocks and bottles?

Beyond California, the riots have exposed a deep rift in American society. The gap between haves and have-nots grows more visible as the depression worsens, and the riots have drawn sharp attention to it. Police departments everywhere are divided over questions of racism, due force, and the corruptions of excess. The military is unhappy with Bush's decision to use them against American citizens on American soil. Citizens everywhere are growing bitterly cynical about police, law and government itself.

As for the rioters, only a hard-core racist would say they weren't provoked, and only a fool would say they didn't do serious harm to their enemy. They *hurt* the oppressive governments. They exposed local police as bigots, bullies, cowards and incompetents. They made it clear that, as that slogan on so many scorched LA walls predicted, there'll be no peace without justice.

Not a bad weekend's work for an unorganized, untrained crowd. Purely on tactical success, we have to rate this: rioters 1, government 0.



of how the LAPD behaved after the riot was over and the danger past: the police, now backed up with National Guard and Army troops, cordoned off the ghetto and went from house to house, breaking down doors, handcuffing and beating the inhabitants, "confiscating" any property that looked new or valuable, and all guns - legal or not, new or old - on the excuse of "recovering loot." News media did briefly report a boast by Chief Gates that his men had "recovered" an entire warehouse full of "loot," but never mentioned how his men could tell looted goods from legal property. There was no mention of the group lawsuits over those "confiscations" which community organizations began putting together before the raids were half finished.

This sudden freedom of information followed quickly by muzzling could not favorably impress the viewers. It only exposed the growing gulf between media reporters and management.

In San Francisco, news interviews were mostly back-of-the-lines, rehearsed, official and safe. Most of the demonstration and riot coverage was done from helicopters, having little if any contact with people on the ground. Ironically, this treatment showed the contrast between masses of unchecked rioters looting unguarded stores, and masses of police attacking unarmed demonstrators and bystanders on the street.

The day after the first demonstration,

The following resolutions were adopted by the 1991 IWW General Assembly:

1. "The 1991 IWW General Assembly re-affirms the IWW's opposition to all forms of human oppression, including but not necessarily limited to those based on race, ethnicity, gender, nationality, creed, age, physical ability or sexual orientation."
2. "While the IWW gives its full support to international cooperation between workers, the IWW declares its opposition to the Free Trade Agreements between the governments of Canada, the United States and Mexico. These agreements have highlighted the inequalities that exist among workers internationally, and therefore we find that our best response is to organize workers internationally. We support direct action taken by workers in opposition to these agreements."
3. "On the occasion of the Columbus Day Quincentennial, we endorse the sovereignty of all indigenous peoples and are in solidarity with groups opposing 500 years of Eurocentric colonialism."
4. "In addition to the exploitation of labor, industrial society creates wealth by exploiting the Earth and non-human species only for their economic usefulness to humans. This has created such an imbalance that the life support systems of the Earth are on the verge of collapse. The working class bears the brunt of this degradation by being forced to produce, consume, and live in the toxic environment created by this abuse. Human society must recognize that all beings have a right to exist for their own sake, and that humans must learn to live in balance with the rest of Nature. This will only be accomplished when the working class takes control of human production and redirects it to the long-term benefit of all, rather than the short-term profit of a few."

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