



COMMUNITY RIGHTS OVER PROPERTY RIGHTS

The Fight Against Shut-Downs

Private property rights have been challenged by community rights in a Michigan court ruling that because General Motors made promises to get tax breaks it cannot shut down the Willow Run Assembly Plant. Judge Donald Shelton wrote, "There would be a gross inequity and patent unfairness if General Motors, having lulled the people of the Ypsilanti area into giving up millions of tax dollars which they so desperately need to educate their children and provide basic governmental services is allowed to simply decide that it will desert 4,500 workers and their families because it thinks it can make these same cars a little cheaper somewhere else."

"General Motors is scared," says township attorney Douglas Winters who argued the case. "They've made these promises all over the country. Why else would a community give them money other than for a promise of jobs? They told the judge they'd have trouble all over the place if he didn't rule in their favor."

The judge has not only stopped GM from moving (for now) but also asserted the rights of community over the rights of private property. The decision states, "The relationship of government and industry in this country is necessarily one of conflict, for it is the purpose of government to provide for the common welfare of all and it is the antithetical purpose of an industry to strive solely for the profit of its owners."

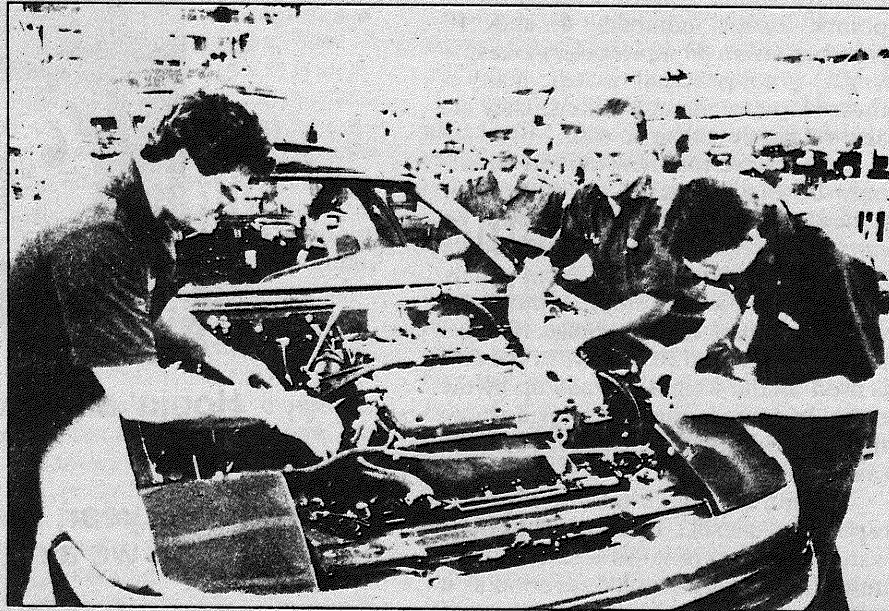
The township had standing to bring suit because it was the entity which had been promised something. Obviously in many places local government is under the thumb of big business and wouldn't bring such a suit.

GM has repeatedly claimed confidence in getting the injunction overturned in a higher court and on May 3rd gave official notice, under federal law, of its intent to close the plant this summer.

THE LEGAL ARGUMENT

The judge ruled that there was no "contract" between the township and the corporation. The judge however ruled in favor of the townships claims under the principle of "promissory estoppel." This means that the township and the company have an ongoing relationship in which the township has a right to expect the company to fulfill its promises and the township can use the courts to enforce those promises.

Two Federal Courts in the past have refused to apply the doctrine of promissory estoppel to prevent plant closings. Judge Shelton found however, "Neither of those situations involved specific representations which were made as an inducement for a local government to approve a tax abatement. More important, in each of those situations, the corporation was simply closing a plant because it was economically necessary to close it and the courts concluded that the company never promised to operate a plant when there was no demand for its product. Here, General Motors has stipulated, as it must, that economic necessity is not a defence. Again, General Motors is not closing this plant because there is no demand for the cars which are made there. It simply has chosen to transfer the one shift of production of those cars at Willow Run to add a new third shift at another plant in Arlington, Texas."



An April decision by the Michigan Supreme Court in an entirely different case upheld the concept of promissory estoppel in the state. That decision makes it unlikely that a state court will overturn Judge Shelton's ruling. GM will then turn to the Federal Courts, perhaps claiming the power to regulate interstate commerce is a federal rather than state concern. Attorneys on the workers side are confident, however, that GM's case, this time at least, is so weakened by what went on in the initial trial that the township will win the appeal.

The short term effect is to keep 4500 jobs at the Willow Run plant. The more broad effects may be to apply the brakes on companies heading south of the Rio Grande.

Staughton Lynd, a legal services attorney in Youngstown Ohio, organized the filing of numerous friend of the court briefs and has provided solidarity to the workers and township. Lynd worked to develop a similar community property right claim versus US Steel when that corporation disinvested from the Mahoning Valley. Lynd told John Borsos (in a recent *Nation* article) that in regards to GM's tax deals around the country: "We think that GM should be required to live up to all its promises to communities. If that means putting GM into receivership, so that GM's assets can be administered for the benefit of the communities to which it has made promises, so be it."

TAX GIVE AWAYS & FLEEING CAPITAL

The sprawling factory complex around the Willow Run Airport was where Ford built thousands of bombers during World War II, spurring the migration of thousands of people from Appalachia. General Motors now has two facilities there: Hydra-Matic employing about 9500 hourly workers and the Willow Run Assembly Plant which employs about 4500.

GM's recent investment strategy has been to pit one community against another in granting tax breaks, infrastructure improvements and other forms of corporate dole. The extent that a "host" community responds to this blackmail determines the extent of GM investments in that "host" community.

In 1974 Chrysler Corporation was on the economic ropes. Michigan's conservative Democratic governor and obedient

legislature passed the "Plant Rehabilitation and Industrial Development Districts Act" which became the primary mechanism for direct government subsidies to the auto industry. The first prize handed out was \$50,000,000 to Chrysler for the Mack Avenue stamping plant where 5000 worked until Chrysler closed it in 1980.

GM hit the dole running, quickly inviting Ypsilanti township officials to the plant for "informal workshops" on creating a "Development District" for the Willow Run-Hydra-Matic complex. Since 1975 GM has received 122 local tax abatements on its facilities in Michigan.

World wide economic changes affected the auto industry heavily by the early 1970s. Ypsilanti Township was eager to preserve jobs. It negotiated 1.3 billion dollars in local tax abatements for GM which led to 250 million dollars in capital improvements at Willow Run. The Township believed that in return they had gotten a promise from GM to employ at least 4,000 workers at Willow Run through the year 2003.

The modernization had seemingly "paid off" - a recent world wide auto industry survey found Willow Run to be the fourth most productive auto assembly plant. GM admitted in the court case that there was no economic hardship in keeping the plant open.

In 1991 GM announced it would close twenty-one plants and eliminate 74,000 jobs over the next few years. The strategy of not specifying which plants would close pitted workers making the same product in different plants against each other. Competition between union locals developed to see which could grant the giant corporation the most concessions. This practice, known as "whipsawing", reflects the UAW's dropping of industry wide pattern bargaining and complete lack of a strategy of class solidarity.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The 1992 announcement that Willow Run would be shut down sent shock waves through the already depressed community. GM would move production to Arlington Texas which has a weaker union tradition, is closer to Mexico (from which the auto companies are the top three exporters), and where the union local offered deeper concessions on work rules and shift scheduling.

Citizens throughout the township have mobilized around the "We Support Wil-

low Run" campaign. People understand this to mean: "We will not be another Flint". Flint, 50 miles north and the original home of GM, was devastated by plant closings in recent years. The NAACP, other unions, the local chamber of commerce and many others are rallying around the lawsuit. The con-game pulled by GM strikes people as foul while the victims are everyone's neighbor, cousin, customer and self.

Hydra-Matic worker Howard Stewart cautions that this won't be a rerun of an earlier struggle to keep a GM plant open near Los Angeles. "It's not Van Nuys. That was the last auto plant in California so people could understand boycott as a weapon. Here there's still a bunch of plants and a fear that they could be shut down too."

Wes Prater, Ypsilanti Township Supervisor, took the political lead in getting the Township to challenge GM. A fireman and union activist for over 25 years Prater has never thought that what was good for GM was particularly good for him and other working people.

During 1981 tax break hearings Prater made clear his lack of trust in corporate promises. The Willow Run plant manager responded in a letter to the township board which said, "we are dedicated to retain and/or increase jobs at Ypsilanti and will maintain the dedication in the future. We intend to keep this facility a viable operation for the community and General Motors." In 1988 GM applied for an abatement running until 2003, explaining in its application that although no new jobs would be added, 4000 jobs "will be retained as a result of the project." During a public hearing a GM spokesperson read a prepared statement that promised, "Upon completion of this project and favorable market demand, it will allow Willow Run to continue production and maintain profitable employment for our employees."

Facing widespread public pressure the local government filed a lawsuit against GM. Douglas Winters, the Township attorney, organized the legal strategy. Winters grew up in a neighborhood across the freeway from the plant. His father had been president of UAW Local 157.

Winters' strategy included a five count complaint against GM and a reliance upon local courts to provide injunctive relief. The important point which the township won on - and which should be possible to win on in other localities - is the claim that it was reasonable for the community to expect the corporation to fulfill its promises even though there is not a written "contract." The decision to file in the state rather than federal courts was important.

The challenge that the community of Ypsilanti confronted Judge Shelton with was, "do the property rights of a corporation out weigh the rights of a community which relied upon promises made by that corporation?" For the time being, in Ypsilanti, the rights of the community outweigh the rights of capitalist private property.

WHERE IS THE UAW?

The response of the "international" UAW, not only to this crisis in one community, but to the larger crisis in the auto industry has been pathetic.

The historic roots of this are fairly clear: born out of the massive sitdown



Bingo Management Begins Talks With IWW Job Shop --X341341

After a long hard fight, the management of a bingo hall in Allentown Pennsylvania has finally opened talks with representatives of the IWW IU 630, Entertainment Workers to explore the possibility of ending their long-running labor dispute. The IU 630 Job Branch and the Lehigh Valley General Membership Branch have been waging a bitter 10-month struggle to unionize workers at Boulevard Bingo, which employs about 15 part-time workers.

Boulevard Bingo is run by 2 nonprofit organizations as a fundraiser: The Pennsylvania Association of Songwriters, Composers and Lyricists (PASCAL) was formed to provide resources for struggling songwriters, while the Allied Air Force carries out restoration work on historic aircraft. The bingo hall is managed on behalf of both organizations by John Havassy, PASCAL President, along with his wife Charlene.

In January '92, management attempted to impose a new set of work rules on the employees, including such absurdities as mandatory drug testing and strip searches. In response, the bingo workers began to explore the possibility of forming a union, but were turned down by 2 AFL-CIO unions on the grounds that the workplace was "too small". When Havassy found out about the organizing effort, however, he retaliated in typical boss fashion, with a campaign of harassment and intimidation. Between February and June, 4 bingo workers were fired for being "troublemakers."

Things came to a head in mid-June after yet another worker was fired for her organizing activities. In response, 5 workers walked off the job and picketed to demand the re-instatement of their Fellow Workers. All 5 were locked out and fired. Havassy expected the workers, all but 2 of whom were women, would simply give up and go home. Instead all 10 fired workers affiliated with the IWW, which filed charges on their behalf with the National Labor Relations Board, set up a continuous picket line, and called for a boycott against the bingo hall.

In response, management hired an expensive union-busting law firm from Philadelphia. After trying and failing to obtain a court injunction against the picket, management turned to more violent methods and physical threats. Scabs tried to run their cars into picketers, and Charlene Havassy rammed her truck into one IWW organizer's car (while he was still in it).

In late September, the NLRB issued a merit finding on the IWW's charges,

concluding that Boulevard Bingo had illegally fired the 10 workers to prevent organizing activity, and ordering that all 10 workers be re-instated with full back wages, an amount that is now somewhere in the neighborhood of \$60,000. Havassy reluctantly re-instated 5 to their jobs. After the finding was issued, however, management informed the IWW that they did not intend to comply, and instead escalated the conflict by altering the work rules to force union supporters to quit their jobs. Pro-union workers who had never received a disciplinary notice in years suddenly began receiving 10-15 warnings a day. Within weeks 2 of the re-instated workers were "indefinitely suspended" while another was locked in a room and forced to sign a paper saying she had quit her job.

The Union responded with a new series of NLRB charges, and began cultivating sympathetic contacts within the board of directors and memberships of the 2 nonprofit groups that own the bingo hall. The bingo hall also began to experience an increasing number of creative incidents which crippled operations and forced management to hire round-the-clock security. By the end of October, it looked like management was about to cry "Uncle." Management's attorney contacted the NLRB with a settlement offer and, to prove his "good faith" had 5 more of the fired workers returned to their jobs. Instead, Havassy arrogantly decided to ignore the advice of his attorney and act on his own, and fired all the re-instated workers again within 2 days.

In March '93, the NLRB issued a formal complaint against Havassy, charging him with numerous violations of Federal labor law, including illegally firing workers who were trying to unionize, illegally altering work conditions to discourage union activity, interfering with NLRB investigation by trying to intimidate witnesses, and illegally retaliating against workers who have filed charges or testified to the NLRB. The Feds also announced they would support the IWW's request for an "Order to Bargain," which would force Havassy to recognize the IWW and negotiate a contract with the workers. The court date for these hearings has been set in front of an Administrative Law Judge for June 1.

By this point, the IWW had managed to focus an enormous amount of pressure on the bingo bosses. Not only did the Havassys have the NLRB breathing down their necks, but our campaign attracted the attention of the Lehigh County District Attorney, the Pennsylvania Bingo Commission, the

IRS and the EEOC, all of whom have active investigations concerning Boulevard Bingo. The entire Board of Directors of PASCAL has gone over to the union, and Havassy has been forced to remove uncooperative board members. Havassy has been fighting bitterly with his wife, his business partner and even his lawyer over how to deal with the union. When PASCAL's attorney began to explore the possibility of replacing John and Charlene as bingo managers, he promptly vanished from the scene and was replaced by another lawyer from Philadelphia. Allied Air Force, meanwhile, has disassociated itself from Havassy and hired its own attorney. Even the scab workers who are running the hall during the strike are now firm union sympathizers.

Management Lawyers Ask for Talks

By the last week of March, the pressure became too much for the bingo owners to bear. For the first time in this long conflict, management representatives asked to talk face to face with union representatives. Attorneys for both PASCAL and Allied Air Force contacted the Lehigh Valley IWW with offers to talk about a settlement agreement if we would withdraw the charges. PASCAL's attorney offered to pay all of the fired workers full back pay, but didn't want to offer any of them reinstatement to their jobs. Allied Air Force, on the other hand, was willing to reinstate everybody, but didn't want to pay any back wages. Both organizations were willing to grant union recognition to the IWW, although PASCAL insisted we would "represent" the scab workers running the hall, rather than the IWW members who had been illegally fired.

Needless to say, the IWW and the Job Shop promptly informed both attorneys that their offers were nonsense. We also educated the lawyers to the fact that we were the IWW, not some trade union, and we would do nothing to sell out any of the striking workers (PASCAL's lawyer, when told we would not abandon the striking workers in favor of the scab workers, plaintively inquired, "Why not? They will pay the same dues money to you!"). They immediately offered to come up with a new proposal and meet with us again in mid-April.

The Boulevard Bingo Job Shop at this point seems to be in a very good position. Given the abundant proof of extensive illegalities committed by management, it is a virtual certainty that, in June, an Administrative Law

Judge will order management to reinstate all of the workers and give them full back pay. It is also likely that we will receive a Bargaining Order. Therefore we stand to win everything we have been fighting for, merely by sitting back and waiting for the Judge to do the paperwork.

At the same time, however, we hope we can avoid all the delays which would result from appeals and legal haggling, so we plan to continue our discussions with the boss's lawyers towards a settlement deal, with the understanding that any deal will be made on our terms. At this point, we are willing to talk about giving in on some points (perhaps we will accept 80% or 90% of back pay instead of 100%), but we have made it crystal clear to management that any such favors will only be given in return for very favorable contract terms and work rules.

Despite our strong position at present, this fight won't be over until we have the boss's signature on a union contract. Havassy has offered to make a settlement deal in the past, only to promptly renege on the agreement and escalate the conflict. The latest talks may be merely another way for Havassy to delay the inevitable. So it's not time for us to start celebrating yet.

The IU 630 Job Shop needs to remain on a "war footing." The most serious problems we face are financial. Unemployment benefits for most of the fired workers will expire early this summer. We have been able to stand up to Boulevard Bingo so far, but if we are to continue we must overcome huge financial pressures. The fired workers still have bills and rent to pay. Now more than ever, we need contributions to our Solidarity Fund. PLEASE SEND WHATEVER YOU CAN TO THE LEHIGH VALLEY GMB, TO HELP THE STRIKING BINGO WORKERS!!! If a number of individual Fellow Wobblers could "adopt-a-striker" by sending a small amount (maybe ten or twenty bucks?) each month to the strike fund, that would go a long way towards giving us the means to continue to fight Havassy until we win. So, before you send money to this or that magazine or organization, remember those of us in the IWW who are fighting the good fight.

"Perhaps in choosing to become involved with the IWW we have chosen to care for others around us"

--Tina Gaffney,
Bingo Worker



Web Notes on Labor Notes Conference

Wobblers from Wisconsin, New York, Illinois, Ontario, Pennsylvania and Michigan staffed a popular lit table at the recent Labor Notes conference at Dearborn Michigan. The large size of the conference (about 1000 people) means holding it at large hotels. This added a touch of irony as the unionized hotel used this year sits on Ford Motor Company land—surrounded by Henry Fords old mansion, Ford world headquarters, and the huge River Rouge industrial complex.

The conference was more rank and file than previous ones. Workers with work clothes and oily knuckles exchanged views with better dressed staffers from many unions. The experiences folks told us about at the IWW table and discussed in conference sessions were a bit more radical, as were their goals and willingness to take risks.

The *Industrial Worker* was well received. People would get a copy or two then come back and get more to take home to friends. Both our regular news and analysis, and the new *Wage Slave* section were praised. The New Directions (UAW) people from the Willow Run plant took a bundle of 200 for distribution in the factory the "Space Aliens Capture Michigan Auto Plant" article is about.

IWW member Mike Konopacki was a co-leader of a lively and involving session called "Give Your Boss an Art Attack." Mike joined Gary Huck, Julie McCall, Ricardo Morales in sharing what they do applying cultural tools to organizing challenges. First they shared some examples of humor, art, and song being used to rally the workers and bother the boss. Everyone then focused on struggles individuals were involved in, and in both large and small groups produced materials and strategies that could be used at home. This egalitarian and involving style of workshop showed clearly that real labor educators involve their fellow workers rather than claiming (boss-like) that workers cannot understand analysis and don't care about politics, just pork chops.

Overall a good time. We made good contacts, raised lots of money for the IWW clearinghouse, had a good time, and heard from scores of labor movement activists that they're glad the IWW is still here, as one said, "reminding us that what it's really all about is class struggle and that this is a class war."

X332090

NYGMB Meets in New York City

X341883-- The NYGMB of the IWW met in New York City on April 10 to conduct local business and formulate future plans.

"We have a very low level of visibility," Paul Poulos said; the 14-year member wanted to address the group's direction. "What could we do to give the branch some focus?" Poulos queried FWs.

Brian Mahoney, corresponding secretary and the day's facilitator, pointed to the declining membership as a product of the times. The New York delegation's numbers, in terms of members in good standing, have averaged 15-20 over the last few years. Recent totals of up to 60 or 70 card-carrying, but inactive WOBS points out a high rate of turnover and a certain lack of direction. Perhaps new members might provide a clue.

"What do you get out of this?" veterans asked of their newly associated counterparts. George Mac Larty said the IWW speaks to his conscience with ideas he didn't find in his former

rounds as a New York City policeman. Now a teacher, Mac Larty's place among "conservative educators" is more easily tolerated with a red card. "The IWW soothes my spirit, now... today." Mac Larty said he was eager to get more directly involved with union work now that he has seen the faces, and the determination of the other members to stay with the IWW and what it stands for. "My politics are bound up in the IWW," Poulos added, true to the historic mission of our union.

Members set a timetable for nominations and elections and brainstormed organizing tactics and ideas. Paul Poulos and Greg Giorgio talked about their reform efforts in Teamsters and AFSCME locals where they work and agitate. Their efforts are somewhat symbolic of the Branch. Without active job shops, and with a small membership spread statewide, they bring WOBBLY words and deeds to bear where they can.

As the NYGMB prepares to address the future, they are reminded of their heritage. At the heart of "any great social change," Poulos reminded his FWs, "you'll find a WOBBLY."

International Solidarity Notes

Guatemala

Guatemalan Textile Workers Need Solidarity

Guatemalan maquila workers who produce clothing for U.S. firms are increasingly fed up with low pay and abusive conditions and are fighting for their basic rights. Workers at several plants have asked for solidarity. In contacting US companies, underscore that the objective is not closing plants in Guatemala and costing workers their jobs but ensuring economic justice and respect for workers' rights.

Phillips-Van Heusen Workers at two Phillips-Van Heusen plants have tried for two years to form a union. During this time, PVH has fired union supporters, threatened to close the plants, and issued death threats. Last fall, the government recognized the PVH union, making it the first maquila union recognized in six years.

Now workers report that PVH is again threatening union supporters and telling the union it will not negotiate. PVH is also reportedly threatening to close the Guatemalan plants if the solidarity campaign continues. Van Heusen clothing is also being produced at notorious East-West (see below).

The U.S.-Guatemala Labor Education Project asks that people contact PVH Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Larry Phillips. Urge that PVH supervisors immediately cease endangering supporters by calling them communists, that PVH respect internationally-recognized worker rights, that it recognize the union, negotiate with it in good faith and sign a contract, that it pledge not to close its operations in response to the campaign or the union, and that it hold East-West accountable for adhering to Guatemalan labor law, to internationally-recognized worker rights, and to the PVH code of conduct for business partners. Contact: PVH, 1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY 10104. Send copies to: Labor Officer, U.S. Embassy in Guatemala, APO Miami 34024.

They also suggest contacting companies which contract with PVH to provide them with apparel, asking them to urge PVH CEO Larry Phillips to respond to these requests: W.R. Howell, CEO, J.C. Penney Company, Box 659000, Dallas TX 75265-9000. Richard Anderson, CEO, Lands' End, Lands' End Lane, Dodgeville WI, 53595. Norm Poole, CEO, LL Bean, Casco St., Freeport ME 04033.

East-West Workers at the Korean-owned plant East-West are paid \$2-3 a day and subjected to frequent physical and sexual abuse (hitting workers and requiring sexual favors), unsanitary conditions (no ventilation and refusing to provide clean drinking water), forced and unpaid overtime and discrimination against

pregnant women. In December, over 500 workers occupied the factory in protest against the illegal firing of workers who tried to form a union. That occupation led in reinstatement of the fired unionists and a promise of no reprisals, but the company has not recognized the union. EW produces apparel for U.S. companies including Wal-Mart, The Gap, Sears, Arnold Palmer, Jordache and Bon Jour, as well as Van Heusen "417" shirts. Now is the critical time for an international response, before the collusion of Guatemalan government and business reduces union supporters to a minority, as has occurred at other factories.

Under the new labor law, union recognition is in the hands of the labor minister, who is required to act on the application within 20 days. The EW application was filed November 23. Urge Mario Solorzano, Minister of Labor, to immediately approve the personalidá juridica (application for union recognition) at Este-Oeste. Ministro de Trabajo, 14 Calle 5-49, Zone 1, Guatemala, Guatemala. Fax: 502-2-511559. Please also write the following companies for whom EW produces clothing, urging them to tell EW that failure to end worker abuse, pay a liveable wage and respect workers' rights could jeopardize future contracts: David Glass, CEO, Wal-Mart, 702 SW Eighth St., Bentonville AR 72716. Joe Nakash, Jordache Enterprises, 498 Seventh Ave., New York NY 10018. Donald Fisher, CEO, The Gap, #1 Harrison St., San Francisco CA 94105. Messages of support can be sent to the workers c/o Jorge Galindo, CGTG, 8a Avenida 3-38, Zone 1, Guatemala, Guatemala.

A Guatemalan Maquila Worker Support Day was set for May 22, targeting PVH retail outlets as well as targets in support of the East-West workers. If you'd like to help organize an event, contact US/GLEP, c/o ACTWU, 333 S. Ashland Ave., Chicago IL 60607. Fellow Workers interested in mounting a local campaign might also want to contact the IWW's Lehigh Valley Branch, which has been working around this issue for more than a year.

ENGLAND

Quickie Strikes Rock Government: On April 15, the country's mine union and two rail unions staged a one-day strike. The action shut down Britain's 11,000-mile rail system, including commuter trains in and out of London, and closed more than half the country's mines.

The strike came on the heels of a similar action April 2. That strike, which also involved London bus drivers, paralyzed the British transport system. Firefighters and schoolteachers have also threatened to walk out.

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY CELEBRATED AROUND WORLD

Million of workers throughout the world marked May Day with celebrations, protests and demonstrations.

In Seoul, South Korea, 20,000 workers rallied for economic reforms in the country's first legal May Day celebration in 35 years.

The General Federation of Peruvian Workers, which represents nearly all unionized workers in Peru, used its May Day demonstrations to protest continuing government attacks on Peruvian workers' most basic rights. Some 850,000 workers have lost their jobs in the past three years, and more than half of all public sector workers have been fired. The Fujimori government has scrapped job security protections and frozen the minimum monthly wage at 37 dollars—enough to subsist for five days, according to union figures.

Police with clubs attacked people leaving a demonstration of 20,000 called by the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions in Istanbul, Turkey.

In Japan, over 3 million workers and their families attended rallies around the country that protested growing job insecurity.

In South Africa, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and other organizations held demonstrations across the country, to kick off a month of rallies, boycotts, sit-ins and other actions to back demands for democracy.

May Day demonstrations held in Madrid and every other major city in Spain protested soaring unemployment.

The Central Organization of Swedish Workers (SAC) issued a May Day appeal calling on workers to organize to confront the crisis facing the country: "Everywhere today there is talk of crisis, and indeed there is a crisis when the unemployed are forced to pay the withering speculations of the banks and the big export companies are allowed to escape taxes so that we can't afford decent care for our elders, our sick and our kids... Indeed there is a crisis when [employers] are given the right to sack people who can't put up with the high working tempo or those who dare criticize the company..."

"And indeed there is a crisis when we don't think we can afford to provide sanctuary for people who have to run for their lives... and when we permit that people starve to death while there are economic possibilities to provide nations with well-equipped armies.

"Indeed there is a crisis.

"The basic problems, though, are: That those [in power] are in fact not interested in resolving it. The people in power exist because crises occur now and then. That ordinary people have no power over their lives and their reality, which ought to be their basic right.

"The basic crisis is that those who the crisis concerns do not yet have the power to resolve it. Let us take control of that power together."

Get to Know Fellow Workers in Russia

KAS-KOR issues a monthly English-language digest (also available in French or Spanish) of labor news from Russia and other parts of the former Soviet Union; a one-year subscription is \$30 payable to: KAS-KOR, c/o Credit Lyonnais 739 98HA depots 215 569L, Agence Paris-Daumesnil-456 2, Place Felix-Eboue, 75012 Paris, France). It can be sent by post, electronic mail or by fax, and a copy is posted on PeaceNet's reg.ussr conference. PeaceNet can be contacted at (415) 442-0220.

Also useful is the quarterly *SMOT Information Bulletin* issued in Paris on behalf of the Free Inter-professional Workers Union, founded in 1979. A quarterly subscription is \$22.50 from Alexander Chukayev, SMOT, 145 rue Amelot, 75011 Paris. The KAS-KOR digest features short reports of recent struggles, the SMOT bulletin translates leaflets and discussion pieces from the labor, anarchist and sympathetic movements.

Substantial excerpts from both publications are included in the quarterly (more or less) *East European News*, issued by the Workers Solidarity Alliance (\$5, 339 Lafayette St. #202, New York NY 10012). The current issue runs 52 pages. The *Libertarian Labor Review* (Box 762, Cortland NY 13045) regularly reports on Russian syndicalism. And the occasional *Mother Anarchy* (by donation from Laure Akai, Box 500, Moscow 6/61 107061) offers a rather different, highly personalized account of the Russian situation by an American presently working there. The first issue discusses the evolution of anarchist ideas in Russia, reprints 2 pages of Russian jokes, and critiques the unfortunate tendency to idealize the American situation. [JB]



Puchkanev/Komsomolskaya Pravda/Moscow

SWEDEN

International Women's Day Strike: Members of the Central Organization of Swedish Workers (SAC) called a one-day strike March 8 to protest lower salaries, discrimination in promotions, cut backs in social services, restrictions against strikes in the predominantly female social service industries, lower pension benefits and sexual harassment. Hundreds of women joined the strike in Stockholm, particularly at the post office.

The SAC also reports that its postal workers section is combatting management speed-up efforts—many of which are being put in place in violation of government regulations. SAC members blockaded a new terminal where speed-up is particularly horrendous, and transferred all SAC members from that terminal to other workplaces. After SAC members threatened a strike against the state railway to protest management's refusal to allow them to bring union representatives to meetings, several members from the larger LO (Trade Union Confederation) transferred their membership to SAC. The LO has signed a no-strike pact with the Employers Confederation, and so many workers are now in need of a union willing to fight for their interests.

III. I. W. W.'S PRINCIPFÖRKLARING.

INLEDNING TILL I. W. W.'S KONSTITUTION.

Arbetarklassen och arbetsgivarclassen hava ingenting gemensamt. Det kan icke bliva någon fred, så länge miljoner av det arbetande folket leva i nöd och umbäranden, medan det fåtal, som utgöra överklassen hava allt detta livets goda.

Mellan dessa två klasser måste en strid pågå, tills hela världens arbetare organisera sig såsom klass, taga jorden och produktionsmaskineriet i besittning och avskaffa lönesystemet.

Vi finna, att centraliseringen av ledningen av industrierna på allt färre händer gör det omöjligt för yrkesförbunden att mäta sig med arbetsgivarclassens alltjämt växande makt. Yrkesförbunden äletra ett tillstånd, som tillåter en grupp av arbetare att komma i konflikt med en annan grupp inom samma industri, därigenom bidragande till ömsesidigt nederlag i lönestrider. Därjämte hjälpa yrkesförbunden arbetsgivarclassen att vilseleda arbetarklassen till den tron, att arbetarklassen har gemensamma intressen med arbetsgivarerna.

Dessa förhållanden kunna ändras, och arbetarklassens intressen upprätthållas endast genom en organisation så formad, att alla dess medlemmar inom en industri eller alla industrier, om nödvändigt, kunna nedläggas arbetet, närhelst en strejk eller lockout pågår i någon del därav, sålunda görande en oförrätt mot en till en oförrätt mot alla.

I stället för det konservativa valspråket: "En god daglön för ett gott dageverke", måste vi på vår fana nedskriiva det revolutionära mottot: "Bort med lönesystemet."

Det är arbetarklassens historiska uppgift att avskaffa kapitalismen. Produktionsarmén måste organiseras icke endast för de dagliga striderna mot kapitalister, utan även för att bedriva produktionen, när kapitalismen blivit störtad. Genom att organisera oss industriellt uppbygga vi det nya samhällsstruktur inom det gamla väggat.

ATES HIRSIZI – Turkish anarchist magazine

In December 1992, a group of Turkish anarchists began publishing "Ates Hirsizi" (Fire Thief), an anarchist magazine coming out of Istanbul, with articles mainly in Turkish, but with a few in English and Kurdish. In their own words: "[since] the Anarchist Social Movement does not have a background in Turkey, Kurdistan, and Middle East...we [lack] contacts with the continuing Anarchist movements of nowadays." The group would like to receive (especially English) reports of anarchist demos, actions, and discussions from around the world.

ATES HIRSIZI

Lodfarer Caddesi
Dr. Sevki Bey Sokak No. 4
2 Sultanahmet
Istanbul, TURKEY

(Arm The Spirit)

LANE

WAGE SLAVE

WORLD NEWS

TRASHY JOURNALISM FOR THE WORKING CLASS

JUNE, 1993

VOL. 4, NO. 3

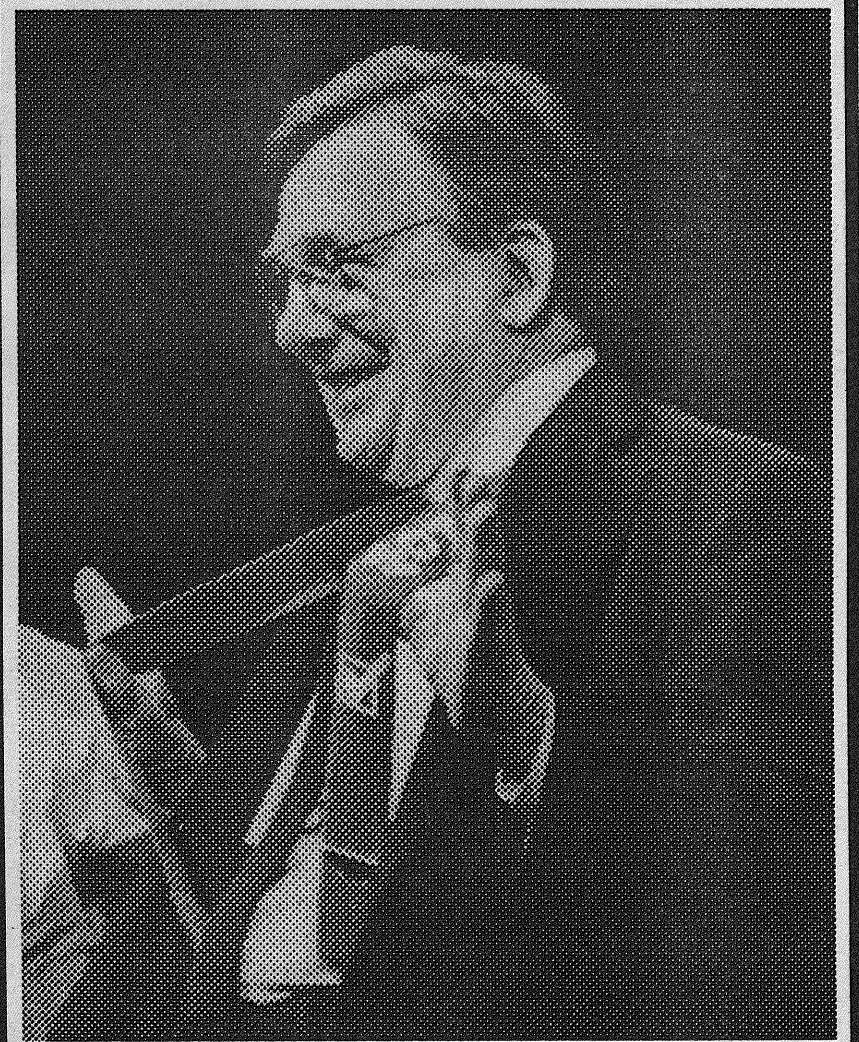
KIRKLAND

IS STILL

ALIVE!

**EXPERTS CLAIMED
HE'D BEEN DEAD
SINCE 1981!**

**AND HE
PROMISES
TO RUN FOR
RE-ELECTION
AS AFL-CIO
TOP DOG!**



**BLOCKBUSTER REPORT THAT
WILL SHOCK THE WORLD!**

Now you can work even if you're dead!

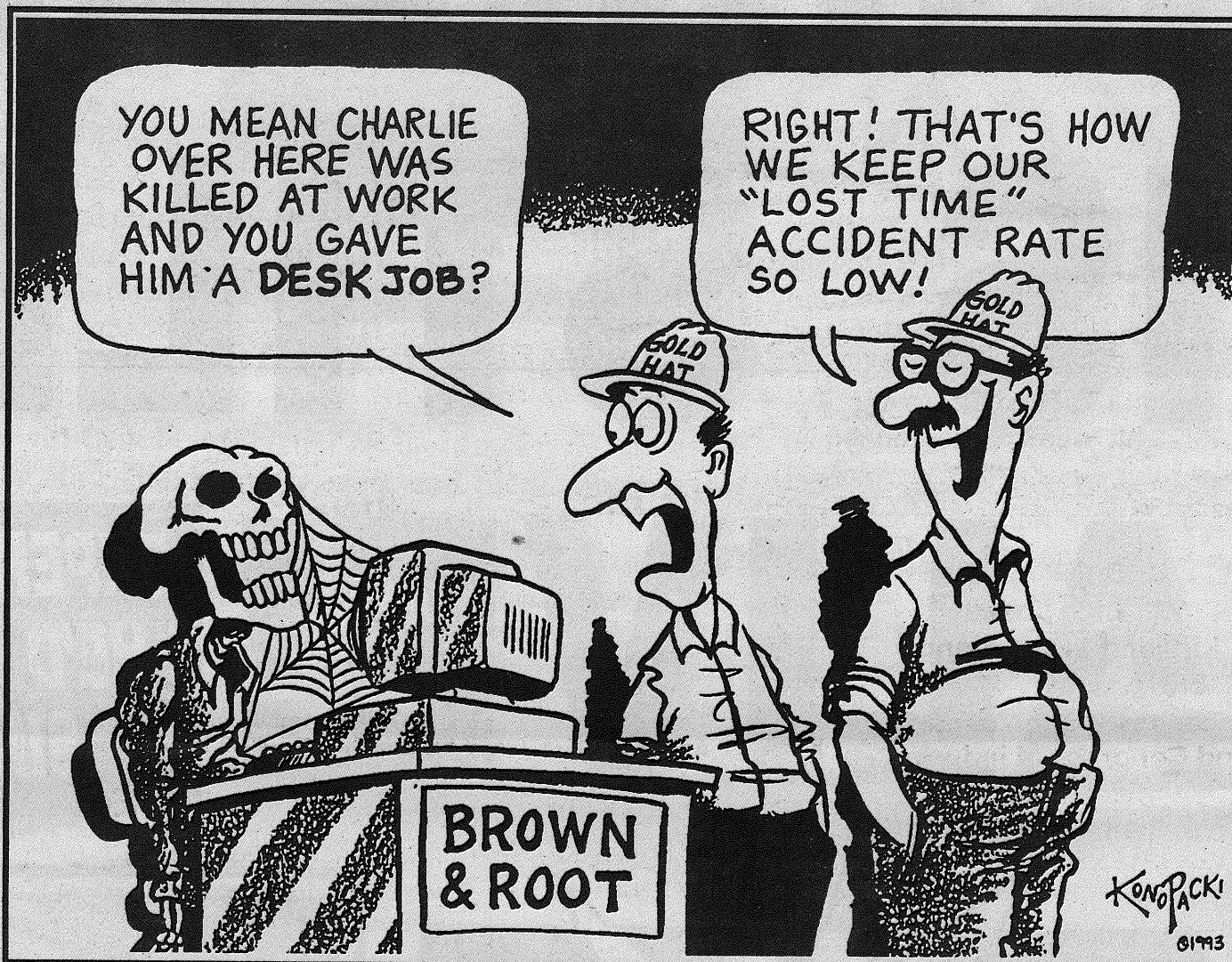
SCAB BUILDER HIRES CORPSES!

A SCAB CONSTRUCTION COMPANY is hiring dead workers to maintain its health and safety record!

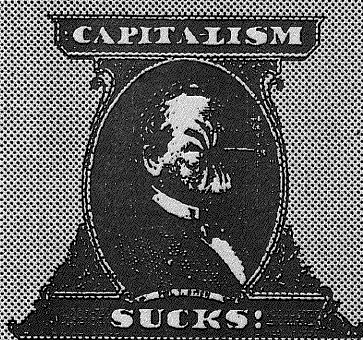
Brown & Root, a construction contractor that specializes in union-busting and hiring scabs, keeps injured and dead workers on the job to make its "lost time" accident rate appear low. "They have such lousy safety procedures that a record number of workers are killed or injured on the job each year," said one former employee.

Recently, Brown & Root was hired by three chemical companies in West Virginia to bust their construction unions. "It's an insidious plot," said one union organizer. "DuPont, Union Carbide and the French chemical giant Rhone Poulenc lay off their unionized construction crew and then Brown & Root hires the laid-off workers at scab wages."

Brown & Root brags that its safety record is one of the nation's best. They boast of "10 million man hours without a lost hour accident." But the way they accomplish this amazing feat is to take any worker who is hurt or killed on the job and give them desk jobs. "One guy cut his thumb off at the DuPont plant and the next day he had an office job and never lost a minute!" said one worker.



WAGE SLAVE WORLD NEWS



VOL. 4, NO. 3
JUNE, 1993

Official organ of the
Sensationalist Workers of
the World

Editor: Mike Konopacki
Writer: Jeff Ditz

This is a constitutionally
protected magazine of
political satire. Any
similarity to actual persons
is intentional.

U.S. working class kisses "Freedom" goodbye!

American workers removed the statue of "Armed Freedom" from the top of the nation's capitol building in Washington, DC and kissed it good-bye! "We said farewell to our freedom this morning," exclaimed Rick Mountjoy after he kissed the statue's cheek.

The 7-ton, 19-foot 6-inch statue was removed from its perch 268 feet above the ground by a helicopter.

Working class freedom has never been guaranteed for America's toilers, but over the last 12 years it has virtually disappeared. "We felt it only fitting to remove freedom from the top of the U.S. Capitol, since American workers don't have any to speak of anyway," said Mountjoy.

The workers who prepared the statue for its move from the top of the dome also pasted on the statue a large red, white and blue label which read: "We've been screwed!"



LANE KIRKLAND IS STILL ALIVE!!



The late Teamsters president Jackie Presser and AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland were photographed performing at the 1987 AFL-CIO convention.

**AFL-CIO
head is
not as
dead as
experts
claimed!**

MILLIONS OF PEOPLE THINK AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland is dead and gone, but officials of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) claim that he is still alive and living in Washington, DC!

Experts on the American labor movement claim that Kirkland faked his death soon after Ronald Reagan was elected president in 1980. "Since that time the AFL-CIO President seems to have gone into hiding," said one expert. "After absolutely nothing was done to help the PATCO strikers in 1981, the labor movement has declined precipitously. It's as if there was no leadership at all in the AFL-CIO."

Since Lane's "death" the unionized workforce has suffered devastating losses. In 1979, 17% of the private workforce was union. In 1992 only 11.8% remain.

Even public opinion polls seemed to confirm his death. According to one poll, only 3% of the American people knew who Lane Kirkland was.

"Lane had a dream," one labor expert explained. "A dream of a resurgent labor movement, with growing numbers, stronger organizations, deeper solidarity, and a voice that will be heard." But the expert explained that in order to dream the dreamer must be asleep. "To dream all these great dreams Lane felt he had to be in a deep sleep these many years."

Rex Hardesty, AFL-CIO director of information disputes the claims that Kirkland is dead. "Brother Kirkland has been photographed, tape-recorded and spot-

ted in limousines and luxury hotels all the across the United States." Hardesty verified this with dozens of grip-and-grin photos of Kirkland that appeared in the AFL-CIO News.

Even though Kirkland (or President-For-Life "Papa Doc" Kirkland, as some call him) is said to have announced his re-election to the AFL-CIO presidency, he isn't expected to come out of hiding anytime soon. Experts feel that the death of Communism has taken all

the steam out Brother Kirkland. "Anti-Communism was his reason to live," says one expert. "Now that Communism is dead, Lane might become even deader."

Anti-Communism was the life blood of the AFL-CIO. It spent inordinate amounts of time and money fighting the Communist Menace. For example, in 1988 the AFL-CIO spent \$33 million fighting the godless Commies. That was out of a total budget of \$77 million. "Foreign affairs expenditures are three

times what the AFL-CIO spends on organizing and 10 times what it spends on civil rights," the labor expert explained. "With no Commies to fight, we're not sure what the AFL-CIO will do with itself."

But AFL-CIO Director of Information Hardesty remains optimistic. "I've been expecting Brother Kirkland to go public for years now. This story may be just the thing to coax the late great labor leader out of hiding."



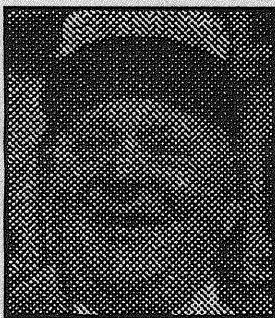
Labor experts claim that AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland (shown with UFCW head Bill Wynn, left) has been in a state of "suspended animation" since 1981.

Get the Power of Success with: The Golden Mask of Sam Gompers

Are you frustrated? Tired from a hard day slaving in the factory or office? Do you want out? Do you desire Privilege? Perks? Power? Prestige?

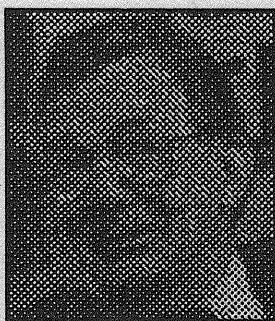
Are you a realist? Do you know that the class war is over and which side won? If you do, there's a great job as a full-time union staffer waiting for you. Real health benefits, a retirement plan that won't disappear in negotiations, and union staff don't take wage concessions or speed up. How do you get in on this wonderful deal? Read on.

Yes, my friends, all this and more can be yours with *The Golden Mask of Sam Gompers*. Our world famous Mask will change your life. You'll stop punching the clock and start gaining the rewards of a full-time activist -- a labor skate. Power and status will flow to you through intimidation and charisma. Opportunities will open up and you will be there to take them.



"The labor movement made me rich beyond my dreams. With the Mask I blasted the competition."

Jackie Presser
Teamsters
President,
ExPired



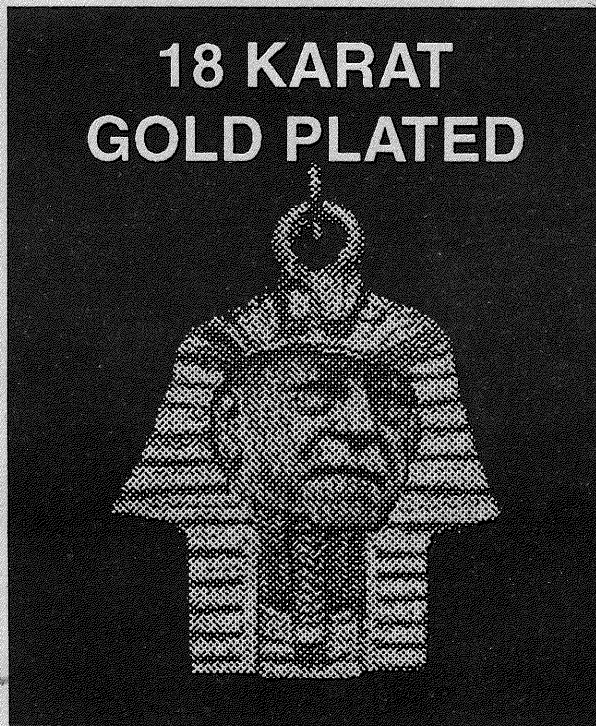
"The Mask is my secret to success. A great job hobnobbing with the rich and famous. Never having to smell a factory unless my chauffeur takes the wrong road."

Lane "Papa Doc" Kirkland
AFL-CIO
President for Life



"With the Mask clutched in my fist concessions become real opportunities for a guy like me. We've got Masks for the whole bargaining team. Cash too."

Owen "Concessions" Beiber
yoU Aint Working
President



START WINNING NOW!

Imagine: No more messy democracy or uppity rank and filers. Wage slaves will recognize you as the great leader you know you are. Solidarity won't trouble you as they become your solid voting block. When it comes to so-called "conflicts of interest" and perks and privileges, your new *Golden Mask of Sam Gompers* will keep trouble away. Everyone will hurriedly reassure themselves that you are an exception who could never be corrupted by anything, so protected you'll be free to do what you want to do.

Troubled with meetings where everyone wants to talk? A wave of your *Golden Mask of Sam Gompers* and only those you want to hear will be able to speak. When you speak, they'll never remember what you said, but they'll know you said it. And that it made everyone feel really good about you!

Our scientific field tests show that cynics have hope, realists wear rose-colored glasses, anarchists let you rule when you wear *The Golden Mask of Sam Gompers*. Even the most radical union members won't need principles when you give them passion and spectacle.

Remember, when you signed on at the factory, office or bus company how you wanted job security to provide for your family? Hah! If you really want security, join the union staff. Remember -- as long as one slave is tending the machines there'll be a staff at union headquarters. One of those life-time, well-paid, staff jobs can be yours!

Wearers of *The Golden Mask of Sam Gompers* control the means of communication in unions all over the country.



If you could reach all the members with your message, well, wouldn't they follow you anywhere?

Mask Wearers become experts of opportunity. Mask Wearers put their own famous and powerful faces on membership cards for everyone to see, their opinions on union-wide ballots, and put their family and friends on the payroll.

The Golden Mask of Sam Gompers comes complete with a well-illustrated, easy-to-read manual, "The Exclusive Gompers Opportunist Method and Secret Directions for Your Personal Use." These instructions bring the wisdom of the decades into the '90's for your new-age use. Don't let opportunity get away again. Make "solidarity" work for you.

.....
MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

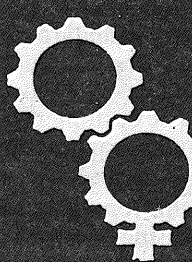
 If after using *The Golden Mask of Sam Gompers* for 30 days it does not give you the results you expect, return it and we'll see that you get your old factory or office job back. (If you haven't already conceded it to management.) This is your security guarantee.

Yes, please rush me *The Golden Mask of Sam Gompers* and opportunist instructions. I enclose \$25 for each Mask ordered. (Bulk discounts for cliques and caucuses.) Enclosed is my check or money order for \$ _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Support Bingo Workers

Lehigh Valley IWW GMB -- Solidarity Fund
PO Box 4133
Bethlehem PA 18018




WOMEN WORKERS' HISTORY

Chapter 74 Trouble in the City of Spindles

Priding itself as the "South's City of Spindles," Gastonia, North Carolina in the 1920s was the region's leading textile center — and the first to be controlled by Northern capital. The Manville-Jenckes mills were also the first to impose "stretch-out" — more production with fewer workers. A majority of the workers were women; as in Passaic (see Chapter 71) the mills wouldn't hire a man unless his wife was already working.

In early 1929, Gastonia workers met with Fred Beal and Ellen Dawson, veterans of the New Bedford strike (see Chapter 72), and decided to join the militant National Textile Workers Union (NTWU). Firings of union supporters provoked a walkout of some 1,700 of the 2,200 mill workers. Strikers drew up demands that included a five-day week, \$20 minimum weekly wage, equal pay for equal work, and lower rent and electricity charges in the company-owned housing.



The mill superintendent took only three minutes to reject the strikers' demands. Four days later, National Guardsmen patrolled the mills, their guns aimed at workers. Court injunctions made picketing illegal. Arrest meant a \$50 fine and 30 days on the chain gang.

"The strikers were clubbed and beaten in the streets and carted off to jail en masse," wrote observer Tom Tippet. "Their parades were broken up by force every day, and just as consistently the strikers would form again the following day to march, with full knowledge of what they were doing, into the clubs and rifles."

On the night of April 18, armed and masked men demolished the union headquarters and then broke into the Workers' International Relief store. They dumped food into the street and torched the building. When the troops finally showed up, they arrested Amy Schechter of Workers' International Relief and some of the strikers. Worse violence — and greater injustices — lay ahead.

(To Be Continued!)

No Justice, No Pizza! Workers Want Union! Boycott H&H Round Table!

On Saturday, 3 April, a boisterous, noisy demonstration was held at the Broadway/MacArthur Shopping Center in Oakland in support of a Union at H&H Round Table Pizza. 100 people gathered at the shopping center in solidarity with workers at Round Table, and with about 8 workers who have been fired for organizing activities.

According to Gabe Hernandez, an organizer for the Hotel Employees Restaurant Employees Local 28/50, (H.E.R.E.), several workers had been fired over the past 3 weeks, for simply wanting union representation. One woman with 5 years at Round Table, was recently fired for being a nickel over when she closed her cash register at the end of her shift. In another case, a woman AND her son, (working at separate restaurants), were fired for reasons as yet unclear, other than both were involved in Union Organizing.

Round Table is typical of "fast food eateries," in that it relies heavily on students to fill jobs. Because many of these student/workers are "part-time," they are viewed by management as easily manipulated and intimidated. Workers in these establishments are constantly harassed, threatened, and overworked, while constantly being told that they must be "positive" and "courteous" at ALL times. In addition to this, they are subjected to working conditions that would have outraged Eugene Debs, but yet, they are NOT covered by any Health Plan at all.

Along with a lack of a Health Plan, R/T workers don't have the benefits that many folks have come to take for granted, including job security. This is an area in the fast food industry which has long been a bone of contention in the throats of workers in the field.

Management has continuously used the "logic" that, well, after all, "...they're only kids, so we have to expect a lot of turnover." Sure, they'll get a lot of "turnover" when workers are treated like chattel slaves. So, compounding the problem is the lack of job security. For most of these Student/Workers, the low wages they earn in these places comprise the only income they get. Many can barely subsist. \$.25 an hour sure ain't a whole lot, even at 40 hours a week.

It should be clear by now that Round Table workers NEED, as well as WANT the Union. By getting the Union, they will set a precedent, not only for themselves, but for the ENTIRE fast food industry. It will say to Corporate management that Student/Workers have had ENOUGH! Show Solidarity with Round Table Workers by boycotting H&H Round Table.

While H&H "owns" Round Table Pizza, not ALL Round Tables are run by H&H. Some are "independent," although they follow the corporate "line" as far as "policy" is concerned. Therefore, boycotting BOTH Round Table and H&H will undeniably convey the message-- UNION NOW!!!

As soon as possible, a list of H&H subsidiaries will be forthcoming. Let's hit 'em hard.

--Dave Collins X340864

Mid Atlantic Anarchist Gathering 1993

PO Box 31889, Philadelphia PA 19104
Date: July 30-August 2
Location: The Lea School, 48th & Spruce Streets in Philadelphia.

Most of our efforts at the moment are benefits and fundraising. Of an expected budget of \$5,000, we have raised \$800 (this includes money from the Without Borders Fund), and have band benefits planned for the months ahead. We'll also be doing a Cheap Art Auction in May. Since our community has other projects to sustain such as the Wooden Shoe bookstore, the @Space Coffeehouse, a food co-op, etc., we'd appreciate any benefits people could do in their home communities.

-- Band benefits (most of the money we have come from the one all-ages benefit where 5 bands played

-- Benefit dinner

-- Benefit zine (watch for Philly Mischief, a collection of stories, photos & thoughts from havoc-wreaking Philadelphians)

-- Dance parties

-- Raffles

-- Video Screenings

Every little bit helps! If you're in a band, and want to take a trip to Philly & play a benefit gig, give us a ring. (215)569-2477 Mon-Sat from 11-6.

--The PTA (Philadelphia Troublemakers & Anarchists)

Veterans Vietnam Restoration Project provides veterans and other people the opportunity to heal the wounds of war in Vietnam. The group has constructed buildings including hospitals, clinics, and medical training facilities; and has provided solar energy equipment for the My Lai hospital. Volunteers pay their own travel expenses and receive no pay. VVRP receives no government funds. Membership is \$50. VVRP, PO Box 369, Garberville CA 95542

OUT OF TIME newsletter published by Out of Control, Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners. 3543 -- 18th St., Box 30, San Francisco CA 94110.

NONVIOLENT ACTION: HOW DOES IT WORK? August 16-18, Philadelphia. Contact: Training Center Workshops 4719 Springfield Ave. Phila, PA 19143. Tel: (215) 729-7458. Fax: 215-386-0489.

Any support appreciated: Local 714 of United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America (1205 W. Perkins Ave., Sandusky OH 44870; tel:419-624-1706), were locked out as of March 10/93, after being on strike for 6 months.

Boycotts

Daily News workers of Newspaper Guild #3 (AFL-CIO) call for boycott of US News & World Report and The Atlantic. This is to counter union-busting tactics of owner Mortimer Zuckerman. For info contact the union at 133 W. 44th St., New York NY 10036.

Teamsters Local 636 (616 Chartiers Ave. McKees Rocks PA 15136; tel: 412-331-3208) informs us in a letter Apr 8/93 the boycott continues of the Iron Age Protective Shoe Company, which makes steel-toed boots. The local has been on strike from Iron Age warehouse in Pittsburgh since Sept.5, 1991. If your employer schedules an IronAge shoe truck for your job site, please notify local 636. Please pass this information to your friends who wear steel toed boots. To voice your support for workers demands, write Don Jensen Pres., Iron Age Shoes, 2406 Woodmere Dr. Pittsburgh PA 15205; or call 1-800-223-8912.

Direct Action Manual

The San Francisco Bay Area Web Collective is initiating a continental effort to write and produce a manual for direct action and street protest geared to the conditions of the 1990s. Contact: The Web Collective, PO Box 40890, San Francisco CA 94110.

Manufacturing Consent - - the movie

Manufacturing Consent: Noam Chomsky and the Media, a documentary film explores the political life and ideas of Chomsky. The film has been showing around the USA and Australia.

Upcoming dates include June 11-17, at the Oriental Theatre in Milwaukee; and June 25-July 1 at Mayan Theatre in Denver. To find out when the film comes to a theatre near you, contact: Zeitgeist Films 247 Centre St. 2nd Fl. New York NY 10013. Tel: 212-274-1989. The film can be rented for theatre or classroom showings.

Women of Freethought

We are collecting the writings, portraits and biographies of women free-thinkers. Freethinking women such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Emma Goldman are well known -- we want information on women who were not so famous, who held the free-thought banner high where they lived. We would appreciate hearing of such women, their books, journals, newspapers, memoirs or other publications. Photos are also important, to document the life and times of our courageous ancestors. Please contact us at: Elizabeth Gerber & Fred Whitehead, 12406 Cherry, Kansas City MO 64145.

One sure-fire way to
get to the boss.



LEFT SIDE LEFT SIDE LEFT SIDE

You don't have to turn to the comic section in order to see slapstick humor in your daily blurb, the only trouble is so much of it turns out to be macabre humor. Take the recent case of the 75 year old dude who checked into the hospital, as is the lot of many of us who reach those years, if only for a minor checkup. You can well imagine his shock and chagrin when he received the billing for his few days stay. Even though his stay was paid for by his insurance, it did not seem logical to him that he was overcharged an extra \$800.

Checking over the itemization, he saw that he was being billed not only for maternity care, but for the delivery of a baby! Such was enough for him to have a baby on the floor. The hospital sheepishly admitted to having made an error in billing. As for yours truly, he was glad that he was three months out of the charnel house himself before seeing this news item. With such exactitude on the part of the noble medical profession, one can justifiably give serious thought to staying away from the doctors and their hospitals at all costs and place one's trust in some witch doctor or faith healer.

Meanwhile in the sunny state of California, the Pasadena Humane Society, using "private" funds, has begun construction on a four million dollar dog and cat shelter with some of the following features: towel-lined cages, skylights, "micro-climate" air conditioning, an aviary, sculptured bushes, along with "adoption counseling pavilions" in which prospective adopters could interview their future pets.

Now your humble scribe does not hold any animosity towards dogs and cats. In fact there were those of his ancestors who loved dogs so much that the lovable little quadrupeds constituted an important part of the national diet and were a culinary specialty until their "christianisation" but there were certain limitations. The Los Angeles Times correctly noted that there are four times as many shelters in Freedomland for animals than there are for battered women, not to mention orphans, old people who no longer have a livable income, or the hosts of homeless who now grace the Land of opportunity. An outraged caseworker of a local shelter for the homeless wanted to know who the "private" funders were. We whom publish this stalwart little periodical can assure the gentle readers that if these "private" funders did not have so much "private" funds, there would not be so many homeless gracing our Land of the free.

Crime Control Act 1993 Organizations, Unions Face Property Seizure

Any picket line which is alleged to have blocked public access could qualify to cause forfeiture of attending demonstrators and/or picketers' homes used for meetings and the vehicles they used for transportation to the event.

The Crime Control Act of 1993 redefines Illegal Search and Seizure while eliminating an innocent citizen's civil redress in suits against government officials and agents

Consider: the property forfeiture effects on organizations and individuals when SPEECHES, WRITINGS AND ASSEMBLIES mentioned in SB 265 are combined with forfeiture provisions in CCA93: any individual or organization in the United States who had or should have had knowledge that an associate might commit a terrorist act can have their property seized. Written like Federal Drug Forfeiture Laws, a citizen who allowed their home or other real property to be used for an assembly would start out guilty having to prove they did not have knowledge of the unlawful methods of the organization or individuals they allowed to use their property.

Politically active organizations and labor unions are especially vulnerable to CCA93 provisions which define bodily acts as "terrorist acts." A fist fight at a demonstration or picket line would qualify. The physical act need not cause bodily harm as its provisions refer to "involving any violent act."

However there still are those among our planners who show a bit of compassion for the senior citizenry. A local councilman in Mesa, Arizona was discussing his support for building a larger airport with local retirees who are opposed to the project because of the noise that they would have to put up with. The councilman assured them they need not concern themselves as the project would take another twenty years to complete and by that time "most of the people in this room will be dead".

The US Postal Department is coming out with a new stamp commemorating the centennial of the opening of the "Cherokee Land Strip Run" and the publicity blurb heralding this new stamp states: "On September 16, 1893, more than 100,000 brave pioneers raced to stake out land claims in the eight million acre parcel of land known as the Cherokee Strip."

I remember a dramatization of this historic occasion on the idiot box some years ago where one brave pioneer is saying to the other, "Pardner, that's all virgin land out there. Ain't nothin' but Indians out there; Tomorrow it will be a part of America!" Freedomland also has its Palestinians and Bosnians.

Prior to sitting down at this temperamental contrivance your scribe happened to read an article in an old magazine about the restoration of Michelangelo's frescoes in the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. True, the funds for the restoration of this masterpiece, like the funds of the original project itself, came out of the unpaid labor of countless hosts of exploited workers who's names never made the history books but nevertheless it was done for the preservation of a worthy example of the potential of human endeavor.

How much nicer that such money could constitute the greater portion of that part of our paychecks that we never get to see. However if that was all that was taken out of our paychecks, we would never notice it and that goes for the social services including welfare for those who don't have any paychecks. But if it wasn't for the big bite, all the politicians, generals and the idle rich they pimp for have to work for their own beans and potatoes. Of course, then there would be no need for the shelters for the homeless or welfare for those who have no work. How long will it take for our class to figure out this simple little arithmetic.

C.C. Redcloud

S.8 of CCA93 forfeiture provisions which seem aimed at public dissent are written like RICO laws taking on the added aspect of Political Property Forfeiture. Broadly written "intent to commit terrorist acts" is defined: "appear to be intended -- 1) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; 2) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion."

It would appear that provisions included in CCA93 target any group of persons which would dare demonstrate for or against any issue. Any picket line which is alleged to have blocked public access could qualify to intimidate or coerce a civilian population. Should violence result for any reason at a public assembly, the property forfeiture provisions of CCA93 may be triggered causing forfeiture of attending demonstrators homes used for meetings and vehicles used for transportation to the event.

For a copy of S.8 Crime Control Act of 1993 you may call the Senate Bill Room 202-224-7860.

Congressman John Conyers who chairs the House Subcommittee on Government Operations which is responsible for overseeing the administrative procedures and policies of Federal Asset Forfeiture has asked for Congressional Hearings to receive public input on the gov't's abuse of Forfeiture against its citizens. Contact Congressman Conyers office at 202-225-5051.

Book Review

THE WORK OF NATIONS: Preparing Ourselves for 21st Century Capitalism by Robert Reich.

Alfred Knopf, New York, 1991.

Robert Reich is the new U.S. Secretary of Labor. For anyone interested in what the Clinton regime has in store for the labor movement, it may be instructive to snoop down Reich's paper trail. Reich has published at least a half-dozen books trying to convince traditional New Deal liberals that the time has come to revise their ideas. *The Work of Nations* is one of his more recent efforts.

We now live in a new global economic order, says Reich, in which wealth and capital are mobile beyond anything seen before. Corporations have become "cosmopolitan," "global webs" with allegiance to no particular nation, and thus invest their capital wherever it will get the highest return. The nationality of the owners of these corporations no longer has any bearing on the economic well-being of their home country. What does determine countries' economic well-being is how these global behemoths divide up different types of work, giving some countries "high value jobs" and "low value jobs" to others.

This has led to a new global division of labor among countries with various proportions of "routine producers," "in-person servers," and "symbolic analysts." Routine producers are workers engaged in mass production of standard consumer goods, shoes, cars, VCRs, etc., but also including newer information goods. Since mass production (supposedly) requires very few worker skills, it goes wherever labor is cheapest. In-person servers are workers engaged in service work, which can only be done "in person."

Jobs like routine data entry and retrieval, can be done by cheap labor in the third world, and thus are more akin to routine production. In-person servers are people like janitors, domestic servants, restaurant and hotel labor, etc. who need to be physically present. In-person servers are traditionally low-paid and difficult for unions to organize.

The one bright spot on the horizon, says Reich, is the growing need for "symbolic analysts." Symbolic analysts "include all the problem-solving, problem-identifying, and strategic-brokering (ie. top level corporate management) activities... Like routine production services (but unlike in-person services), symbolic-analytic services can be traded world-wide... But they do not enter world commerce as standardized things. Traded instead are the manipulations of symbols -- data, words, oral, and visual representations." (p.177) Reich lumps together in this category a wide array of design engineers, research scientists, stock brokers, financiers, rock musicians and movie producers all with one thing in common: they have thinking and creative skills which are a high value commodity in the modern global economy.

Trying to protect American manufacturing jobs or improving the pay for service jobs is a hopeless task, Reich concludes. There is no such thing as "American" manufacturing; it is all done globally, regardless of where corporate headquarters are located. Any attempts to improve standards for in-person servants will be undercut by illegal immigration. Instead the U.S. government should train its workforce in symbolic analytical skills, so an ever-growing proportion of U.S. workers will have high-value marketable skills. As an added incentive to corporate

investment, the transportation and communications infrastructure should also be improved. If these things require further growth in government debt, at least it will be debt which leads to economic growth in the future.

What are the implications of this neo-liberal doctrine of "enlightened economic nationalism"? Well, for one thing, it means that those in the labor movement who are looking for the Democrats to change the Republicans' anti-labor policies are going to be disappointed. Reich claims that the shift of good-paying manufacturing jobs to low-wage third world countries ultimately benefits everyone, by improving living standards in the third world and making products cheaper. This is sheer nonsense, for it assumes there will still be customers to buy these products. If most manufacturing goes to the third world and service jobs remain poorly paid, this represents a net loss in global purchasing power. This must eventually lead to a decline in the global economy, which is apparently already happening.

Reich would argue that this need not be the case, as long as more Americans move into high-paying "symbolic analytical" jobs. The problem is there is a limit to how many "symbolic analysts" the global economy can support. The bottom line is working people need tangible goods and services in order to live, not "symbols." The main consumers of symbolic analytical services are other symbolic analysts, not workers and their families. So while these symbolic analysts may receive large incomes for what they do, the "value" they produce is not providing economic well-being for all and therefore, not contributing to real economic growth. "Symbolic analysis" is actually a parasitical bubble on the back of the real economy. Like all such parasitical bubbles, it must reach a point where it begins to collapse.

Yet even in the unlikely event that "symbolic analysis" could be proved to be a real necessity, Reich's proposal must fail for the simple reason that he has failed to distinguish between "symbolic analysts" who are nothing more than highly skilled wage slaves, and "symbolic analysts" who actually run their corporations. If you glut the market with engineers, engineering will no longer be a "high value" "symbolic analytical" job, and engineers' incomes will plummet accordingly. As for the CEOs, big shot movie producers, and other "strategic brokers," there is no real labor market for these jobs anyway, no matter how much education a person has. These jobs are given to the sons and daughters of the wealthy, or to those with the right "connections." The only consequence of Reich's proposals, given his acceptance of a global corporate economy, is further downward pressure on wages, even for highly skilled workers.

Reich's neo-liberal economic program, now being pursued by the Clinton regime, is only a modified version of the same tired old Keynesian economics, which unravelled in the wake of the new global economy. Like the Keynesians, the neo-liberals believe that capitalism can somehow be made to benefit all of society, given the appropriate mix of government regulation and encouragement. It is an illusion, for the large corporations can always find ways of circumventing regulations they find too costly, while entrapping the regulators in their own snares. What is different, however, is the shift in emphasis away from regulating capital and its distribution, to regulating work as a means for ensuring national economic prosperity. The idea that a government should train its citizens to make them into a lucrative source of profits for global corporations has dangerous implications for the labor movement. We must raise the question that Reich has not: "If we now live in the era of global economic 'webs', who are the spiders and who are the flies?"

Reviewed by Jeff Stein

One sure-fire way to get to the boss.



The Fight Against Shutdowns

from page 1

wave of 1935-36 the UAW as an institution moved quickly towards accommodation with the auto giants; dues check-offs and mandatory membership moved the unions away from the rank and file. In 1946 a management rights clause was put into the contract and the union dropped forever its demands that car prices not be increased. Management got the "exclusive right to manage," the International got the exclusive right to determine what was a "legitimate" strike. The federal ban on support strikes and secondary boycotts in 1947 further gutted worker power.

The UAW became a partner in the labor-corporate peace during the post-WWII period of US economic expansion getting a steady series of wage and benefit increases in return for keeping the peace in the factories.

Beginning with the 1982 national agreement and culminating with the 1984 agreement the UAW practically speaking ceased to be an independent union. Adopting the strategy of "Jointness", it has effectively destroyed the solidarity necessary to confront the auto industry.

Unwilling or unable to deal with the loss of jobs in the early 80's the union gave up the 3% improvement clause in exchange for so-called "income security". They also allowed individual locals to negotiate individual agreements on everything except the basic wage rates. The destruction of a "national standard" through the competition of one local against another to give back the most to GM has resulted in such abominations as the Saturn plant in Tennessee.

GM has played the UAW to the max in this situation. Saturn is a separate corporate entity wholly owned by GM. Saturn has a UAW contract, but not the GM contract. The agreement at Saturn has no provisions for recall in the event of layoff. GM workers who move to Tennessee lose GM seniority. Though many workers faced with plant closings have moved to Tennessee, many others have refused to undercut their fellow workers at GM.

The current leadership of UAW Local 1776 is relying solely on a legal strategy and follows the advice from the professional staff of the international. A recent special bulletin from the local officers to the membership states, "There was a promise to the township and our plant should remain open. Only the courts will decide." Lacking a tradition or ideology of rank and file organizing they request the rank-and-file to write politicians and to UAW President Owen Bieber pleading with him to recognize that "whipsawing occurred between Willow Run and Ar-

lington," and asking that "the International Union to get involved in situations like this in the future to prevent one Local Union from manipulating product from another."

The UAW international views the situation as a competition between two locals in which it should stay neutral; instead of seeing the owning class versus working class nature of the problem.

WORKERS NOT OPTIMISTIC

Attitudes among rank and file workers at Willow Run and Hydra-Matic vary. Almost all of them have been employed by GM for 10 years or longer with an average age in their early 40s. Many are refugees from other GM closings so it is common for workers to travel an hour or more to get to work. Al Fox is typical. Hiring into a GM plant on the opposite edge of the Detroit metro area he purchased a home near the plant. His wife worked at a Post Office near by. Ten years later Fox drives 70 miles one way to work. His wife has been transferred to a Post Office 30 miles in the opposite direction. And they feel trapped. What had been "good jobs" are now economically insecure. Day to day life at work is made difficult by the "management by stress" strategy employed in both industries. Where else can they work and how can they move anyway, as Al says, "I probably couldn't give my house away today."

Andy Holcum, a worker at Hydra-Matic is in better shape. He lives in a white flight working class township north of Ypsilanti. He expressed a cynical view widely held by Hydra-Matic workers. "GM closing the assembly plant next door is the best thing that could happen to us. They wouldn't dare close down both facilities in the same community. It might give me enough time to make it to retirement. I've checked out the Spring Hill (Saturn) plant and I sure don't want to have to go to work there."

A skilled trades worker doesn't find a lot of hope or activism on the shop floor. He says "The only good thing that people in the plant are getting out of this is an education. Now they see through the Japan bashing. But the local leaders are falling all over themselves to make concessions and they aren't getting the message out on the shop floor."

While the union leadership both at local and International level are wrapped up in the contradictions of "Jointness" and the bulk of rank-and-file workers hope to bide their time until retirement, militant workers have formed the "Save our Plants Committee". Based in three Michigan GM plants slated for closing they are attempting to mobilize a more militant response on the part of the workers, and build coalitions in the communities. The Hamtramck Gear and Axle plant has scheduled a strike vote. The Hamtramck plant supplies Saturn and has been sped up in order to build an inventory and quicken their own shut down. A strike at that plant could quickly affect Saturn.

Workers at a metal coatings facility in west suburban Livonia have been building a local worker-environmentalist coalition, exposing the heavy metals pollution that exist on the factory grounds. According to Alex Wassel, of the Save our Plants Committee, the goal of this activity is to force GM to pay the entire clean up cost at the facility. If the costs of closing the facility are continually driven up wards, GM may decide it is economic to continue to pollute that site rather than moving their pollution to another site.

The local IWW General Membership Branch has filed an amicus brief with the court and is engaged in other support activities in the community. If you want more information on the details of the case and how it may be applied fighting disinvestment in your community, you should contact the Michigan IWW at 42 S. Summit, Ypsilanti MI 48197 and Staughton Lynd at 1694 Timbers Court, Niles OH 44446.

Mark Kaufmann & Jeff Ditz

BOOKS & TAPES

AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT
Sam Dolgoff \$5

CRYSTAL GAZING AMBER
FLUID
Carlos Cortez \$4

GENERAL STRIKE
Ralph Chaplin \$2

HARD-PRESSED IN THE
HEARTLAND
Peter Rachleff \$12

JUICE IS STRANGER THAN
FRICTION
T-Bone Slim \$8

MEMOIRS OF A WOBBLY
Henry McGuckin \$5

SABOTAGE IN THE
AMERICAN WORKPLACE
Martin Sprouse \$12

SOLIDARITY FOREVER
Bird, Georgakas & Shaffe \$10

SOLIDARITY UNIONISM
Staughton Lynd \$7

THEM
Huck & Konopacki \$9

TIMBER WARS!
Judi Bari \$10

WORKING THE WATERFRONT
Gilbert Mers \$20

Cassettes only

REBEL VOICES
IU 630 IWW

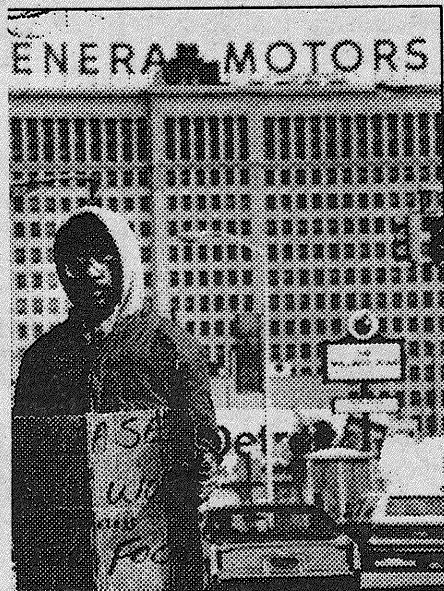
Dakota Sid Clifford
GREENFIRE

Tom Juravich
A WORLD TO WIN
OUT OF DARKNESS

Harry McClintock
HAYWIRE MAC

Utah Phillips
ALL USED UP

Sweet Honey In the Rock
WE ALL ... EVERYONE OF US
GOOD NEWS



available from LOCAL BRANCHES

CANADIAN LITTLE RED SONGBOOK

40 great songs by
Arlene Mantle, Rick
Fielding, Faith Nolan,
Len Wallace & others,
with music & chords
\$5.

Toronto Branch

J. Dymny,
11 Andrews Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario
M6J 1S2
Canada

Out of the Depths
book about Ludlow
Massacre \$10

**Columbine
Memorial Video**
(scattering of Joe Hills
ashes) \$20

**Denver/Boulder
Branch**
2412 E. Colfax,
Denver CO 80206

Sabo-cat
General Strike
Wobbly Globe
Hand-clasping
workers

**San Francisco
Branch**
PO Box 40485,
SF CA 94140

\$12 ea, 100% cotton,
state size S,M,L,XL
& color: red or white

T-SHIRTS

**New York
Branch**
RD 1, Box 158-B
Hartwick NY 13348
**Workers Guide to
Direct Action 75¢
Collective Bargaining
Manual \$2.50**

FREE LEONARD PELTIER NOW

A national day of solidarity for Class War Prisoner Leonard Peltier has been called for June 25 and 26. Please call the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee at 913-842-5774 or write the LPDC at PO Box 583, Lawrence KS 66044 for info on events in your area.

ORDER FORM:

name _____

address _____

city _____ state _____ zip _____

QUANTITY	ITEM	PRICE

return to:

IWW Lit
1476 W. Irving Park
Chicago, IL 60613

total of above _____

add 10% shipping _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____



TRADE UNIONISM ISN'T ENOUGH ANYMORE.....
WE NEED TO STICK TOGETHER



BETWEEN WORKPLACES. ACROSS INDUSTRIES.
 IN OUR COMMUNITIES. **A**ROUND THE WORLD...

STOPPING FACTORY SHUT DOWNS pg1
 COURT STOPS GM MOVE - CHALLENGES PRIVATE PROPERTY

IWW BINGO WORKERS UPDATE pg 3

WAGE SLAVE WORLD NEWS
 HUMOR SECTION pg 5-8

12 YEARS A STIFF - AFL LEADER STILL ALIVE!!

Be a Wobbly-Join the IWW

Low Dues! Monthly income under \$800: Dues = \$3. Income \$800-1700: Dues = \$9. Income over \$1700: Dues = \$12. Initiation fee: Same as one month's dues. A low income person can join for as little as \$6.
 To Join: Mail this form with a check or money order to IWW, 1095 Market Street, Suite 204, San Francisco, CA 94103.

- I affirm that I am a worker and that I am not an employer.
- I agree to abide by the constitution and regulations of this organization.
- I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.

Name _____ Occupation _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State/Prov. _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
 Total amount enclosed \$ _____ Initiation \$ _____ Dues \$ _____
Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker

Subscribe! Only \$15 per Year

(Special rate available for low income persons -- send us a note)

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE/PROV _____
 ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____ COUNTRY _____

US\$ payable to: Industrial Worker
 1095 Market St. Suite 204
 San Francisco CA 94103

Industrial Worker
 1095 Market St. Suite 204
 San Francisco, CA 94103
 ISSN 0019-8870

Second Class Postage
 Paid
 San Francisco, CA
 and additional
 mailing offices

Address correction requested

12

Industrial Worker

June 1993