

Industrial Worker

April 1995

#1578, vol. 92 no. 4



EDUCATION

ORGANIZATION

EMANCIPATION

Calif. Health Food Workers Take On New Age Boss

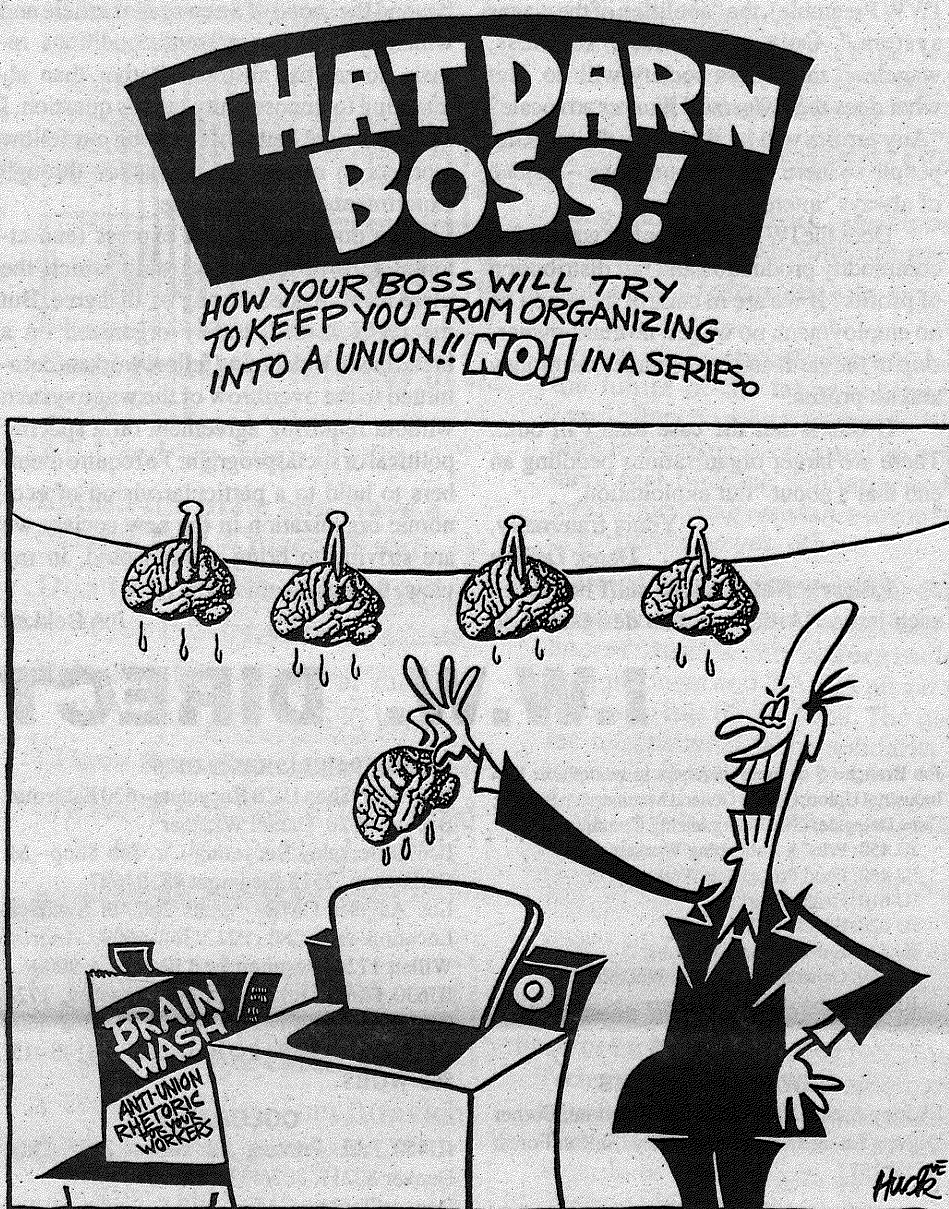
The following report was compiled from email postings written by FW Drummond over the course of this struggle:

On February 11th, Corin Royal Drummond, a member of the Santa Cruz California Branch of the IWW was dismissed from his job selling herbs at the Food Bin / Herb Room, a health food store in Santa Cruz. He had been employed at the store for more than three years. This firing was just one battle in a continuing campaign on the part of Corin's co-workers to improve working conditions at the store.

"Earlier this year (1994) I decided I was tired of putting up with the bullshit there, and instead of just tuning out, I would try to make some constructive changes," says Drummond. He began speaking to fellow workers about problems in the store, such as the lack of people of color working in the Herb Room; and the lack of bilingual staff in a county where a significant portion of the population and the store's clientele speak Spanish. He wrote a proposal for making the store more accessible to people of color. It resulted in the hiring of a Guatemalan who had a background in curanderismo, an indigenous healing tradition.

Drummond joined the IWW last fall "when I realized that what I was beginning to do was 'labor organizing.'" He was signed up by Deke Motif Nihilson, a Wob who recently won a substantial settlement for organizing at the End Up bar in San Francisco. Drummond was interested in the IWW because it "is a decentralist, radical labor union with cheap dues, and revolutionary aims. I figured, if I'm doing it anyway, I might as well join the union and share skills and support with other folks who are doing it. So I did."

As Corin became known in the store as someone seeking to make changes, he was approached by another worker who informed him that several workers were already holding meetings to talk about the bad pay, bad working conditions, and a recently discovered secret profit-sharing plan for managers only. "These folks were triggered into action by finding out about a secret profit sharing program among managers which had been lied about. Since we are a store that



runs on the one-big-happy-family pretext, people's trust in management was damaged by this disclosure. That trigger allowed us to come together and share all manner of grievances, wage inequalities between workers, favoritism, feeling our concerns get ignored by management, etc."

At the same time he began going on-line regularly to a computer network for IWW internal discussion, because "I know there is a long history of struggle here, and I don't want to re-invent the wheel." He was provided with suggestions from other Wobs who had organized in similar circumstances,

and with literature on organizing and examples of the types of contracts the Food Bin workers might hope to achieve.

First Organizing Meeting

Corin and another Santa Cruz Wob, Tai Miller, met with four other Food Bin workers in early December. "It's an exciting and scary position to be in, meeting for the first time as workers expressing grievances... Personally my goal is to ensure workers take a leadership position in running the store," said Drummond. "I feel like I have exercised leadership merely by breaking

silence about problems we'd all felt but not confronted. Then I watched as my fellow workers picked up the issues and started to go with em."

Further meetings were planned to reach out to other sympathetic workers. By the next meeting the size of the group had doubled. Tai Miller, Maile Pickett and Eric Gross, all local IWW branch delegates, attended Food Bin worker meetings to offer their support as workers experienced in workplace organizing. The meetings "were very sorely needed gripe sessions about a range of issues from inconsistent and poor wages, clandestine policy making, arbitrary firings, poor hiring, the emotional whims of the boss, etc."

"At the first meeting we began to assemble a list of changes we wanted to see instituted. This included instituting a wage scale with expected raises after a peer review process, raising the starting wage, instituting monthly meetings run with the agenda open to workers, writing a training manual and setting up a buddy system for new workers."

The emotional roller-coaster of organizing began to move. "We reached the point where we have moved beyond gripes and dreaming, to putting concrete proposals to improve our workplace down on paper," Drummond said. "Then when we look at it we say to ourselves, 'If we even think this, we're going to get fired.' Many workers are spanking new as there is a large turnover of mostly part-time students. The new and senior workers are both expressing fear for their jobs, fear of retribution. One worker reminded us that another health food store in town confronted their boss and they all got fired, same with a local natural food restaurant. So much for groovy hippies."

Inevitably, as the drive grew, it encountered workers in opposition, the indifferent, and those who wanted change, but feared for their jobs, but also, in Corin's words "those like myself who feel they have nothing to lose."

Corin developed an extensive information packet, including materials on consensus decision making and information on the IWW. "I am trying to express the basic ideas of class war without being seen as a rabid radical, and I am trying to express the utility of joining the IWW. We are asking those in privileged positions within the store to make room for the rest of us," the packet reads in small part. "We are writing ourselves into the script. This may well strain relationships in the store. We must be prepared for both the best and worst of reactions to our project.

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World Bank: Global Dictator

Now that the requirements of global trade are replacing national governments as the makers of law and policy, eyes are turning to the World Bank.

In every country, political leaders say they can't carry out the will of the people, because they must instead meet the directives of the World Bank and its partner, the International Monetary Fund. If they don't, the economy will go bust.

These finance institutions have been running things behind the scenes for many years. Bankers and financiers have made governments collapse simply by tightening up or withdrawing capital, and have propped up chosen rulers in various countries by being more generous to them.

A few years ago I happened to be talking to a minor player in the international

finance business. He boasted about the ability of elite financiers to make or break governments.

But the important question for most people today is, will it work? Will rule by the World Bank make my life easier, or harder? People have forgot the meaning of democracy, but we all know the meaning of income versus the cost of living.

How well has the World Bank done so far as the world's ruler? We know the Bank is against environmental protection, because they deny loans to governments who protect natural resources. World Bank policies are directly related to the creation of environmental crises, such as the disappearance of fish and forests, oil spills, and air pollution by auto and industrial emissions.

The World Bank will lend your com-

pany money to transport oil, but it will not lend you the money to build safe tankers, or to train crews for safety.

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Industrial Worker
103 West Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
ISSN 0019-8870

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LETTERS

Fellow Workers,

The *Industrial Worker* has really improved lately, although I miss the insane-humor section. I hope the paper will not be hurt by the rising price of newsprint, and hope it will continue to use more recycled newsprint as an environmentally friendly measure. I like your mixture of international and local news, as well as a wide variety of topical concerns for working people.

The thing I like about being an IWW member is it offers a wide range of activity. In my own short experience as a member, I have helped to organize support for various social justice causes under the IWW banner. I have also been involved in cultural and musical events. Our branch has held meetings to educate the public about the IWW, and I have helped work on organizing the Entertainment Workers Industrial Union. I've learned from talking to older members. I have counselled various workers about how to deal with conditions in their workplaces. And lately I am focusing energy towards a Health Service Industrial Union.

Some people would prefer to stick to one thing only, but I'm glad there are so many ways to help organize industrial union democracy. I'm aware that my fellow members in other places are engaged in more different activities. It's great to be a part of such a widespread movement. There is no such thing as a failure when you are spreading the idea of self-help. For \$5 a month, being a member of the IWW is among the best

investments I've ever made.

Looking forward to your next issue!
Carlos Lee Murray, Ottawa

Fellow Workers,

I was stunned by the article on page 9 of the February 1995 issue of *The Industrial Worker*. The article, "Scarcity and Unemployment Built Into Economy," was a staggering piece of analytical stupidity at best, and at worst it is the kind of drivel that Labour and Leninist organizations have been trotting out for years.

The solution to the numerous problems created by capitalism is, as Marx pointed out in *Value, Price and Profit* (echoed in the IWW Preamble), the "abolition of the wages system." Only a classless, stateless, wageless, moneyless society will do. But what does the *Industrial Worker* advocate? "Any profits will be shared by the working people so there will be abundance - instead of always 'interest rate rises'!"

Does the IWW stand for fair wages, fair commodity production and fair distribution of profits? If we are in control there will be no employment, no wages, no class-ownership of the earth and its resources, no money and no profits.

If this is not the case than I'm out... There are larger organizations peddling an end that's about "fair exploitation."

Yours fraternally,
Derek Devine

Editor's Note: As the staff box notes each issue, "Articles not so designated do

not represent the official position of the IWW." Thus, we often print articles that are not 100 percent in accordance with IWW principles as understood by your editor (who has learned, over the years, that many IWW members hold views that he disagrees with and in some cases finds quite bizarre).

The article in question, however, does not call for "fair wages" or maintenance of the wages system. Rather, in a few paragraphs, it attacks the profit system which impels employers to impose hardship and misery on us and our fellow workers.

The author did not develop his vision of how society might better be organized under workers' control - a task somewhat beyond the scope of a newspaper article and which must under present conditions remain somewhat abstract. Rather than attempting to impose unity on this question, I believe we are better off trusting our fellow workers to resolve it in practice through experimentation and debate.

No doubt many will express (and attempt to practice) views with which the more level-headed among us disagree. But the IWW is deliberately organized on a broad basis, welcoming fellow workers committed to the overthrow of the wage system without requiring agreement on a specific political or social program. To require members to hold to a particular vision of economic organization in the new society we are striving to bring about would, in my view, be a grave mistake.

Jon Bekken

Here I go again, giving the editor fits by submitting my column past the deadline. NPR reports that Zantac, an ulcer medicine, is the best selling drug in the U.S. I'll send you some, Jon.

Thanks once again for your forbearance.

There's pleasant news from Duluth where Fellow Worker Jack Rosenquist has signed up enough members for the group to apply for a Branch Charter. Congratulations Fellow Workers.

The big news this month is the cover story. Corin Royal Drummond has been fired from his job as an herbalist at the Food Bin, a health food store in Santa Cruz, California. Management suddenly discovered that his job performance was unacceptable and that he was on an unannounced retroactive probation, after they discovered that he had been meeting with other workers to talk about organizing. Fellow Worker Mark Janowitz is filing both NLRB and civil suits in Corin's behalf. Janowitz recently helped Fellow Worker Deke Nihilson win a similar suit for himself and two other workers at the End-Up bar in San Francisco after they too were fired for organizing. "When will the bosses ever learn? When will they..."

Winning in court feels good and provides some compensation to the agrieved organizers; but it takes a long time. A more ideal resolution could come today. As we

From the desk of...

I.W.W. DIRECTORY

Job Branch= 5 or more members in workplace; IU= Industrial Union; GMB= General Membership Branch; Del= Delegate; GOC= Organizing Committee.

IU 450: Print & Publishing Workers
IU 460: Food Processing Workers
IU 610: Health Workers
IU 620: Education Workers
IU 630: Entertainment Workers
IU 660: General Distribution Workers
IU 670: Public Service Workers

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney Area Group- Del: Ray Elbourne, Corner Dittons Ln. & Old Illawara Hwy, Sutton Forest NSW 2577.

CANADA

MANITOBA

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

ONTARIO

Ottawa GMB- 388 1/2 Kent, K2P 2A9. 613/231-2922 <indwrk@web.apc.org>
Toronto Group- 11 Andrews Ave M6J 1S2. 416/941-9945 Meets 1st Thurs 7 pm; phone for location.

UNITED KINGDOM

GOC British Isles/IU620- F. Lee, Secular Hall 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB. 0533-661835

London Group and Couriers Union- 10a Bradbury Street, London N16 8JN. Couriers Union Hotline 071 358 9124

Oxford Group & Oxford Claimants and Unemployed Workers Union- East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Street

Central Scotland IWW and Postal Workers- PO Box 1094, Glasgow G14 0EL

IU610 Contact: Harry Girling, c/o Ipswich Community Resource Ctr, 16 Old Foundry Rd., Ipswich IP4 2DU

IU660 Contact: Ray Carr, 22 Brunswick Square, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 5QF

Swindon Region GMB/IU670 & Research Councils IU620 Group- Del: Kevin Brandstatter, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1UH; Tel: 0793-610707

Somerset- Davey Garland, Box 23, 5 High St. Glastonbury Somerset.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

Mendocino- Bill Meyers, del. 707/884-1818.

San Diego Group- PO Box 49735, San Diego 92159. 619/284-WOBS

Santa Cruz GMB- PO Box 534, 95061 <sciww@ucsc.ucsc.edu>

IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop- 1921 Ashby

Berkeley 94703 (510)549-0176

IU620 Job Shop UCB Recyclers- 620 Eshleman B'k'ly 94720 Daniel Widener

IU670 Berkeley Recycling Ctr. Job Shop- M. Carlstroem, 2515 Piedmont #8, 94607

Los Angeles GMB- Meets 2nd, 4th Sundays. Location call (24hr): 213/368-4604. Andrew Willett 1724 Westmoreland Blvd., LA 90006.

IU630 Film Workers- Miguel Sanchez, 1724 Westmoreland Blvd. LA 90006 213/368-4604

SF Bay Area GMB- PO Box 40485, 94140 415/863-WOBS

COLORADO

IU450 P&L Printing Job Shop- 2298 Clay, Denver 80211. 303/433-1852

Denver/Boulder GMB- 2412 E. Colfax, 80206. Ofc hrs Sat. 9-12. (303)388-1065 Meets 1st Thurs. 7pm. Del: Cliff Sundstrom 910 E. 8th Av. #202, 80218. 303/832-7602. Brendan Ruiz, POB 370663, 80237-0663

GEORGIA

Atlanta Group- 340 Elmira Pl, 30307. 404/524-1243. Lorenzo Ervin Kom'boa, del. - 218 Adair Ct. #5, Decatur GA 30030. 404/687-8324

HAWAII

O'ahu GMB- PO Box 11928, Honolulu 96822; 808/247-8584; email: wilcox@uhunix.uhcc.hawaii.edu

ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB- 4043 N. Ravenswood #205 60613. (312)549-5045. Meets 1st Fri. 7:30 pm.

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge Group- Steve Donahue 729 Bungalow Ln 70802. (504)389-9572.

MARYLAND

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

MASSACHUSETTS

IU630 GOC- Jim Barclay, 75A Elm St. Worcester 01609.

Boston IWW- Del: Steve Kellerman 617/469-5162.

MICHIGAN

SE Mich. GMB- 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti 48197. 313/483-3548

IU630 Workers Stories Workers Lives Job Shop- Albert Parsons (313)769-0695

IU670 Ann Arbor Tenants Union Job Shop- 4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor 48109. 313/763-6876.

MINNESOTA

Duluth Group- 1514 N. 8th Avenue E, 55805. Del: Jack Rosenquist

MISSISSIPPI

Gulfport Group- C.G. Streuly 601/896-3515

MONTANA

Butte- Mark Ross 111 W. Quartz 59701. (406)782-4465

NEW YORK

IU670 Socialist Party USA Natl Office Job Shop- 516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. 212/691-0776

Capital District Group- POB 74, Altamont NY 12009. (518)861-5627

Rochester- Del: Ric Garren, 716/232-4005

NYC GMB- Del: Wade Rawluk, 5610 Netherland Ave #4D, Bronx NY 10471. 718/796-3671.

Rochelle Semel, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick 13348. 607/293-6489

PENNSYLVANIA

IU630 Boulevard Bingo Job Shop- Tina Gaffney (215)821-5622

Lancaster Group- PO Box 2084, 17608

Lehigh Valley GMB- POB 4133 Bethlehem 18018 (610)515-0181. Del: Trish D'Amore 434-0128. email: len.flank@father.com

Reading Group- PO Box 8468, 19603. Del: Dennis Good (215)921-2459; Rick Page (215)562-3487

Philadelphia GMB/IU450 Duplicators Network- 4722 Baltimore Ave. 19143. (215)747-0855.

IU660 Wooden Shoe Books Records Job Shop- 112 S. 20th St. 19103. (215) 569-2477.

<ulrike@templevm.bitnet>

SOUTH CAROLINA

IU450 Harbinger Publications Job Shop- Merll Truesdale, 18 Bluff Rd. Columbia 29201. 803/254-9398

TEXAS

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

Houston Group- PO Box 981101, 77098.

UTAH

Salt Lake Branch- Tony Roehrig, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City 84152-0514. 801/485-1969

VERMONT

Burlington Group- Anne Petermann, Orin Langlell POB 804, 05402. (802)658-2403. <peacejustice@igc.apc.org>

WASHINGTON

IU460 Fairhaven Co-op Flour Mill Job Shop- 1115 Railroad Ave. Bellingham 98225.

Industrial Transportation Project- Arthur Miller, POB 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464

Stan Anderson, delegate- POB 20402, Seattle 98102. 206 367-0477

WISCONSIN

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop- 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703 608/255-1800.

Delegate: Jerry Chernow

Madison GMB- Box 2605, 53701. (608) 255-1800. Del: Tim Wong, Jerry Chernow

Industrial Worker

THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM

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ISSN 0019-8870 Official monthly publication of the Industrial Workers of the World. Second Class Postage Paid Ypsilanti MI & other mailing offices. Postmaster: send address changes to: Industrial Worker, 103 West Michigan, Ypsilanti MI 48197.

Individual Subscriptions \$15
Library Subs \$20/year
(Member sub included in dues)

Articles not so designated do not represent the official position of the IWW. No ads. Donations welcome.

Press Date: Feb. 28 1995

go to press the workers at the Food Bin are meeting to decide how to react to management's heavy handedness. Hopefully Corin's fellow workers will find the courage and solidarity to advise the owners of the Food Bin that their behavior is unacceptable and that the store will not continue to function in Corin's absence.

Corin is part of a new wave of IWW organizers... which, sigh, puts me and the rest of us who came in through the unrest of the '60s and '70s in the camp of oldtimers. I did a brief stint in a two worker Wobbly print shop in '68, finally took out a card in '78 when the time arrived to help organize the shop I was working in.

At that time the oldtimers were people who had been involved in organizing thousands in the '30s in places like Cleveland. One of those was Frank Cedervall. In '78 he spoke at an IWW organizing meeting I attended. He turned on the old soap box speaker charm, and I took out a card. Later he returned to Ann Arbor to help us walk the line and sign a contract for three workers at a small rare book shop. Nothing too large or too small for Frank's attention. And in '84 he came again to inspire the audience at an IWW Mayday gathering.

I got a nice note from Frank the other day, thanking Fellow Worker Rush and me for an IWW calendar FW Rush sent him, signed by the outgoing and incoming GSTs. He is doing well, wintering in Florida with his wife and Fellow Worker Jenny Cedervall. The two of them were married long ago, opting for an IWW ceremony rather than a civil or religious one. Frank is in his '90s, long retired from his labor as a plasterer and retired for a while now from his labor of love as an IWW organizer. I'm hoping to visit with him and Jenny when they return to Cleveland this summer. Meanwhile, the torch is passed. Corin's the organizer. While I hope I still have a few organizing drives left in me, for the time being I'm the union bureaucrat. And Frank is the retired inspiration. I hope he will read about Corin and it will bring a twinkle to his eye. The struggle goes on. And the owners of the Food Bin are going to discover that **We Never Forget!**

— Fred Chase, GST

Health Service Workers Industrial Union #610 – IWW

Health Service Workers IU610-IWW is currently in the formation stage. All who work in health services are welcome to become members (with the exception of those who are themselves employers).

As the Health Service arm of the IWW, the IU is fully democratic. Its purpose is to bring together all workers of the industry, and progress towards gaining more control by the workers over the work life and the industry in all situations.

For employees of a health facility such as a hospital, IU610-IWW can function in the role of a labor union to bargain for collective contracts with the employer. In such cases all employees regardless of occupation are united.

For independent practitioners, IU610 can serve for cooperative projects and mutual aid. For both groups, the IU can be a united voice in political and economic decisions affecting the access to, and provision of health care services.

HSW IU610 is not meant to replace existing professional associations. It is a union of individual health workers across all the lines of occupation and profession.

Health care is a vast industry with many concerns. The focus for the HSW IU610 will be decided by its members.

For information contact: IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197. Tel 313/483-3458 Fax 313/483-4050 Email: 73174.77@compuserve.com

Organizer Hit With \$10,000 Verdict

Even after the Pennsylvania judge presiding over Allied Air Force's libel suit against IWW organizer Lenny Flank barred Flank from presenting evidence proving that Allied Air Force had violated Federal labor law, state bingo law and had been investigated by the Organized Crime Commission, the jury still rejected Allied's claim that they had been damaged by an IWW press release issued after Allied was cited for violating the rights of workers at its bingo parlor. However, the jury illegally awarded Allied \$10,000 in punitive damages to punish FW Flank for having criticized the union-buster.

The case stems from a strike two years ago, when workers at Lehigh Valley's Boulevard Bingo rebelled against an unending stream of management abuse. The strikers joined the IWW after walking out, and filed a steady stream of complaints with the National Labor Relations Board against Allied and its original partner (their license was since revoked) in the bingo operation.

Boulevard Bingo's repeated violations of labor law and its unyielding refusal to negotiate with workers or accord them even the most basic of rights resulted in one of the co-operators of the bingo parlor, PASCAL, losing their license and has pushed the scab-run bingo parlor to the brink of financial collapse. Once the NLRB completes its glacial process, Boulevard will almost certainly owe far more in back wages to the workers illegally fired in retaliation for unionizing and striking that the combined assets of the bingo parlor and its owners.

The Ben Fletcher Center

The Philadelphia IWW is proud to announce the Ben Fletcher Center, a 4500 square foot Union Hall and Community Center. Located at 1652 Ridge Ave., it is on the northern edge of Center City Philadelphia, in a community called Francisville. The neighborhood is primarily African-American and Latino, but is also accessible to Temple University and other area schools, and convenient to public transportation.

Since early December Philadelphia Wobblies and friends have been hard at work renovating the building and it is expected that the Center will officially open its doors in early April. Plans for the Center include:

- a reading room with a broad selection of IWW and progressive literature.
- a public access INTERNET site with multiple terminals and part of the local freenet system which is also being put together by local Wobblies (this will allow us full branch access to the internet and also allow for the development of branch Web pages, conferences, and on line meetings.)
- a homeless/squatter support center with showers, washer/dryer, toilet facilities, and mail and phone services.
- a kitchen for use by the three local Food Not Bombs groups (West Philadelphia, Francisville, and Kensington).
- a small printing plant with presses, copiers, and desktop publishing facilities.
- a 950 sq. ft. hall for use as a meeting hall, dance and music hall and practice space, and available for use by outside groups.
- transitional housing for up to six IWW members and traveling organizers, including kitchen and common space.

We have already completed two of the rooms for IWW housing and FWs Esaf and McGregor are currently on site doing renovations. Repairs have been proceeding ahead of schedule, and support from the IWW and also the Philadelphia community have been instrumental in making the center a reality.

We are especially grateful to the Queer

However, while Boulevard/Allied have consistently lost at the National Labor Relations Board, they were able to find a sympathetic judge for their bogus libel suit – one who carefully shielded the jury from the evidence on the grounds that Allied was not claiming general damage to their rather tat-

Around Our Union

tered reputation, but was only claiming to have been damaged by a minor mis-statement in a press release about the then-present legal status of NLRB charges against them. That was too much for the jury to swallow, but having been shielded from the actual situation by the judge's rulings, they evidently decided to award the \$10,000 in punitive damages out of sympathy for this "poor" bingo parlor operator being hounded by "big labor" (that's us, folks).

However, Pennsylvania state law (and the U.S. Constitution, according to the Supreme Court) prohibits punitive damages where no actual damages have been found. Thus, the judge is legally required to quash the judgement. Ever the management stooge, however, he has thus far refused to do so and

is giving every indication that he will force FW Flank to appeal the case.

The cost of buying the trial transcript - necessary to prepare the motion to quash the judgement, and for any appeals - will wipe out the defense fund. Contributions to pay accumulated legal bills, for the appeal, and for other legal expenses connected with the continuing struggle against Boulevard Bingo are urgently needed. Send checks marked "defense fund" to: Lehigh Valley IWW, PO Box 4133, Bethlehem PA 18018

A Challenge

Ok folks, it's been a long time coming, but we finally got it together to scrape up some dough for the Lehigh Valley folks. At our last fire @nt collective meeting, during a Food Not Bombs serving in Costa Mesa, CA, we passed the hat and came up with the astounding sum of \$42.50!

You may be thinking: "astounding?" – more like pathetic!" Yes, I admit \$42.50 is a trivial amount in the grand scheme of things: you couldn't do a leverage buy out of General Electric with it, or elect somebody to the Senate, or buy a Stealth Bomber, but us fire @nts is a pretty small group of people, all of whom work for a living, and furthermore only two of us are Wobs right now, meaning that \$31.00 was donated by 2 Gutter Punks, a Discordian, a Sub Genius, a wanna-be Gangster, an 'Autonomist,' a commie "marxist humanist" (the drummer in our band: 'Morrissy 666'), and 3 other freaks who defy classification. A further \$2.50 was contributed by homeless folks who were attending the serving and have taken interest in some of our mad schemes!

My point is that if we, marginal splinter subgroup of borderline wobblies, pranksters, and freaks, can come up with \$42.50 to help the Lehigh branch, then every other group, faction, splinter, GMB and Job Shop of the IWW should be able to contribute something, and help see our sisters and brothers out of the jam they are in.

So we are hereby issuing a challenge to every other entity in the IWW, particularly those of you who have been successful lately, to contribute part of your GMB funds to Lehigh Valley...

We had a lot of fun with this and we think this sort of thing is the key to raising money in the union and rebuilding the solidarity and strength of the IWW, without relying on centralization and draining all of the nest-egg funds...

Another Stainless Steel Rat running loose in the walls of UberDisneyLand,
General 'Strike' fire ant collective

Labor Victory Fund of the IWW and Fellow Worker Deke Motif Nihilson for a very generous grant that made many of the initial repairs possible.

In conjunction with the repairs and renovations of the Hall we have started distributing shoes left on site to workers and unemployed in Philadelphia, and expect to continue distributing the near 5,000 pairs through the Spring and Summer. Approximately 100 pairs of sneakers have also been sent to Grenada for use by many of the survivors of US Imperialism on the island.

We hope to periodically update you on the progress of the Ben Fletcher Center and by the time that you visit us in September for the General Assembly (or earlier if you have the opportunity) the Center should be very far on its way to completion.

In Solidarity,
Josie, x341890
Philadelphia GMB

PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

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 the 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 interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all 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 everyday struggle with the 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.



Freedomland only has but 6 percent of the World's human population, but does 60 percent of the World's market for illegal drugs. The one-eyed monster sitting in the corner of the living room apparently is not classified as an illegal drug, but it does just as good a job numbing the senses. With all that is going on, too much time is being devoted to what would be just another murder trial in California, were it not that the accused is a sports celebrity.

In the same golden state, unknown to the millions of boob-tube watchers, the United Farm Workers Union is being sued out of existence by Bruce Church, Inc., one of the big grower conglomerates who charge that the Union engaged in illegal and malicious conduct in persuading grocery chains not to sell Church lettuce during the 1980s. Company vice president Vic Lanni asserts that "We were damaged unfairly and wrongfully." Since the court's decision he feels that "the truth came out finally."

But to cite only two examples of the deeds of the company that was "unfairly and wrongfully" damaged: A woman working at a lettuce-wrapping machine is overcome by fumes. The crew foreman, fearing the company would be blamed, leaves her dying by the side of the field. A few hours later, another worker is ordered to get her off the company's property. She didn't make it to the hospital alive.

On a pitch-dark night, a car crashes into a 20-ton piece of farm equipment deliberately parked by the owners to block the road to keep union organizers away from their underpaid workers. The violent impact killed the driver, Alejandro Garcia, instantly. Nothing was apparently done about the owner leaving this equipment in the dark on a public access road.

During the trial, his testimony incomplete, Cesar Chavez died in his sleep. The growers were happy that their hated adversary is finally out of the way and they have won a judgment against the UFW for \$2,900,000 that can put an end to everything Chavez and his fellow workers worked for over these past decades. The United Farm Workers Union is in severe financial straits and can use whatever contributions that are offered. Money can be sent to: UFW, PO Box 62, Keene CA 93531. They are the ones who are carrying on the job the IWW began several generations ago.

A few hundred miles north of the golden state, the sacred mountain, Tahoma, that has been renamed Mount Ranier by the invaders, is being encroached upon by commercial interests. The meltwater from the summit feeds 470 rivers and streams, and upon the northwest side lies the only temperate rainforest in the World. Each year over ten thousand climbers leave more than eight tons of human excrement that washes down those rivers and streams. Clear-cuts of old-growth timber extend right up to the border of the National Park.

Well-heeled tourists use this beautiful mountain as a plaything with no regard at all for the surrounding eco-system. The coal-fired power plant in nearby Centralia pumps over seventy tons of sulfur dioxide into the air each year downwind of the mountain. Clear-cuts, logging roads, dams which block five of the six major rivers and cut off the migration of the salmon, highways and other development has turned the mountain into an ecological island.

As if that is not enough, plans are being made for the building of the "Tacoma Eastern Railway" that will bring even more tourists to the mountain along with a "Mount Rainier Resort" twelve miles from the park's main entrance which will include a 250-room hotel, 120 expensive homes, 120 apartments and cabins, 70,000 square feet of retail space, a full-size golf course and visitors center, and a helicopter pad. All of this will be right in the middle of a caribou migration route.

Meanwhile the park officials are contemplating increasing the entrance fees to the park in the hope of limiting access. The people who live in the vicinity of the park, including those of the Native Nations to whom the mountain is sacred, are protesting these manipulations and are forming the Mount Tahoma Sacred Mountain Alliance to fight these commercial ventures. This alliance is open to any who wish to resist the further desecration of Mount Tahoma. The address is in care-of The Survival Network, PO Box 5464, Tacoma WA 98415-0464. There are some "nature lovers" we can do without!

Meanwhile our boob-toobs are spewing out the goings-on of OJ's trial and your not-so-humble scribe doesn't give a damn who did what to who, not while there is so much slaughter going on against humans and other forms of life, not only here in Freedomland, but around the whole globe. Every day we are obliged to see the interior of Judge Ito's courtroom. How interesting it would be if we working-stiffs had the opportunity to witness Bruce Church's shaft of the United Farm Workers on the boob-toobs. Or if we could have the judicial fiasco that railroaded Leonard Peltier on the strength of perjured testimony. Leonard has done two decades of his two consecutive life-sentences while we are made to worry about what happens to OJ.

Talk about bread and circuses!

C.C. Redcloud

Locked Out

Seventy striking and locked-out workers from Decatur, Illinois, visited the AFL-CIO executive council's annual winter meeting in sunny Bal Harbour, Florida, to ask for an opportunity to speak to the council and for the organization of a "solidarity bank" to aid workers in drawn-out battles like their own. While some of the piccards spoke with them individually, and they were allowed to observe some meetings, the AFL bigwigs turned them down on both counts.

More than a year into the lockout, A.E. Staley workers have exhausted the UPIU strike fund, and seen their strike benefits dwindle to \$60 a week. The United Rubber Workers' strike fund ran out in January, leading the union to suspend strike benefits to Bridgestone-Firestone strikers (leading many outside Decatur to begin crossing picket lines). Only the Caterpillar strikers in Decatur receive full strike benefits, part of which they donate to help their fellow workers keep their heads above water.

It's not clear that a national strike fund is the way to go, of course. In the hands of the labor fakers, such a fund could easily become an instrument for preserving political control. It might also prove a tempting target for union-busting lawsuits, and inspire the AFL-CIO to intervene more vigorously to suppress union militance in order to avoid injunctions and massive fines.

Nor are long, drawn-out strikes the best way for labor to show its power. Countless IWW strikes ended when workers decided they could not be sustained, and that it was better to take the strike back to the job - relying on solidarity and direct action to hold the union together and continue the struggle while drawing a paycheck from the bosses. It is difficult to sustain such a struggle over the long haul, of course, and it is almost certain that many individuals will get fired or disciplined in the course of it.

But a labor movement inspired by genuine solidarity could make the price of union-busting too high for any employer to bear. Why, for example, do unionized communication and transport workers (postal, telephone, etc.) maintain uninterrupted service to struck plants? Why do workers handle raw materials (corn sweeteners, tires, etc.) from them? If workers acted together, there would be no need for long, drawn-out strikes.

Solidarity is, of course, against the law. But today's labor movement is not strong enough to keep fighting the bosses with our most powerful hand tied behind our back.

One other interesting question arises. Who runs the AFL-CIO, anyway? I can't imagine the IWW General Executive Board refusing to allow IWW members to speak to us. Nor can I imagine our members putting up with such a thing.

Craft Unionism

Meanwhile, the baseball owners are gearing up for a season with scabs. The craft-union (mis)organization of the Players Association has left the road wide open. There is a huge supply of minor leaguers who are not permitted to join the union (until they're called up into the majors); some are refusing to scab, but not enough. The umpires are also on strike, but separately. Grounds workers, ticket takers, vendors and the host of other workers in the baseball industry are either unorganized or in separate unions with separate contracts.

An industrial union of baseball workers could not only tie up the players, but also the workers necessary to run the ballparks, sell the tickets, and bring the all-important television and beer revenues. Such a union would not have to crawl to Washington pleading for Congressional intervention or third-party arbitration - it could dictate terms

to the owners. (And if the owners prove suicidally stubborn, why not dispense with them altogether?)

The IWW was organized back in 1905 because many workers recognized that the American Separation of Labor was fatally flawed - that instead of uniting workers, it divided us. That's still true 90 years later. Unfortunately, it's

our fellow workers in the craft unions who pay the price, and the bosses who profit from this misorganization.

Editor's Notebook

Repudiate the Debt

Around the world, politicians are pointing the enormous government debts to explain why they can't afford social services, have to slash our wages, raise our taxes (and cut the rich's), and sell off our schools and such to the highest bidder. Here in the States, the deficit runs into the hundreds of billions of dollars, and interest on the debt vies with military spending for the "honor" of being the chief drain on the budget.

In fact, if the government eliminated all social services and such; the cost of maintaining the prisons, the military and the rest of the state's apparatus of social control and keeping the interest payments current would still cost more than the government's revenues (assuming we pull Social Security out of the mix, as we should - it's hardly appropriate to raid people's pensions to keep bankers and generals rolling in green). The situation in much of the rest of the world is even more drastic.

So it's simply not possible to pay off the debt - at least not if we want to maintain any kind of society worth living in. We could cut the budget to the bone, and still not make a dent in it. (When the politicians talk about "down payments" on the debt, they mean only that it is growing less quickly than before.) There's probably no point in arguing about who's to blame for this situation (though I think it's clear that it wasn't workers who got us into this mess; we, after all, weren't the ones making the decisions).

The simple fact of the matter is that the government's bankrupt (not just morally, but economically as well). The debt can't be paid. The only thing to do is to repudiate it, and let the bankers and rich folks who've been feeding off us for so long paper their walls with their government bonds and notes.

The bankers won't like it, of course, but there's a lot more of us than there are of them...

Government Pork

Meanwhile, the Republicrats in Washington are proving I had misunderstood them all these years when they railed against (and voted for) government "pork." I thought they were talking about the rathole over at the Pentagon, about the massive subsidies paid to the corporations and the rich, and such. I was wrong, of course.

As this issue goes to press, the House has just voted to abolish the school lunch program, food stamps, and such. Those who thought these politricks were speaking metaphorically were wrong - what offends them is the thought of poor people eating pork (or anything, for that matter).

A Growing Union

As we go to press, I've just learned of a new IWW branch organized in Duluth. FWs in Utah tell me their membership has doubled in the last year. Chicago has added several members. The British section is growing by leaps and bounds, and has just organized its first job branch (in education). Workers are looking for a change - and it's up to us to make sure they know about the Wobbly alternative. Is the *Industrial Worker* distributed in your community, or to your co-workers? Perhaps you should take a bundle.

London Postal Workers Wildcat

13,000 postal workers in London downed sacks on Thursday 19 January in defiance of their union. The dispute arose when sorters in a North West London sorting office refused to operate new machinery. The Union of Communication Workers at national level had agreed the introduction of the machinery which would record the time involved in processing individual letters. Union members quite rightly believe the equipment will be used to introduce speed ups and identify "slow" workers.

Workers at the sorting office were suspended by their local management and other workers in the office immediately walked out in protest. News of the dispute spread very quickly and one IWW member in London saw 200 postal workers march out of the Rathbone Place sorting office, the biggest in Europe. They were soon joined by another 1000 at the office and within hours 13,000 were on strike, in an amazing display of instant solidarity. The strike led to post boxes being sealed up all over London.

The UCW bureaucracy and the post office management went into overdrive to stop the dispute. Management got an injunction from a court banning the strike and the union leadership withdrew any support for the unofficial strikers. Union full-time officials persuaded the strikers to go back to work on Saturday January 21, however the action led management to drop plans to discipline any of the workforce.

Sacked Bus Workers Fight On

Bus drivers working for the Badgerline Bus Company in Chelmsford, a small town to the east of London, were sacked in November after voting to strike. The action was called because of the demands of the company that they increase their working hours. It is well known that excessive driving hours is dangerous and encourages accidents. The drivers involved were being told to work for five hours without a break and realised that doing so would put the safety of themselves and their passengers at risk.

In a remarkable departure from traditional union activity the drivers' union, the

Transport and General Workers Union, is funding and running a union-controlled minibus service in opposition to the scab service run by the company. The service is free although nearly all the passengers are paying a solidarity fare of about \$1.70.

The support so far received by the strikers has been tremendous and they are digging in for what looks like being a long battle.

The affair highlights the fact that in Britain any form of strike action or the threat of it can lead to dismissal.

A Disaster Waiting To Happen...

Two workers have now been sacked or blacklisted by North Sea oil companies after "whistle-blowing" safety faults on Piper Bravo, the successor rig to Piper Alpha which blew up a few years ago, killing over a hundred workers.

In December, Bob Northcliff was sacked after exposing a catalogue of safety infringements and hazardous incidents on Piper Bravo. His story, printed in the oil workers' paper *Blowout*, prompted another oil worker to reveal the further major hazard of faulty baryte tank gauges on the installation. The oil rig Ocean Odyssey blew up and killed a worker last year when drilling was continued with insufficient baryte, yet drilling is continuing on Piper Bravo despite the amount of baryte on board falling to less than the legal minimum.

James Brown, the worker who exposed this and other hazards on the site, has now been told he is no longer employable because a complaint has been registered against him at his agency.

Information from *Blowout*, the paper of the Offshore Industries Liaison Committee (OILC), 6 Trinity Street, Aberdeen AB1 2LY, UK

Racism in London Jobs Market

A conservative government minister has finally admitted what something that everybody else already knew - that if you are black, under 24 and living in London the chances of getting a job are slim.

Philip Oppenheimer made the admis-

Canadian Labor News

Public Service Layoffs

The government has proposed eliminating 45,000 more workers by a variety of cash incentives. Federal public service unions are already deprived of their bargaining rights until 1997 under wage freeze legislation, but have been negotiating with government over job security.

A representative of SSEA (Social Science Employees Association) said: "It's our view that these concessions are unnecessary because there are a broad range of more humane measures to implement these cuts. On balance, however, I think our members will be inclined to take the package because there is really no alternative. We're up against a wall."

A strike would be illegal and workers would face heavy fines.

"If you can't mobilize public support you're toast," said the SSEA spokesperson. "If there isn't a broad support among the public and the labor movement then resisting and fighting in the streets is futile... I don't think public servants are willing to fight. They're demoralized and so frightened for their jobs and security that they're afraid of rocking the boat and making trouble."

tion in a written answer to a question put forward by Harriett Harman MP, part of the Labour Party's shadow cabinet and representative for the constituency of Peckham. Peckham is a multi-ethnic constituency in South London with an enormous unemployment problem.

The minister revealed that according to official figures, in London 62 percent of young black men (between 16 and 24) were jobless and over a third of all black men in the capital were without work. The figures show up the racism of the jobs market because the figures for young white males show an unemployment rate of 20 percent.

Job segregation of this type has been rampant in cities with black communities for many years and the "official" union movement has shown itself both unable but more importantly unwilling to mount any meaningful campaign.

Managers Charged in Workers Murder

The trial of 2 Westray mine (Nova Scotia) managers began Feb. 6 in Toronto. The 2 are charged with manslaughter and criminal negligence in the deaths of 26 miners in an explosion 1992.

Desperate for Jobs

5,000 workers lined up in Toronto Feb. 4 to apply for 400 job openings at Air Canada. Hundreds more arrived on Saturday to apply. Only one-third of the job openings are full time, with most of the remainder being summer jobs.

Statistics Canada reports that 11% of manufacturing employers plan to reduce their workforce in 1995.

Crisis Deepens as Banks Demand Wage Freeze

While the Zapatista National Liberation Army was commemorating the first anniversary of its uprising in Chiapas, the Mexican government was becoming more beholden to the whims of international finance capital.

On Dec. 19, when the EZLN took control of almost 40 towns in the state of Chiapas, Mexico's economy reeled. Foreign investors immediately bailed out of Mexican financial markets in a rush. Central bank reserves plummeted from \$17 billion at the end of October to \$6.5 billion.

The government then dramatically devalued Mexico's currency, the peso. This 30-percent decline of the peso produced the equivalent of an across-the-board wage cut as prices of basic commodities soared.

The economic crisis was portrayed by economists as one of the worst since the 1980s, before Mexico's so-called economic miracle. According to the *New York Times*, it is the Mexican government's job now to "convince foreign investors that the Mexican market they once thought the world of was not a mirage."

These investors, over two trading days before the peso was devalued, took nearly \$2 billion out of the country. By Christmas, they had pulled out a whopping \$10 billion.

How quickly a friend becomes a stranger in the capitalist world. Before NAFTA, these same cutthroat investors did all they could to expand the Mexican economy. In 1993, for example, they pressured the U.S. government to prop up the peso with a \$12-billion line of credit. Of course, that money has to be paid back, with interest.

The Democratic "Alternative"

NLRB Chairman William Gould, a Democrat, voted with 2 Republicans in a three to two decision to ban picketing by unionists of non-union employers. You can't legally picket outside a scab or non-union corporation telling people not to shop there because the workers inside are being paid below union scale. The rationale for the decision was framed in terms of a Supreme Court ruling in 1992, which stated that employers can ban non-employee union members from organizing attempts on their private property, i.e. the workplace.

"What have they done to the Earth? What have they done to our fair Sister? Stuck her with fences in the side of the dawn and dragged her down." (From an old Doors song to the best of my recollection.)

Wake up workers or we are all through.

Another Fine (Labor Party) Mess

In Australia, more than a decade of the federal Labor government and a Labor Party-Union Accord have undermined unionism. Since the ALP came to power in 1983, the national union movement's agenda has been dominated by the need to accommodate the policies of the federal Labor government.

Unions have failed to defend workers' living standards and rights, less they weaken the government's political position and the country's international competitiveness. Instead, unions have turned to a series of amalgamations which have left officers even more removed from the workers they claim to represent.

Before the Accord, the unions used their industrial strength during periods of economic growth to make up for wage losses suffered during recessions. For probably the first time in Australia's history the ACTU has been able to prevent the union movement doing that and as a result wages and conditions have fallen dramatically over the last 12 years.

For the first seven years of the Accord, wages rises were determined by the ACTU and the Labor government without any input by the rank and file. Individual unions ritualistically appeared at the industrial commission, plead for their predetermined rise, and put their hand on the Bible promising that they would not try for better pay. This

represented a massive transfer of power from the bottom to the top, from individual unions to the ACTU.

While unions used to take a stand on a whole range of issues related to workers' living standards, they have acquiesced in Labor government cuts in education, health, social welfare, transport and housing.

When the Labor government came to power, the ACTU set out to discipline individual unions that did not follow the program. The ACTU collaborated in the destruction of unions in the cases of the builders labourers and the pilots, and in government efforts to block unions such as the plumbers from striking for better pay by threatening them with massive fines and other penalties.

As a consequence, many workers are convinced that the ACTU has become nothing more than a transmission belt through

Vacant Chair

By re-electing Victor L. Berger the Fifth Wisconsin District votes itself a vacant chair in the national Congress. We have a notion that Congress would be improved by a large proportion of vacant chairs - say one hundred percent. And that goes for every parliamentary gas works.

The New Solidarity, Dec. 27. 1919

Irish strike "illegal"

Workers at Nolans Transport in New Ross, Ireland, struck in February 1993 for better pay, better conditions and union recognition. Now they could be jailed if they continue to picket.

December's High Court judgment ordered SIPTU to pay over £1.3 million in damages and expenses to Nolans Transport. Union leaders had insisted that only union members could challenge the validity of a ballot. Now, however, employers are entitled under the law to challenge balloting procedures.

This means that workers can be brought into court and asked how they voted in a secret ballot! If they are afraid of the sack and deny they voted for a strike, their union can sue for damages. Secondly, there is a clear implication that strikes for union recognition are unlawful.

There are other implications in the judgment such as the issuing of leaflets during a dispute (Nolans were awarded £25,000 for "defamation") and the fact that a company whose profits actually increased over the past year was awarded £600,000 damages for "loss of earnings." They also got £8,000 petrol costs for every month of the strike because blacking of their trucks by sympathetic unionists meant their lorries had to make longer journeys.

This situation has come about as a direct result of the 1990 Industrial Relations Act. As such, ICTU (Trade Union Congress) leaders who were instrumental in

drawing up this Act and who scoffed at all criticisms of it must bear a portion of the responsibility for landing the union movement in this mess.

We must not allow our movement to be shackled in this way. SIPTU should refuse to refuse to pay one penny to Nolans. Instead of giving in to state intimidation the unions should respond with protest stoppages and demonstrations.

Workers Solidarity (Dublin)

Russian Minimum Wage: \$13 a Month

On February 10th, the upper house of the Russian parliament, responding to the complaints of dissatisfied voters, reversed its previous decision on the minimum wage and voted to raise it from 20,500 roubles (less than \$5US) to 54,100 roubles (\$13US) a month.

People familiar with prices in Russia know this sum is ridiculous. Yet the decision will most likely be vetoed by President Yeltsin.

The proposal may affect the IMF's decision to grant Russia a loan. The IMF stated that it was withholding a stand-by loan of \$6.45 billion partly because Russia cannot contain its budget deficit.

While most people in Russia earn more than the minimum wage, it is used as a basis for calculated state-sector salaries and many social payments. Still, pensions are even lower than the minimum wage; Yeltsin recently vetoed a bill that would have in-

creased pensions from 19,700 roubles (\$4.55) to 54,000 roubles.

Despite the fact that 60 percent of all Russians live in extreme poverty (or, more precisely, because of this fact), there is "evidence" that the economy is doing well: Mercedes sales and the construction of luxury housing are up. Good news for statisticians: if you calculate the (official) salaries of the top 1 percent in with the general population, you get an average of about \$130 a month. We might just reach the living standards of a Mexican maquiladora after all!

Don't Spend it All in One Place!

A comparison of what you can do with the old minimum wage, and what you could do with the new.

Old

Buy 20 loaves of bread; OR Buy 15 loaves of bread and a kilo of butter. (To maintain a balanced diet.); OR Ride the metro to and from work (or save up for a metro pass!); OR Make a salad; OR Buy a pair of socks and 5 rolls of toilet paper; OR Go to the movies with a friend; OR Buy a couple of bottles of vodka, roll over and play dead.

New

Buy a loaf of bread every day! Have enough left over for a kilo of cheese!; OR Rent one square meter of a tiny apartment together with 20 friends. Sleep in shifts; OR Buy a metro pass and go to the movies. You'll even have money for popcorn.

You get the picture.

— Laure Akai, Moscow

Workers Forc

During the Gorbachev years the popular Russian journalist Alexander Kabakov published a science fiction story entitled *The Non-Returnee*, in which he described the horrors of life after perestroika. He depicted a Moscow in which normal life had disintegrated, there was shooting on the streets, and one part of the city was at war with another. The only thing that still worked



World Bank Attacks the World's Working Class...

The World Bank will lend companies money to clearcut a forest, but not to develop multi-user combined industrial and recreational forests under community control. The World Bank will lend you money to farm large monocrops using chemical and mechanical methods. But it will not lend you money for organic food multicrop farming as a workers cooperative.

The World Bank, after all, is in the business of quick, easy profit. It was not created to bring prosperity to the world's people, nor to stabilize the economy, and certainly not to protect democracy or human rights. It is a bank.

The record of Third or developing world countries clearly shows how the World Bank has actually reduced education, transportation, wages and health care; and the ability of working people to survive. In Brazil, every child born inherits a debt of \$750,000. No one expects the child to pay it off; in fact, they kill children in the street in order to avoid feeding them. That is what the debt means to the people of Brazil. It costs the nation more to feed these children than they will ever be able to pay back on the national debt. The priorities of the World Bank are economic priorities, not human.

What about your life? Is it getting better yet? The World Bank has been running things for a while. Why does your cost of living go up and your income go down? Why is it harder than ever to get a decent job? Why are social programs, built from the people's wealth, being scrapped? Why is medical care harder than ever to get? Why does education cost more than ever? Should we keep going the way we are going?

The World Bank doesn't want the debts paid off. Only if countries depend on them for more loans, can the World Bank control the country. The WB is happy to have everyone go deeper and deeper in debt, as long as payments are kept up on the interest.

In the late 1990s, the global finance system is running up against a major wall. We recently saw how the big bankers of the world scrambled to prop up Mexico's corrupt one-party regime. They know that if one major country's economy collapses

under the mountain of debt, it will set off a chain reaction rather like dominoes falling.

That is because there is no real foundation for the debts. The debts are artificially manufactured, like a house of cards. Somewhere down at the bottom is the real wealth produced by workers. There is no other wealth in the world, but the bankers have created artificial mountains of debts through lending money that never existed, at high rates of interest. In essence, a game of artificial numbers that enables a few people to say that they 'own' most of the real wealth.

If Mexico's funny-money peso collapsed, the farmers would still grow corn and bakers would still bake tortillas. True, there would be hardship due to the lack of money to buy seeds and pay wages, but with some changes in daily life the Mexican people would still have all the wealth they ever had. But the World Bank wants every country to be hooked on a line of debt payments. The World Bank is willing to fork over billions of dollars in order to prop up the debt-based economy because that allows it to continue to drain real wealth away from the Mexican people.

Never mind that Canada, the USA, and European rulers tell their own people there is no money for health and education. We can still come up with billions to prop up the peso. This shows that the rules of the numbers game are arbitrary.

The World Bank is in a mad race to expand. The trouble is, they have already expanded over the whole planet, and there will soon be no more room for expanding their debt base. We are reaching a crisis point of final balance, where the amount of resources are finite and we have to live within those means. The only way to do that is to distribute wealth more evenly and efficiently. But the World Bank is not paying attention to its looming crisis. Greed for always more profits is built in. At this moment, the debts of every country are beyond reach. Billions and trillions owed by every country. The whole system is visible as a hopeless scam. We know that Brazil will never pay its debt to the World Bank, not even if they sell every tree and sell every

child for organ transplants and prostitution.

Can the USA, Canada, Italy, Britain or Australia ever pay off their debts? When the only way to earn any money is to borrow more money at interest? Can you blow all the air out of the sky by breathing faster?

The limited size of the global economy is not the only problem for the World Bank system. Environmental disasters can blow the side out of their profit-taking operations. No more fish means no more loans to equip fishing boats or processing plants, i.e. no more profits there. Floods, freezes, droughts and storms can wipe out farming and other industry in whole regions. Then there are volcanoes, earthquakes and rising oceans. Such events can knock the bottom out of a whole nation's economy, and deprive the World Bank of its levy.

The World Bank seems to be making no preparation for these emergencies. Instead they take as much profit as they can, while they can, and the future be damned.

One looming disaster the World Bank is well prepared for, is resistance from people thrown into poverty and suffering. This is a familiar problem and so they have made sure there is plenty of money available for police, prisons and military.

Along with the elimination of public education and health care, we can notice that the World Bank always requires its debtors to crush Labor Unions. In the West it is done with court injunctions, privatization and media manipulation, while in Iran and Burma the method is guns and torture.

As the eyes of the world turn towards the World Bank, it will begin to take steps to improve its public image. It will claim that it does care about people; that it helps people economically. Thus will begin a dialogue of sorts between the ruler and the people. It will become in the public mind what it is already in fact, the political dictator of the world. The WB will attempt to present itself as a benevolent dictator that is good for the people. It will claim that it creates wealth.

People will continue to lose interest in useless national politics. Perhaps there will be a movement for global government to control the World Bank. But in the mean-

time, political action will be submerged in economic action.

The question is how can we get control of some wealth for ourselves? Can we start a co-op? Can we get away with seizing lands and resources? Whom do we have to pay off in order to be allowed to do business? Can we build global industrial unions to defend us against the global dictators?

Can we unite? The united workers of the world can easily knock out the World Bank, write off the debts, and re-structure economy for the benefit of all the people.

What the World Bank fears more than anything else, is the people united. Join with millions of working class people on May 1, 1995, in actions to focus on the role of the World Bank/IMF.

MV/Ottawa

New World Order\$

Who makes law and policy?

Sitting on top is the World Bank/IMF, umbrella of the global finance system. It lends out credit in return for profit.

WB/IMF lends credit to every national government. Along with loans of credit, it issues orders for how they should spend the credit. WB/IMF allows governments to spend credit on just two things: politicians' salaries, and police-military costs.

What is the role of government? The job of national politicians is to persuade citizens to accept the laws and policies ordered by the WB/IMF.

Politicians also act as salespersons for any corporations which operate in their country. They go abroad searching for customers for these corporations and help them make deals for trade.

What are taxes? Taxes are interest payments we make to the banks.

What about public services? Public services do not generate profit.

What rights do we have? You have the right to buy things with your money, or to put it in a bank.

What can we do? You could help build industrial unions so people can take democratic control of the wealth we produce.

Moscow Metro Funding

properly was the city's underground rail system, the metro.

Residents of the Russian capital are simply incapable of imagining the metro shutting down. But it now seems that a continuation of neo-liberal reforms is fraught with just this danger.

In Soviet times, the building of metro systems - not just in Moscow, but through-



out the country - was funded centrally. Now the metro systems have been handed over to local authorities. In Moscow there is one transport policy, another in St Petersburg, and in provincial centres yet another. The uniform fares and technical standards of former years are now things of the past.

Every city tries to solve its own problems as best it can.

In the 1995 federal budget no provision was made for funding metros. City authorities also refused to finance work on building and maintaining metro lines. The cost of these tasks has been put at 3.4 trillion rubles, close to a billion US dollars. An immense sum for an impoverished country, but far less than the Russian government has spent waging its war in Chechnya.

Meanwhile, Moscow city authorities would not seem to be short of money either, when it comes to funding projects dear to the mayor. The Moscow administration is spending vast sums building a replica of the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, demolished in the 1930s. The city is also constructing an underground complex beneath Manezh Square, and is promising to erect the world's tallest skyscraper on the banks of the Moscow river. Extremely dubious from economic, architectural and environmental points of view, these projects have drawn numerous public protests.

Executives of Metrostroy, the enterprise responsible for building and maintaining metro lines, warned that the escalators at many stations would have to be stopped, and that underground accidents would become a routine matter if funding was not forthcoming. The cost of a metro trip would rise from 400 rubles to 1800, and service would be cut back.

At a conference in mid-January, the Metrostroy union resolved to call a strike for January 31 to protest against the disintegration of Moscow's underground rail transit system. City authorities declared that they would not allow unions to force the redistributing of budget funds. It seemed that the prospect of the collapse of the Rus-

sian capital's transport system, and even the danger that people would be killed, troubled them much less than the need to observe "budget discipline."

Then city authorities began to think again. Unlike most Russian workers, the people who build and run the Moscow metro are not without industrial muscle. The economy of the Russian capital depends on millions of workers being able to travel across the city each day by public transport. The cost to employers of even a brief metro stoppage would be enormous.

As they planned their action, the metro workers had a variety of effective tactics to choose from. If construction workers stopped pumping water from new tunnels, existing lines would soon be flooded. Metro train drivers would not even have to strike; simply by following regulations and refusing to take out carriages with mechanical faults, they could cut the number of trains per hour to a handful.

Moscow authorities had little reason to hope that the public would blame the metro workers rather than the city officials for the resulting chaos. Consequently, the prospect of strike action on the metro appears to have caused genuine alarm. This evidently penetrated to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who ordered the Russian government to come up with the funds needed on the eve of the strike.

The future of Russia's metro systems is far from assured. Funds promised by the government are often delivered late, and rarely in full. The new allocations for metro construction and maintenance will fall immediately under the gaze of cost-cutting zealots in the finance ministry.

Defenders of public transport, however, have the perfect answer to the financial hatchet-wielders: just take the money from the funds assigned for fighting the war in Chechnya.

— Boris Kagarlitsky & Renfrey Clarke

Nigerian Unionists Jailed by Military

Union and human rights leaders have come under increasingly brutal attack in Africa's largest country, Nigeria, where a military dictatorship has met demands for democracy with escalating repression.

In the months since troops broke last summer's pro-democracy strike by Nigerian oil workers at bayonet point, the regime has systematically cracked down on the labor movement in an effort to crush democratic resistance. Last year military dictator Sani Abacha detained top oil workers' union leaders Frank Kokori, Wariebi Agamene, and F.A. Addo without charge or trial. Despite promises to charge or release the labor leaders and other democracy activists, the regime is still holding them and many others at secret locations without access to attorneys, family members or doctors.

Hundreds of striking unionists have been dismissed and blackballed. Nigeria's two oil workers' unions, NUPENG and PENGASSAN, along with the national federation, the Nigerian Labor Congress, have been put under army control and stripped of their bank accounts, their dues checkoff facilities and their offices. Elected union officials have been summarily removed and barred from conducting union affairs.

Last October an international trade union delegation went to Nigeria to demand the release of the imprisoned labor leaders and an end to repression. They were assured by senior army officials that Kokori and the others would be released or charged, that union autonomy would be restored and fired workers returned to work.

None of these promises were kept. Troops still occupy union offices. Unionists and Nigerian President-elect Moshood Abiola, winner of an election in 1993, remain imprisoned. There is growing concern about the health and safety of Brother Kokori and other political prisoners held in secret army jails.

The United States, which bought \$5 billion of oil from Nigeria last year, could bring economic pressure on the dictatorship to end human rights abuses and restore democracy. Much of this money is paid directly to the dictatorship through the state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Co.

But to date Washington has declined to use its economic leverage to advance democracy, and has refused to block payments to the regime from Mobil, Chevron and other U.S. oil companies in Nigeria.

Write the Nigerian army. Insist that Frank Kokori, Moshood Abiola and all other political prisoners be released. But also write to the U.S. government. Urge the Clinton Administration to put effective pressure on the Abacha dictatorship to release political prisoners, restore the rights of free speech, free association and peaceful protest.

Write or fax: General Oladipo Diya, Chief of General Staff, Abuja, Nigeria; Dr. S.O. Ogbumedia, Federal Ministry of Labor and Productivity, Federal Secretariat Phase 1, Ikoyi-Lagos, Nigeria, Fax: (011 234 1) 2692293; George Moose, Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street Room 6234A, Washington DC 20520, Fax: (202) 647-6301

Reform Hits Cuban Workers

The Cuban government's "employment rationalisation" programme will affect at least 500,000 people - one third of the economically active population. The prospect of mass firings causes serious concern, especially as falling wages and scarcity have left many workers destitute.

President Fidel Castro says the government will try to place those affected in other jobs. Cuban workers are not permitted to organize independent unions or other associations to defend their interests.

El Salvador: Free Trade Zone

In early 1995 the Salvadoran government announced a series of economic measures aimed at opening up El Salvador to foreign investors. One of President Calderón Sol's stated goals is to convert El Salvador into a free trade zone where export companies, usually foreign, are subsidized by the government. The proposal to expand El Salvador's free trade zones is especially worrying to unions because of the anti-union attitude prevalent in the existing free trade zones.

Reports of low wages, long hours with no overtime pay, illegal firings, verbal and physical abuse, intimidation, and sexual harassment by managers and owners abound among workers. Although aware of the problems and violations of the Salvadoran labor code, the government is reluctant to confront a booming economic sector that in 1994 exported more than all agricultural exports combined.

Free Trade Zone "investors" are provided the necessary infrastructure (warehouses, electricity, water, transportation, etc.) for a successful enterprise, and are exempted from taxes on income and property. Moreover, companies are paid 8% of the value-added component of their exports as compensation for taxes that they are exempt from paying anyway.

The infrastructure and tax breaks provided by free trade zones, in addition to an ample supply of cheap labor, make them extremely attractive to foreign textile companies, or maquilas. Maquilas are known for the ease with which they relocate in search of the most competitive benefits, literally moving overnight from one country to another. Most of the companies in El Salvador's free trade zones are US or Southeast Asian-owned textile companies.

In some respect Calderón Sol's proposals for a nation-wide free trade zone are moot because in addition to the 38 companies in free trade zones there are over 200 other companies located outside of the zone that enjoy the same incentives. In fact, any company that exports its production and for "technical reasons" cannot be located in a free trade zone can be declared a reciento fiscal, allowing them the same benefits given to companies in free trade zones.

The textile industry is extremely important for the Salvadoran government. According to the Central Reserve Bank, textile exports grew by almost 50% in 1994, (totaling \$431 million) 92% of which went to the US. Of course, since a majority of the raw materials for textiles are imported, the actual benefit to the country is much less.

On December 11, 1994, over 50 women from a number of women's organization and textile factories gathered at a San Salvador hotel for the First National Assembly of Women Textile Workers. Participants presented a list of abuses committed in the maquilas. Some of the most common are:

- Control over physical necessities. Denial of permission to use bathrooms more than two times during a work day or docked pay for the time away from their stations.

- Long hours and low pay. Many women reported that they are required to remain after working hours or to work on weekends to fill quotas, yet are not paid overtime.

- Denial of leaves for personal or health reasons. One woman has filed a complaint claiming that a lack of medical attention caused her to abort inside a factory. When she felt ill and began to bleed she was denied permission to leave her work to seek medical attention even though supervisors knew that she was pregnant.

- Sexual harassment. Workers say that companies place a maximum age limit on hiring at 25 and that managers and owners constantly ask younger women out. Many, fearing the loss of their jobs, accept.

- Verbal and physical abuse. Workers claim that they are constantly being yelled at or hit for any minor infraction of working procedure. The physical abuse includes being slapped on the head and face or punched in the stomach.

The Inspector General's office of the Labor Ministry admits receiving up to 25 complaints per day of violations in textile factories in the free trade zones. Yet the current Inspector General downplays the problems as a lack of knowledge of Salvadoran labor laws by foreign export company owners and "cultural" differences. "These people (factory owners) are used to running their businesses... in a different manner. They are a little stricter and Salvadorans are not used to discipline."

Representatives of women's organizations agree that in order to change working conditions textile workers must organize. But anti-labor practices of maquila owners discourage unionization. These practices include prohibiting the soliciting of signatures; restricting the circulation of published material in the factories and contact between groups of workers; maintaining black lists of known union organizers; and firing union members. While the old labor code prohibited the arbitrary firing of union officials, companies would buy the list of potential members from the Labor Ministry when an application to form a union was submitted. The new labor code has expanded the protection from firing effective once an application for a union is filed yet companies continue to fire workers anyway.

Reducing Working Hours

Reprinted from a handbill that UAW activists (in the New Directions Movement caucus) distributed last year:

"People get off work and they don't have enough energy left to spend with their family. They're too tired to go to their kid's ball game or to a PTA meeting. They certainly can't be involved in the community. I think all this overtime is bad for democracy," says Tom Laney, a member of UAW Local 879, speaking of the effects of forced

The US is the only major industrialized country in which hours of work per week increased in the past 20 years.... Forty-two percent of workers feel "used up" by the end of the work day...

overtime at Ford's St. Paul assembly plant.

Dave Yettaw, president of Local 599 at GM's Buick City complex in Flint, MI laments that "In some situations, our members are working six weeks in a month because of overtime (60 hours a week for 240 hours a month, compared to a normal 40 hours a week for 160 hours a month)."

They are not alone. In 1992, U.S. workers worked an average of 41.7 hours a week, the longest work week since World War II. Twenty-five percent of all full-time workers spent 49 hours a week or more on the job.

The U.S. is the only major industrialized country in which hours of work per year increased in the last twenty years—by the equivalent of adding a thirteenth month to the calendar. Autoworkers actually worked an average 47.5 hours a week in the Detroit area in early 1994.

All that forced overtime destroys the families of those who are working — and those who aren't.

A recent study by the Families and Work Institute, commissioned by 15 major corporations, found that 66 percent of people can't spend enough time with their families because they have to work too much. Forty-two percent of workers feel "used up" by the end of the work day. Conservative who worry about the break up of the family, and social workers who wonder why children lack supervision, should take a look at those numbers. Companies funding the study included Allstate Insurance, AT&T, American Express, DuPont, IBM and Xerox.

Americans don't get much time off compared to the rest of the world. Here are

the total vacation, holidays and personal days taken annually by manufacturing production workers.

Country	Days Off	Hours Worked
Germany	42.5	1648
Korea	39	1946
Italy	37.5	1780
France	36	1755
Sweden	36	1800
Japan	31	1861
US	22	1940

data: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1991-1992

Forced overtime also destroys jobs - eliminating employment opportunities for the unemployed and the underemployed. Yettaw says that while autoworkers are forced to work horrendous overtime in Flint, unemployment and underemployment force 45 percent of the children in the city live below the poverty line.

Thirty-one percent of all fulltime jobs in the country paid less than the poverty line. The UAW says that 59,000 new jobs would be created if companies would stick to a 40 hour work week. Tens of thousands more jobs could be created if unions fought for and won shorter work time.

Labor productivity is way up due to new technology and speed up. From 1982 to 1992, manufacturing productivity increased

29.1 percent, compared to 13.8 percent for the private nonfarm economy as a whole. In automobile assembly plants, productivity increased 105.2 percent between 1979 and 1989, but real wages actually fell 1.3 percent. Now is the time for workers to benefit from technology and speed up with a shorter work week: 35 hours work for 40 hours pay.

Workers in other industrial countries fought successfully to reduce work time.

Now is the time to push for a shorter work week to create jobs, save our families, and save our country. There is absolutely no reason why corporate owners should be the only ones to benefit from increased productivity. We are working harder and producing more, we should benefit from that as well.

The fight has started. Electricians in IBEW Local 1 St. Louis won a strike for a 32 hour work week when they have members unemployed. Workers at the Chrysler minivan plant rejected the company's plan for 3 crews working 4 10-hr days a week, despite pressure from their International Union, and won a 35 hour week at 40 hours pay instead. Workers in St. Paul, MN got their Democratic Party precinct caucuses to pass resolutions to outlaw mandatory overtime.

We can do the same, but we need to organize, on the shop floor and in our neighborhoods. No one is going to do it for us. We'll need to fight locally and nationally.

What 'American Dream'?

When we hear highly-paid, well-fed politicians soft-soap us with blather about the "American Dream," it is understandable that many of us feel like puking. What, indeed, have most workers to look forward to?

Hundreds of thousands of them have been thrown off jobs that they thought would offer them lifetime security. And those who remain on the job don't know whether tomorrow they won't be among the next group to be fired. How does a man or woman who has been fired at age 45 or 50 pursue the American Dream if the only job they can find—if they're lucky—pays 20 to 30 percent less than the one they had?

The fact is that workers in the United States are in deep trouble. Over the past two decades, their wages and benefits have declined. Whatever health care protection they had for their families has steadily eroded. And the road ahead is even rockier as Big Business seeks to hammer down labor costs

Workers Win Vote on 12-Hour Day

Judge Sam Bell of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio has ruled in favor of plaintiffs William Linger, Marcus Corbin, and Anthony Budak, and against General Motors' Packard Electric Division and Local 717, IUE, in a law suit demanding a ratification vote on Packard's 12-hour day schedule.

Local 717's constitution required that workers be permitted to vote on all contract changes. The union argued that the 12-hour day was actually a benefit to workers. Judge Bell's opinion noted: "Left out of this rosy assessment [of the 12-hour schedule in the Local 717 newsletter] are the increase in child care costs to some employees, the disruption of various personal activities, as well as the fatigue of working 1 1/2 times as many hours per workday."

"[T]he Union simply takes the position that they are entitled to try out a pilot program before any agreement is submitted for ratification.... This interpretation, on its face, is unfair and unreasonable [and] offers no protection of the guaranteed right to ratification."

in order to gain competitive advantage in the global marketplace.

Now we have House Speaker Newt Gingrich and a Republican-controlled Congress on the scene, and what hope do they offer us about reviving the American Dream? Well, they're going to give us the Balanced Budget Amendment as a nice, big present—in seven years. How much groceries will that put in the fridge?

Then there's the capital gains tax which Newt and his cohorts want to cut. Since most of us don't have a portfolio of real estate property, stocks and bonds, that's not going to make us sleep easy. Does anyone believe the Republicans are pushing this to

Nestle Boycott Revived

In the late 70s and early 80s, an international boycott was launched against Nestle, the largest promoter of infant formula in developing Third World countries. Sufficient pressure was put on Nestle that Nestle's corporate officers negotiated an end to that first boycott, promising to stop the unethical formula marketing practices which the boycott targeted. However, by 1988 activists who monitored Nestle's performance in Third World countries formed ACA, Action for Corporate Accountability. ACA determined that Nestle had, in fact, continued to promote formula unethically, breaking its promises to activists. As a result, ACA initiated the current, second Nestle Boycott against "Bottle Baby Disease" or infant formula-related malnutrition.

The World Health Organization states that 1.5 million babies die each year from Bottle Baby Disease, suffering from forms of starvation including marasmus, kwashiorkor and dehydration. An estimated 10 million babies suffer from this malady, and while these babies live many suffer permanent effects such as brain damage. Nestle controls 50 percent of the formula market in Third World countries.

There are four basic demands:

- That Nestle stop distributing free samples of formula;
- Stop using hospitals and clinics to promote formula;
- Stop using doctors and nurses as medi-

provide lots of decent-paying jobs?

Should we be cheered that, with all the hoopla about cutting spending, both Gingrich and Clinton want to give billions of dollars to the military? How will working people be an inch closer to the American Dream if the Pentagon is given whatever it wants so that it can fight two wars simultaneously?

We're all supposed to applaud the politicians in Washington and state and local governments as they compete with each other to see who can cut the most social services, especially those affecting the poor, elderly and disabled. They're going ahead even if it means causing physical and mental damage to millions of poor children. But that's not all they're after: they want to eliminate federal regulations which employ-

ers find restrictive or costly. They're determined to give Corporate America a free hand to run their companies as they see fit, with no protective laws for workers and consumers—as it was in the golden days of the open-shop 19th century.

Can the American Dream pass beyond empty rhetoric to become a reality for most working families? Perhaps. This is a rich country, with vast natural resources, a productive labor force and with democratic traditions. In the recent elections, workers expressed their unhappiness with the status quo and they voted in the Republicans. But they are waiting and watching, and may act when the Republicans don't delive. We are still a sufficiently open society so that everything is possible.

— Harry Kelber

cal authority figures to push the product;

• Stop mass media advertising which suggests that women of color will lose their figures if they breastfeed and be less desirable to male partners or spouses.

The crux of the problem stems from the fact that Third World mothers start using free samples of formula, stop lactating, and then become dependent on expensive formula — watering it to make it last longer, often in areas with little or no sterile, potable water. More and more of the family food budget goes to buy the expensive formula, and often formula packaging has no pictures or native language instructions for use. Nestle Boycott organizers maintain that marketing the formula in this way is criminal.

ACA has not organized local boycott chapters. As a result, the N.W. Boycott Committee was formed in Portland, Oregon, in Fall 1993 to actively organize local Nestle Boycott chapters. In that time the Committee has gotten 66 groups in 10 states to endorse the boycott. If an activist group, union, church, etc., in any state is interested in endorsing the Nestle Boycott or organizing a local chapter, the Committee will send a "model endorsement form" and can provide speakers and product list cards, lend a 20-minute video, "Formula for Disaster," and suggest organizing ideas for individuals and groups. The N.W. Boycott Committee can be contacted at 503/244-3726, or write: P.O. Box 40821, Portland OR 97240.

Targeted products of the Nestle Boycott include: Nescafe, Nestea, Quick, Crunch, Butterfinger, MJB, Hill Bros., Coffeemate, Taster's Choice, Carnation, Stouffer's, L'Oreal, Contadini, Libby's, Calistoga, Perrier, Alpo and Friskies. In the past, the North Carolina Nestle Boycott chapter was able to get one grocery store owner who did not want his store picketed to distribute 6,000 grocery bags imprinted with the names of boycotted Nestle products, with a paragraph explaining the boycott. In Oregon, in 1994, the boycott was endorsed by Portland Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Oregon Fellowship of Reconciliation divested its Nestle stock, and a community radio station, KBOO in Portland, removed Nestle products from the station canteen.

Some activists may suggest that consumer boycotts only put a band-aid on the fundamental problem of global capitalism. However, as John Dewey noted that "Politics is the shadow cast by big business on public life," the political process, at least in the U.S., seems to be owned by large corporations. Therefore, why not directly challenge and hold accountable big business where it hurts the most: in the pocketbook. Saving the lives of infants in poor communities around the world is no "band-aid," it is the difference between life and an early death.

— Lew Church

New Age Bosses No Match for IWW

At best management will welcome our efforts to improve negative dynamics and take more responsibility for the store.

"The changes we ask for may be seen as reasonable and just. Yet we must also acknowledge that the owners and managers may feel like their interests are being threatened. We must also acknowledge the perennial conflict between owners and workers. An owner's profit always is disproportionate to the profit of the workers. There is injustice in this relationship. As we improve

organizing meetings.

"[Management] flipped out, hauling three of the core organizers into the office and demanding to know what happened at those meetings. At one point one of the managers said something to the effect of, 'Well, you know that at New Leaf [health food store] workers had been having secret meetings, and they all got fired.' An emergency meeting was held in response, with almost a third of the workers showing up. 'We decided to call a meeting with the

together only a short time. And we had a nice balance between openness and firmness. There were 24 people present at the meeting which was a decent turn out. (There are roughly 30 non-management workers in the store.) The meeting took place at one manager's house. They opened the meeting by saying that some workers have been involved in secret meetings and that this has made many people feel uncomfortable. They had earlier agreed to allow a neutral mediator run the meeting, so we brought in Eric Gross, my house mate and fellow Wobbly delegate. He came in to facilitate the meeting using consensus process. He is a trainer of non-violence direct action trainers, and introduced himself as such. Martha, one of the most senior and respected workers at the Herb Room, read our introductory statement of general aims. This was a document she and I co-wrote and edited with input and approval of other workers."

The document proposed: "That workers and management together take responsibility for planning and operating the store, and that workers at all levels be involved in store decisions. That workers, managers and owners are each accountable to all others, with openness, honesty, and respect characterizing communication. Both positive and critical feedback is encouraged at all levels. One standard of conduct would apply to all. That the goal of the Food Bin Inc. be to retain employees and to develop a staff which is skilled and relatively stable. This may be accomplished through the aforementioned changes along with fair compensation."

"Next Leah, another respected Herb Room worker, read out some of the specific issues we have been talking about in the meetings, issues like instituting a raise structure, a training manual, clear policy on benefits, monthly worker meetings, etc. Management wanted us to Xerox these, but we refused, and read them slowly enough for them to take notes."

After the reading of the first statement, Demian the Nark, asked for a clarification since the letter began with the words, "We workers." He was obviously trying to isolate us by indicating that the letter didn't speak for him. To their detriment, management asked for a show of hands of those who had been to worker meetings. The vast majority raised their hands. Then they asked for a show of hands of those who agree with the letter just read, even more hands went up. Managers were clearly impressed by the display of solidarity.

"Management pretended to show good faith by saying they were glad to be taking about problems if they exist. They said that many of our proposals made sense, but that some were clearly not going to fly. They said that we should recognize that the Food Bin Inc. is a great place to work, we are all one big happy family, problems should be heard, our boss has his faults, but is a good man, and we should be grateful he has given

us a opportunity to work there. Blah Blah Blah."

They were quaking in their shoes. They never thanked us for our dedication to the store as evidenced by our willingness to organize to improve our store on our free time. They constantly criticized the secretness of our meetings and one manager said she was personally hurt she was not invited. We responded that we felt that the secrecy was necessary. We were not going to invite managers to meetings where workers are just beginning to share frustrations. Who wants to talk about sensitive problems with their manager around? In fact when management finally found out from the Nark that we were meeting, they freaked.

Management kept thanking Demian the Nark for having the courage to say that he felt excluded from worker meetings, that he had been disinvited. They are clearly going to use him to their advantage. "In all," Drummond said, "management made it clear they are going to resist worker empowerment with all they've got. Fence sitters will have to choose between worker empowerment and allegiance to management. Which side are you on? The polarization is clear."

The Boss Returns from Bali

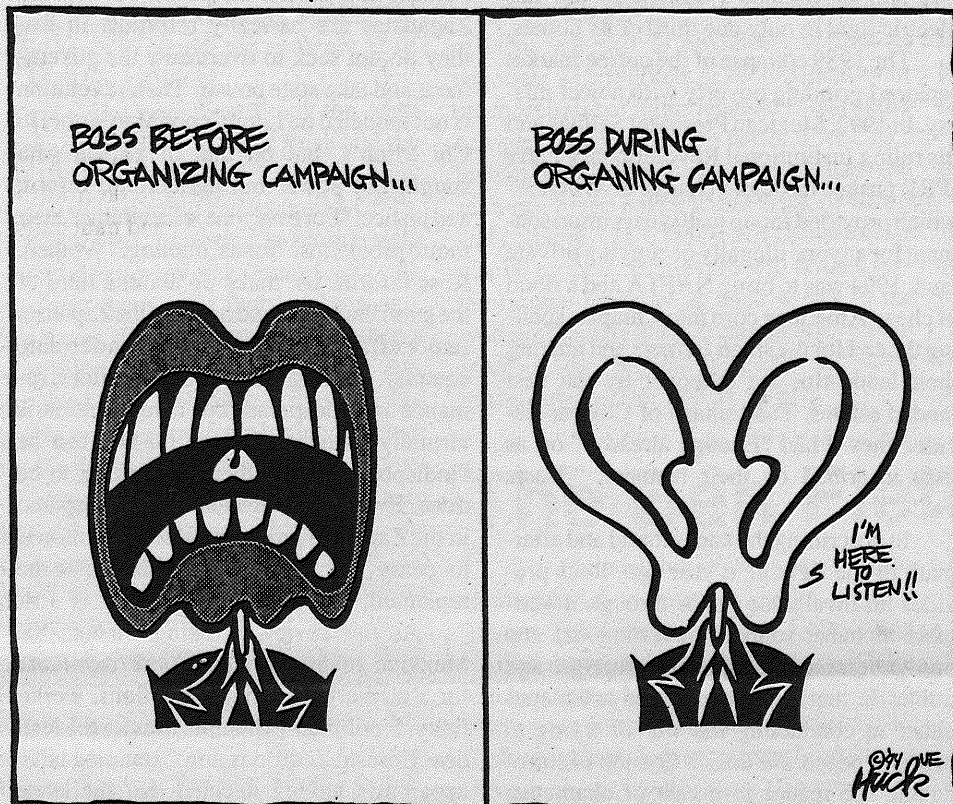
And then the boss returned from Bali. Corin's next report read: "Mark [Taylor] has been smiling, and affirming his support for the efforts we are making to improve our workplace. He's making much noise about his willingness to make changes."

He continued "Yesterday was the first day I had to get to work by bus since my car got crashed (referring to an accident a few days earlier). I missed the first bus and was late to work. The boss was there when I got in. At the end of the day he called me into the office and had me shut the door. He asked if I was aware I was late for work and getting back from lunch. We had already talked about my lateness for starting work, I explained my bus situation, and apologized, my fault, etc. He had a piece of paper which he wanted me to sign stating that I was late for work. I asked, "What is this Mark, what is this about?" He said that one of the things workers are asking for is better consistency and accountability. I said, I didn't think signing a paper saying I was late, when such action is unprecedented, had anything to do with the kind of changes people were talking about in worker meetings. He said that change is a "double-edged sword," and that "we can't have it both ways."

I told him that the Food Bin has always portrayed itself as a friendly, family style business, and that this action was inconsistent with that identity. I said that I felt he was threatening my job, and that I couldn't construe this unprecedented act as a friendly one. He denied he was threatening my job. I said that to pursue a retributive and legalistic strategy goes against the changes that the workers would like to see. He again

continued on page 10

THAT DARN BOSS!
HOW YOUR BOSS WILL TRY TO KEEP YOU FROM ORGANIZING INTO A UNION!! IN A SERIES



the running of our store, and improve our standing within it, we are likely to stretch the current boundaries of the boss/worker relationship. Therefore, we must plan how we would handle the situation if the boss and/or managers respond poorly to the changes we will institute... My primary goal in this endeavor is not merely to win concessions on wages, to challenge secrecy, a meritocracy based on personal favor, etc. My goal is for workers at the store to become enfranchised as people with responsibility to and decision making power for the store... No one should ever have to brown nose, or laugh at the bosses' stupid jokes in order to stay in good standing or advance at our store."

His proposals called for regular store meetings with worker involvement in all facets of decision-making: hiring, planning, marketing, handling grievances. "Indeed the changes we intend to institute are in the best interests of managers," Drummond said. "Having a well-organized staff taking responsibility for tasks which managers are usually swamped with seems like an initiative they'd be pleased with." But, "Should the boss refuse to negotiate with us, patronize us, or dismiss us, we must be prepared to remind him that we *are* the store and that without us, he makes no money."

Regular meetings continued while the owner remained on an extended vacation in Bali. Workers who'd been to meetings talked to those who were absent, seeking their input. "We are making it clear that this is a process for all workers, not just the radical ones," Drummond explained. Near the end of January one worker "narked" on the organizers, informing management of the

whole store, management included, to begin discussing our general aims, if not our specific agenda items... We asked that a neutral individual from the local Conflict Resolution resource center be present to ensure that the meeting was a safe environment for workers to speak out." Management agreed to the requests.

"When I and another worker met with management, they denied they were ever considering firing anyone, and indicated they were eager to work with us. They even offered concessions without prompting: a pay raise schedule, and paid committee meetings." It seemed management was already panicked

Corin's next email report began with a plaintive "Waaaaaaah! Oh Goddess you are a harsh Dominatrix! Why do you make me struggle against a passive aggressive and new agey management who are demonstrating they will fight worker self-empowerment tooth and nail? Why do I have to be the only wobbly at my job site? Why do I have the task of trying to form a union among people who's identification with their oppressor is still strikingly strong despite the gruesome displays of intimidation and dishonesty we feasted our senses on last night? Why won't you make labor organizing easy? Will you at least smite the co-worker who narked on us to management and who takes ever opportunity to slander and obstruct the project of worker self-empowerment? your overly devoted acolyte..."

"We rocked their world"

"We rocked their world," he continued. "Workers came out of our last organizing meeting amazingly unified for having been

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Health Food Workers Organize...

asked if I would sign the paper, and said I would not. He said that I had missed two mandatory meetings, which is correct. He also mentioned that I have sort of been on probation since a meeting he and the manager (Toddy) had with me in response to a letter they had received from an irate customer... As I recall that meeting, it was resolved with the both the owner and manager feeling that my actions in the matter were justified, but asking me to try to avoid such a situation in the future. Which I agreed to do, and have done. At that meeting, no mention was made of probation or any kind of disciplinary action. Yesterday's meeting was the first I'd heard of it. When Mark mentioned that I had 'basically been on probation' since the meeting four months ago, I figured he was trying to establish documentation of disciplinary actions so that he could fire me. The meeting ended when I declined to sign the paper for the second time. He said, "If you don't want to cooperate that's fine."

"Days later, I asked my manager Toddy whether it was her understanding that I was on probation. She said, "Are you telling me that you are on probation?" I said, "I'm asking you whether it is your understanding that I am." She said she didn't think I was on probation. "Thanks again for your fabulous help." the message to his fellow workers on the computer network ended. "I hope I'm not unemployed soon."

"Corin, We've reached an impasse. I have to let you go"

"Corin here," began his message of February 12th. "I got fired yesterday from the Food Bin Inc."

"On Saturday Mark came in the afternoon and said he wanted to speak to me. I told him I wanted a witness present; he said no, but capitulated when I asserted it was my right. Heather, a co-worker, came into the meeting with me and witnessed the whole thing. Also present were Barbara Jirsa, and Toddy Merrill, both managers. I recorded much of the meeting on audio tape."

"Mark asked me to read over papers which he said were part of my employee file. There were two documents which I saw. One was a computer printed document listing incidents at the store involving me... The other paper was a document written by Toddy after a conversation we had several months back where she had asked me to improve some aspects of my performance and to take on additional responsibilities."

"Mark began asking questions related to each point on the list and asking how I felt it affected my job performance. We discussed our differing views on many of the specific points, and I told him that overall, I felt that the portrait painted by the document did not accurately characterize my work, and that I disagreed with his interpretations of many of the instances. After arguing over the specifics of the document, and its implications on my work performance, he informed me that he had to let me go."

"He stated that based on the points in my employee file, he should have fired me a long time ago. I told him that I felt I was being fired because I was a core organizer in the worker meetings. I told them I intended to pursue recourse to what I considered an unjust firing. The meeting lasted about 30 minutes."

"Workers at the Food Bin Inc. have expressed anger and hurt that I was fired, and have called a workers meeting to deal with this development. I am contacting Mark Janowitz, IWW lawyer and seeking his representation for an unfair labor practices lawsuit against the Food Bin Inc. (FBI)." Both ULP and civil suits are being filed against the company.

Grassroots Rebellion in Chiapas

Rebellion from the Roots: Indian Uprising in Chiapas, by John Ross. Common Courage Press, 1994, \$14.95.

"When, on the international level," the mysterious Subcomandante Marcos tells us, "everyone was saying 'no' to armed struggle, the indigenous farmers of Chiapas were saying 'Oh yes, oh yes, oh yes.'"

But that assent to armed struggle was not lightly given, as author John Ross, an old Mexico hand, assures us. While the Zapatistas may have burst on the American media scene like the proverbial thunder clap when they seized San Cristobal de las Casas on New Year's Day, 1994, this first Third World uprising since the end of the Cold War had been in the planning stage for over a year, agreed upon in village after village. Indeed, serious trouble had been brewing in Chiapas for nearly a decade. Amnesty International, dismayed by a state penal code that officially sanctions the use of torture to obtain confessions, had issued its first bulletins on human rights abuses there in 1985, and the situation was not improving.

But the secret of the rebellion had been well kept. An old friend of mine and a long-time resident in the area knew nothing of the gathering storm.

In a broader sense, of course, the trouble in Chiapas dates back to the Spanish conquest, which saw the Indians deprived of their land and reduced to peonage, a condition the Mexican revolution against Spain did little to improve. Throughout the 19th century, periodic Indian uprisings took place as the natives, driven beyond endurance by the casual cruelty of their overlords, took up arms. These revolts were put down with even greater cruelty, but the grievances that gave rise to them were never properly addressed until the revolution of 1910, when Emiliano Zapata, himself a Nahua Indian, demanded the return of communal lands taken from the Indians, first by the Spaniards and later by Mexico's own ruling elite. He fought one central government after another for nine years, until he was treacherously slain at Chinameca in 1919. But the land issue did not go away.

At the heart of this conflict lie two mutually exclusive concepts of land and its ownership. To the cattle ranchers and the agribusinessmen who control most of the useful land, land is a thing — a commodity like any other, to be owned, bought, sold and exploited by whoever can pay for it. Having at some time paid somebody something for the land, these *latifundistas* recognize no other claims and view any complaints as a demand for the expropriation of their law-

fully acquired goods. But to the Indians land is community property, not owned or even ownable by any one person, and it cannot be bought or sold — only properly used. Any individual attempting to buy or sell this community property is a dangerous fool, and anyone who asserts he has acquired this land for himself is a criminal.

Article 27 of the Mexican Constitution of 1917, as Ross relates, made an attempt to redress this balance, recognize inalienable community property, and provide for some redistribution of obviously stolen lands. The opposition of the great landowners was formidable and there were frequent land takeovers by exasperated Indians, sometimes ending in bloody clashes with the police and military. But progress, slow everywhere, was nearly invisible in Chiapas, where the Indians were driven farther and farther into the Lacandon jungle in a land that produces one half of Mexico's electricity but has electric light in only one third of its homes.

The 1989 collapse of the coffee market replaced grinding poverty with abject misery. In 1992, Mexican President Salinas and his ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) pushed through a change in Article 27 which provided for up to 40 years imprisonment for anyone illegally occupying private land. 1994 was to bring NAFTA and a flood of cheap American corn into Chiapas, spelling the end for the small farmers and making their lands ripe for takeover by the vast landed estates. The Indians of Chiapas decided they'd had "Enough already!" or, as they inscribed on their banners, "¡Basta ya!"

In describing the background and aftermath of the fighting a year ago, Ross provides an invaluable guide through a veritable alphabet soup of governmental and non-governmental agencies, foreign and domestic, that became involved in Chiapas either in conducting the war or trying to broker a peace. He does a fine job of introducing the reader to a cast of characters ranging from the Roman Catholic "red" Bishop Ruiz, still officially thought to be the brains behind the uprising (as if the Indians were too stupid to plan the rebellion themselves), to General Absalon Castellano Dominguez, one of the more odious *latifundistas*, and on through the masked Subcomandante Marcos against a political backdrop resembling more than or Ancient Rome than a modern republic. To his credit, Ross resists speculating at length on the identity of the subcomandante but is quick to note the foolishness of the government and the media in attempting to learn who is

Since the firing, workers have had a meeting with Mark Taylor, the owner, where he agreed to act on many of the points workers had raised. Food Bin & Herb Room employees are thrilled with this development. Drummond attributes these concessions to "the power of our solidarity," but notes that the fight is far from over. Management has refused important aspects of the proposals, and worker enthusiasm for continued vigilance is waning. And Drummond reports that management has barred him from the premises, an act his co-workers find deplorable. "We have a meeting tomorrow, and I hope we can keep the worker empowerment project growing. By working slow but steady, we should be able to advance without burning out."

"I'm also please to report that another health food store, and two local cafes have requested support and info organizing worker meetings. I plan to ask the Santa Cruz GMB to plan support for these workers, and to develop our "downtown workers association" into the "Santa Cruz Retail Workers Association."

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Labor Culture

People's Culture is a quarterly newsletter devoted to documenting aspects of people's (grassroots) culture. The Sept./Oct. 1994 issue opens with a poem inspired by an 1894 march by part of Coxe's Army through Indiana. Other materials include an overview of resources (books, films) on Haiti and Coxe's Army, and letters discussing the future of the newsletter (networking, exposing unknown voices, rethinking the role of culture) and grappling with the question of what is meant by people's culture.

A Nov. 94-Feb. 95 double issue is devoted to labor culture, and opens with reflections by the editor (Fred Whitehead) on

"Santa Cruz is now a powder keg of organizing activity. The support provided by the union is making a difference. Keep it coming."

Donations to the organizing efforts at the Food Bin and other area businesses can be addressed to the Santa Cruz IWW GMB, PO Box 534, Santa Cruz CA 95061.

behind the ski mask and manufacturing a modern myth in the process, making the bandanna and the ski mask national symbols of dissent.

If there is any point at which Ross's narrative wanders, it is in the chapter devoted to the assassination of the PRI's Presidential Candidate, Luis Colosio, in March of 1994. While the story is fascinating, and

Book Review

Ross's investigative work is as good as could be done in a country where freedom of the press is far from secure, he is not able to connect the murder to the Chiapas situation by any but the thinnest speculative threads.

When he returns to the jungle of Chiapas, however, Ross is obviously at home with his subject and the concerns of those beyond its borders. He points out that the Zapatistas are basically reformist in that they do not seek to overthrow the government and take state power. Their revolution is not modeled on Lenin's nor Mao's nor Ho Chi Minh's, but on that of Zapata who sought not power but agricultural reform and justice. "For everyone, everything," their motto proclaims, "for us, nothing." Women, Ross informs us, make up about a third of the guerrilla forces and many of the Zapatista senior officers, and are treated with absolute equality. Among these young warriors, romance is widespread, but contraception is virtually mandatory since no one can be "indisposed" when there is fighting to be done. Even the environment is to be spared in the Zapatista program. Water pollution is to cease and deforested lands are to be replanted.

As this review is being written, the Mexican government has opted once more for a military "solution" to what is essentially a political problem. Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo is now "standing tall," apparently having decided that the latest collapse of the peso has made it financially impossible to fulfill the commitments made to the rebels at the Cathedral Conference in San Cristobal last year. The Zapatistas are once again "transgressors" under the spell of the "red" bishop and "outside agitators" from Guatemala and other mysterious lands beyond the border. Now only punishment awaits them if they do not give up their arms, surrender their leaders and throw themselves on the mercy of the government.

This posturing has played very well with Mexico's rulers and with capitalist circles in the United States, although those

"The Strange Death of Liberal America." Other pieces include a short story on work and toil, short reviews of several recent publications, an appreciation of the work of proletarian writer Jack Conroy, a report on Swedish labor "study circles," a review essay touching on several recent publications on working-class culture in Britain, a profile of the Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research, and several columns pointing to resources (book dealers, magazines, labor publishers). There are literally dozens of reviews and notices packed into its 20 pages, alongside several longer features. One describes this newspaper as "full of piss and vinegar," suppressed news, "and wonderful headlines..."

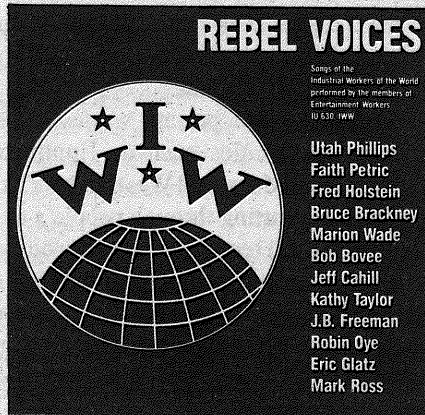
There's an impressive range of resources (drawn from widely varying perspectives) listed here, well worth checking out. The newsletter is available by subscription only (\$15, Box 5224, Kansas City KS 66119), though I suspect it might be possible to obtain a few back issues if you want to check it out.

who still dream of democracy and peace in that country have been less favorably impressed. But President Zedillo would do well to read Ross's book before he commits an army that has not fought a serious opponent in 75 years and is made up largely of Indians to a protracted Vietnam-style conflict with fairly well armed and very well-led fellow Indians who have an excellent grasp of modern media and are fighting on their own jungle turf for a cause they deeply believe in and are ready to die for.

The Mexican military has already barred the press from the area and begun issuing triumphal bulletins. But the real situation remains obscure at best, and the war, like the insurgencies in Guatemala and El Salvador, could go on for years, if not decades.

There will undoubtedly be more news from Chiapas, as casualties on both sides mount, and hapless civilians are slain by the score. *Rebellion from the Roots* is ideal background for understanding the reports coming from this desperate land.

— John Gorman



IWW Buttons

Fire Your Boss! \$1 each
Black Cat/Direct Action

IWW Globe surrounded by motto: "Labor is Entitled to All it Creates." Black & Red, \$1.50. This button available from IWW headquarters only (103 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti MI 48197).

Video Documentary

Older = Bolder: Anarchist Elders, by Zimya Toms-Trend

28-minute video features veteran Wobblies reflecting on their struggles and ideas. VHS, 32.50 post-paid

IWW Constitution

Updated reprint free to new members. For older members tired of pasting in amendments, send headquarters \$2 to cover copying and postage.

Available from IWW Branches

T-SHIRTS

Sabo-Cat, Wobbly Globe \$12 each, 100% cotton. State size (S, M, L, XL) & color (red, white, pink) San Francisco Branch, PO Box 40485, SF CA 94140.

IWW Globe Black & red, M, L or XL. 50/50, \$14. Denver/Boulder Branch, 2412 E Colfax, Denver CO 80206

Sab-Cat \$8 each. Lehigh Valley Branch, PO Box 4133, Bethlehem PA 18018.

Canadian Little Red Songbook 40 songs by Arlene Mantle, Rick Fielding, Faith Nolan, Len Wallace & others, with music & chords. \$5. Toronto Branch, c/o J. Dymny, 11 Andrews Ave., Toronto ONT M6J 1S2

Books for Rebel Workers

Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology. edited by Joyce Kornbluh.

Collection of articles, cartoons, songs & poetry from the IWW press. \$22

Sabotage in the American Workplace. edited by Martin Sprouse.

Tales of resistance on the shop-floor to speed-ups, bum pay and the drudgery of wage slavery. \$12

Hard-Pressed in the Heartland. by Peter Rachleff

Rachleff participated in the hard-fought struggle of P-9 against the Hormel Company and the UFCW. The Hormel workers' struggle sug-

gests the possibility for the rebirth of a militant, rank & file, community-based union. \$12

One Big Union. by IWW.

The basic introduction to the structure and methods of the Industrial Workers of the World. \$2

Rise and Repression of Radical Labor. by Daniel Fusfeld.

A concise history of the U.S. movement from the 1877 strike wave through the 1918 red scare trials, deportations and murders. \$5

Crystal Gazing the Amber Fluid. by Carlos Cortez.

Long-time IWW artist Cortez's poetic take on life in the late 20th century. \$4

Solidarity Unionism.

by Staughton Lynd. Critical reading for all who care about the future of the labor movement. Lynd offers no easy answers, rather a faith in working people and an argument that building solidarity today means nurturing resistance in the face of corporate power. \$7

Mask of Democracy: Labor Suppression in Mexico. by Dan LaBotz.

Recent rank & file insurgencies, maquiladoras and NAFTA all get attention in this timely book. The need for international labor solidarity is inescapable. \$14

Labor Law for the Rank & Filer. by Staughton Lynd.

Revised and updated for the 1990s. A classic self-help manual. The subtitle says it all: "building solidarity while staying clear of the law." \$7

Progress Without People: In Defense of Luddism. by David F. Noble.

Technology is a political question, and too often workers and others are excluded from the decisions. A detailed analysis of technology's effects and working-class responses. \$15

Strike! by Jeremy Brecher.

A history of U.S. workers' struggle from workers' point of view. Argues that class upsurges are based in everyday live and rank & file initiative. \$15

Memoirs of a Wobbly.

by Henry McGuckin. The memoirs of a rambling Wobbly organizer of the 1910s. How they hoboed, organized and lived. Free speech fights and "fanning the flames of discontent." \$5

Solidarity Forever—An oral history of the IWW. Steward Bird, Dan

Music/Song

Good News. Sweet Honey in the Rock

All Used Up. Utah Phillips

Smash the State and Have a Nice Day. Citizens Band

Don't Mourn, Organize! Songs of Joe Hill by various artists

Rebel Voices. Songs of the IWW sung by IU 630 Wobs

I Have Seen Freedom. Si Kahn

We Have Fed You All for 1,000 Years. Utah Phillips.

As Seen on No TV. Chris Chandler

It Takes A Lot of People. Tribute to Woody Guthrie by Larry Long & children

A World to Win. Tom Juravich

Greenfire. Dakota Sid and Travers Clifford

Food Phone Gas Lodging. Charlie King

Justice. Toshi Reagon

Out of Darkness. Tom Juravich

Look to the Left. Anne Feeney

All Cassettes: \$9 each

BOOKS

Workers Guide to Direct Action \$2.95. **Workers Guide to Organizing** \$2.95. Lehigh Valley Branch. Ask for complete catalog

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

Introduction to the U.S.: An Autonomist Political History by Noel Ignatiev. \$3. Denver/Boulder Branch

Anarchism and the Black Revolution by Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin. \$7. **Shopfloor Struggles of American Workers** by Martin Glaberman 50 cents. Ask for catalogue. Philadelphia GMB, 4722 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia PA 19143

Georgakas & Deborah Shaffer, eds. A compilation of interviews with former and veteran Wobblies. Badly transcribed, but interesting reading. \$11

Break Their Haughty Power. by Eugene Nelson.

Fictionalized biography of Joe Murphy, who was an IWW member between 1919 and 1924. \$12

Fellow Worker: The Life of Fred Thompson. Compiled by D. Roediger.

Autobiographical reflections and philosophy from a veteran Wobbly who bridged the generations. \$10

Workers of the World Undermined. by Beth Sims.

Exposes AFL-CIA's role in supporting U.S. foreign policy while undermining international solidarity. \$9

Mad in the USA.

by Gary Huck & Mike Konopacki. Their third collection of cartoons. "These unbeheldden bozos are the best class-warrior cartoonists of our time." \$12

Working the Waterfront. by Gilbert Mers.

Longshoreman and IWW member Gilbert Mers tells the story of his 42 years on the Texas waterfront as a rank and file radical. Workers history as it should be told. Hardcover: \$20

The General Strike.

by Ralph Chaplin. Chaplin's musical version of the IWW Preamble has the line "without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn." He expands that idea in this 1933 essay. \$2

Food Not Bombs.

Subversive (veggie) recipes and how-to information for feeding the hungry in this society where food is a privilege. \$9

Power! by MacShane, Plaut & Ward.

A history of black workers and their unions in South Africa, following their struggle to improve everyday life and transform the system through the mid 1980s. \$8

Juice is Stranger than Friction. by T-Bone Slim.

Funny and irreverent, Slim's popular writings for the *Industrial Worker* of the 20s and 30s are collected here for the first time. \$8

The American Labor Movement: A New Beginning. by Sam Dolgoff.

A veteran IWW organizer traces the history of labor militance and offers his vision for building a new, radical, rank-and-file labor movement. \$5

The Cointelpro Papers: Documents from the FBI's Secret Wars Against Dissent in the U.S. by Ward Churchill & Jim Vander Wall. \$15

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4043 N. Ravenswood #205
Chicago IL 60613

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add 10% shipping _____

U.S. Funds Only

TOTAL ORDER: \$ _____

No Right to Wear Union Pins on Job

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit has ruled that United Parcel Service did not violate federal labor law when it barred uniformed workers from wearing union lapel pins (United Parcel Service v. National Labor Relations Board, CA 6, No. 93-6354, 12/9/94).

Reversing a National Labor Relations Board order, the court said UPS has an unlimited right under its collective bargaining agreement with the Teamsters to set appearance and uniform standards. The fact that the company issued and approved the wearing of other pins, such as safe driving pins and United Way pins, does not prove anti-union discrimination, the court said.

UPS's rules for workers who meet the public specify that only company-approved items may be worn. The contract between UPS and the Teamsters gives the company the right to establish and maintain standards concerning uniforms and accessories. It is possible that the court would have ruled differently without such contract language.

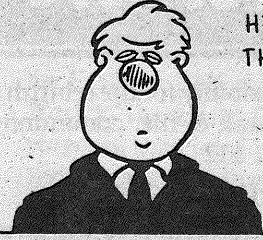
In 1991, UPS tractor-trailer driver Mike Brewer, the chief job steward at the Memphis hub, purchased 50 lapel pins at a Teamsters convention. He distributed the dime-sized pins bearing the Teamsters logo to other tractor-trailer drivers who, in his opinion, were loyal union members.

Shortly afterwards Brewer learned that a UPS manager had told two drivers to remove the lapel pins because they were not authorized accessories. UPS then posted a notice barring drivers from wearing the pins. The notice specified that job stewards could continue to wear stewards' badges provided by the union. When Brewer continued to wear his pin, he was issued a written warning. The union filed unfair labor practice charges against UPS.

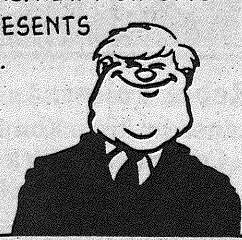
A NLRB administrative law judge recommended that the complaint be dismissed. He was reversed by the full NLRB, which said the pins could not conceivably interfere with the image of a neatly uniformed driver because they were small, inconspicuous, and unprovocative. Customer exposure to union insignia is not by itself enough to prohibit their display, the board said.

Further, UPS authorized its Memphis facility drivers to wear safe driving pins, United Way pins, 1-million-mile Mack truck

PRESIDENT CLINTON WAS ELECTED BY LESS THAN 25% OF THE ELIGIBLE VOTERS. HE THINKS HE REPRESENTS THE MAJORITY.



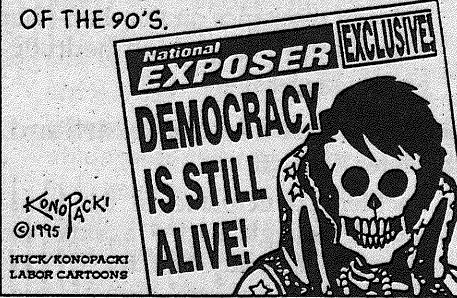
THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS WAS ELECTED BY ONLY 17% OF THE ELIGIBLE VOTERS. NEWT GINGRICH THINKS HE REPRESENTS THE MAJORITY.



IF DEMOCRACY MEANS MAJORITY RULE, THAN DEMOCRACY IS DEAD, BUT BILL AND NEWT THINK IT'S STILL ALIVE.



DEMOCRACY. THE ELVIS OF THE 90'S.



pins and Operation Desert Storm pins, the board said – pins the same size or bigger than the union pins. In fact, UPS issued some of those pins, it said. This shows that UPS has discriminatorily enforced its personal appearance guidelines, the agency said.

The court reversed, holding that so long as UPS prohibited all pins and other items which it had not approved, it was not engaged in discriminatory enforcement.

How to Use the IWW-NEWS list

'Public' means that anybody can subscribe, anybody can post (whether they subscribe or not). To subscribe, send the following message: subscribe iww-news to: Majordomo@igc.apc.org

To post a message to the public iww-news list, send it to: iww-news@igc.apc.org

Currently there are about 80 subscribers to the public iww-news mailing list. They include unionists and activists across the USA and about 10 other countries.

This list is also available as a conference <conf:iww.news> to APC network users in several countries.

For info about the public iww-news list, contact: indwrk@web.apc.org

You are welcome to participate in this local/global forum for exchange of information and solidarity.

—Carlos Murray, Ottawa IWW janitor for the public iww-news list

Anti-woodchip blockaders at the stock exchange

A group of about 30 forest activists held an action at the Sydney (Australia) stock exchange Jan. 24. It coincided with the stock exchange's open day.

The "stump truck" parked right outside the front doors of the stock exchange. A tripod was put up and one of the activists sat on the top. Banners were hung up and laid in the road (which was closed off for the open day) and an information table was set up.

The "stump truck" has two massive tree stumps which were taken from a logging site after being left as waste. They were big enough that it would take four or five people holding hands to encircle them. These stumps have been touring New South Wales and southern Queensland recently and have created quite a stir wherever they've gone. Most people are unfamiliar with the forests that are being destroyed in Australia and they're quite shocked when they get an idea of the size of the trees. These stumps weren't the biggest ones in the forest, but the larger ones wouldn't fit on the truck.

The main focus was Boral – a company which is responsible for large-scale destruction of the old growth forest in Australia. They produce wood chips which are exported at the giveaway price of around \$50aus a ton to Japan. Australia then buys back some of these wood chips in the form

of paper for over \$1000 a ton.

Fortunately Boral had a stall right outside the stock exchange, right next to the stump truck.

Hundreds of people showed a lot of interest in what we were doing and one elderly ex-Boral shareholder told us she'd been over to the Boral stall and given them a hard time about the way they're destroying the planet.

Early on, a couple of police came along and had a look. They said we had just as much right to be there as anyone else and went away again! All in all, it was quite a pleasant and effective day's action. And a day the Sydney stock exchange won't forget for a while!

Collecting Cans Illegal

Cities in Orange County, California, are starting to enforce an old "No-Canning" law. They have decorated dumpsters all over the area with stickers warning can collectors in English, Spanish and Vietnamese that collecting cans from the trash is a crime punishable by a \$250 fine for the first offense, followed by \$500 and \$1,000 fines for subsequent offenses.

It seems that private waste-disposal companies in cities such as Huntington Beach, Costa Mesa, and Westminster have facilities for sorting through people's trash and picking out recyclable metals, and they mean for their contract to be *exclusive* – no unfair competition from starving homeless people – so they asked for and have received help from City Hall to shut down their competition.

So you can't panhandle, you can't sit on the sidewalk, you can't camp on public property, you can't collect cans... When are the mass arrests going to start?

Coming in May...

Schedules for IWW May Day activities in Chicago, Madison, Salt Lake City, and ??? (send in your information today)

The IWW's 90th Anniversary: Reflections on our Past, Building our Future (beginning a series of articles by members across the union)

International Solidarity Section.

A special edition of the *Wage Slave World News* (assuming the dictates of wage slavery permit)... The return of the *IW Sustaining Fund Donation list*... *Direct Action Organizing*... and more...

Every Responsible Worker Carries a Union Card

Day by day you are working, or looking for work. You are working to pay the bills, you are working towards your personal goals, you are working to benefit the community.

You are working for weekly or monthly or daily wages. You are working on a term contract. You are working as an independent service provider or tradesperson. You are working for commission on sales. You are looking for a job. You are studying to learn a skill. You are working unpaid in the home. You are working in a co-op.

You can improve your work day by day, job to job and in between. Something about your work can get better each day. You can improve the conditions of work, and the benefits you receive. Once you move on and some other worker takes your place in that job, you will leave it a better place for her or him to work. And while you're there, your life will be one of steady improvement.

Any improvement you make to your work, will help you achieve your personal goals easier.

And the more of us who choose to make improvements, the better will be the overall conditions and benefits of working in our society.

That is the simple, the true union ideal.

To make life better, individually and collectively by improving the way we work.

It's about responsibility. You are a responsible family member, a responsible environmentalist, a responsible citizen - but are you a responsible worker when you're at work?

It's about self respect, and respect for others in society. If you allow yourself to be a victim of poor conditions, abusive treatment, and inadequate benefits, you are not only letting yourself down. You are also leaving those problems for the next worker who takes your place.

It is much better to take positive steps to improve work, day by day. As the days turn to years, it is our own children who inherit the conditions we are willing to endure. Does that not make it imperative for us to actively seek improvements?

United, gives you the power to improve things. Union means working together for the common good.

That's why every responsible worker carries a union card, whether on the job or on a government income or as a student.

The IWW supports all democratic worker unions. Those of you who don't have a union are welcome in the IWW. Members of other unions are welcome to

join too. As long as you're a worker and not an employer you have common interest with the IWW to see an ongoing improvement in work.

The IWW is democratic, so as a member you have equal voice and vote in union decisions. The IWW carries no political parties or big union bosses. But it does have a clear direction: to give the workers more

and more power. The IWW is not designed to stop with one improvement or two. It's really up to the members in each branch and place of work, to choose how much you want to improve your work.

There's never been anything like it:

The Industrial Workers of the World

Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW...

Real Democracy! All policy decisions are made by referendum. The IWW has just one (modestly) paid officer, the General Secretary-Treasurer. The 7-member General Executive Board is elected annually by the entire membership. All officers may be recalled at any time by referendum. IWW workplaces and branches make their own decisions about bargaining and strategy.

To join mail this form with a check or money order to IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. **Dues:** Monthly income under \$800: \$5 per month; Income \$800-1700: \$9 monthly; Over \$1700: Dues \$12. **Initiation Fee:** Same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as \$10.

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: _____

Membership includes a subscription to the *Industrial Worker*