

Industrial Worker

JANUARY 1996

#1587, vol. 93 no. 1

\$1.00/50 p

EDUCATION

ORGANIZATION

EMANCIPATION

General Strike Hits French Bosses

As this issue goes to press, the General Strike in France is ending its third week, although there are signs that the government may soon begin serious negotiations aimed at a settlement. Although the government has held firm on the broad outlines of its plan to slash public workers' pensions and other benefits, it has offered to discuss specific details of the plan.

Public transport, hospital, telephone, utility, postal, education and public service workers are on strike, as are coal miners. Students have joined the strike in huge numbers. Transportation in and out of the cities and the country is at a stand-still. Unions have threatened to spread the strike if the government does not begin serious negotiations, but press reports indicate that workers in some industries have begun drifting back to work and the CFDT has offered to order its members to return to work if the government agrees to negotiations.

As the strike continued to build, striking students doubled their demands for increased funding, and the government agreed to add 4,000 jobs at French colleges. The government has been taking a harder line on workers' demands. But as the strike continues, the government is in an increasingly untenable position. The French franc is collapsing in international currency markets, and even companies not hit by the strike are finding it impossible to operate without reliable transportation and other services.

This strike is yet more proof of the IWW's contention that industrial power is what matters. Twelve years ago, when French workers elected "socialists" to government, the Mitterand regime quickly backed down on its modest reforms in the face of objections from transnational corporations and financiers. Today, the conservative government is finding that workers have the power to shut the country down if they choose to exercise it, and that there is nothing the government - with all its military and economic might - can do in the face of a united, determined working class.

As we go to press it is unclear how this struggle will resolve itself. There is little doubt that the major unions are seeking a way to defuse the situation quickly, fearing

continued on page 6



In This Issue...

Rebellion in Canada

Review: Revisiting the Spanish Revolution

Caterpillar Strike Ends

Industrial Worker On-Line

Our world wide web site includes the current issue and issues back to October 1995. <http://iww.org/~iw/>

\$1.00, \$1.25 Canada



06

Bosses Kill Fishing Industry

What is the mark of a system out of control? Could it be when it takes a suicidal direction? The dictionary defines suicide as "intentional self destruction." As you read this article I believe that you will agree that "intentional self destruction" clearly describes today's fishing industry.

Not all that long ago the fishing fleet of the northwest would fish the northern waters and then bring their catch into ports like Dutch Harbor, Alaska for processing. Then the greedy bosses hit upon a new idea to increase their profits and to break the unions in the plants. That idea was to put the processing factory on the ships. This idea led to the fishing ships being built even larger than they had before. In other words they became floating factories. Seattle alone has a fleet of over 55 factory trawlers.

The owners of these ships are no longer small time operators, rather they are owned by mega-corporations like Tyson, the giant Arkansas chicken company, which owns 11 factory trawlers. This new fleet, in a matter of a few years increased over-fishing from 39 over-fished stocks to the current 82% of all managed fished stocks which are fully or over-exploited, as determined by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Now the capitalists realize that their "Pot of gold" will run out if they continue to fish at this rate. But capitalism being what it is, rather than do something to preserve and rebuild the fish stocks, they are trying to increase the amount of the fish catch. Instead of building even larger ships that will become obsolete in a few years, they are now converting old freighters into factory trawlers. So now old "rustbuckets" are roving



ing the seas sweeping them clean of sea life.

To make matters even worse one company, All Alaskan Seafoods, took this idea even farther. They are buying up old Russian freighters very cheap and converting them into factories only, where a fleet of fishing ships will bring them their catch and the factory ship will process the fish and off load the "product" to another ship that takes it to port. These ships will stay at sea up to six months at a time and will service up to 125 fishing ships each.

This is where I come into the story, I have spent over 20 years working on ships as a pipefitter. Since Reagan let most of the U.S. merchant marine reflag itself to get around environmental, health and safety laws and rid themselves of union workers, the shipyards have been very slack of work. About all that is left for people like me to work on is fishing ships and ferryboats. Thus, not long ago I found myself working

on two of these converted freighters. The first was a ship called the Ocean Phoenix.

"When the fish are coming in we are working 16 plus hours a day. Throwing fish down shoots, casting back unwanted fish, and what we keep are sliced and diced into everything from fishmeal to the packaged fish you buy in the store," my Chicano fire-watch tells me. He went on to say that the workers on the ship sign an 80-day contract and are paid a percentage of the catch. The Ocean Phoenix is the largest factory trawler in the U.S. fishing fleet. It is over double the size of the regular factory trawlers. And like all other factory trawlers, the decks below main deck are working factories (in the case of this ship some of the factory is even out on main deck). There you will find cramped assembly lines of workers, long conveyors, fish tanks, refrigeration compartments and a hell of a lot of machines doing this, that

continued on page 8

Boeing Workers: "It's Our Turn Now"

61 percent of strikers voted Nov. 21 to reject Boeing's latest offer, which was hammered out over the weekend with the help of a federal mediator and unanimously recommended by the union leadership. Boeing managers said the union had assured them the pact would be accepted.

The vote came the same day Boeing Chairman Frank Shrontz and other top company executives qualified for about \$2.5 million in stock option incentives, an irony not lost on workers who chanted, "It's our turn now." The following report is by Mark Manning, one of the strikers:

This morning, the Monday after Thanksgiving, my wife Getz & I stopped for some breakfast about 9 a.m. Just eggs, toast. Can't really afford eating out just now. I went back for something to spice the meal up with. "We've got Tabasco or salsa," the cook told me. "How 'bout both?" I asked. "Been out picketing since 4 this rainy morning, and I feel the need for a little fire." Probably 3,000 or so other strikers were in need of the same thing at that moment. We had been called out by the union to create a special show of force to prevent weakening strikers from scabbing in order to draw a fat holiday paycheck. Next to me at the cash register, a city worker - taking a break from repairing telephone lines, by the look of his uniform - looked up from stirring his coffee. "Who you striking?" "Boeing." "Those cocksuckers," he muttered.

I've lived here in the Puget Sound region for years now. Never before have I seen such a warm outpouring of solidarity as we striking Boeing Machinists are getting now. The United Farm Workers, whose very first

Washington state contracts now govern the biggest wineries' fields, gave the strikers a \$1,000 check recently. Alaska Airlines' Flight Attendants have donated literally tons of food to the strikers' food bank. So many truck drivers honk their horns at the sight of the International Association of Machinists, District 751, picket signs, that it can be hard for us to converse sometimes.

A lot of folks around here see the strike as something bigger than just another labor dispute. Only a week ago, Boeing's top management received two-and-a-half million bucks in bonuses and stock options. Just a little "thank you" from the top management, which is, after all, themselves. No wonder we've voted down contract offers involving only a 3% raise (and that only in year three of the contract). No wonder working people in this region don't believe it when the company claims it can't afford to give us medical coverage without making us pay a much larger portion of the costs. Doubling our annual deductible and making

us pay \$45 a month to cover a family created real sticker shock. I figure that Getz and I would pay nearly \$4,000 extra in medical costs under the company's plan. No wonder all kinds of non-union workers, temps, even 25¢ers (as some older Seattleites call Boeing's front-line supervisors, whose salaries in the old days were union wages plus 25¢) are openly rooting for us. After all, if we lose, this region will be that much closer to a workforce reduced to minimum-wage jobs and temping. Employee-paid medical benefits will be dead as a dodo.

The solidarity from other unions has been very visible. For example, Boeing retirees held a little rally, pissed off as they are over the company's refusal to agree to the union's retirement plan and its higher benefits. Just about the best-received speaker represented the United Steelworkers members who have been locked out from an Anacortes plant for many months now. We're talking a 50- or 60-mile drive here, by

continued on page 8

Industrial Worker
103 West Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

ISSN 0019-8870

Second Class Postage

PAID

Ypsilanti, MI
and 1 additional
mailing offices



Address correction requested

1996 GEB Elected

The IWW Ballot Committee announced the results of the Fall referendum Dec. 9. The 1996 General Executive Board will consist of: Kevin Brandstatter (UK), Heather Harman (Utah), Ingrid Kock (Ohio), Penny Pixler (Illinois), Rochelle Semel (New York), Maria Tomchick (Washington) and Pete Wilcox (Hawaii). First Alternate will be Lenny Flank (Pennsylvania). Fred Chas was re-elected General Secretary-Treasurer.

The 1996 General Assembly will be held in Salt Lake City. Constitutional amendments to change IWW membership eligibility requirements, to alter the expulsions procedure, to reduce penalties for circulating false accusations and to eliminate General Administration oversight over union funds were all defeated. An amendment to create a Conflict Mediation Board was approved. All resolutions forwarded from the General Assembly were also approved.

British Wobs Plan Activities for Year

The British Isles Regional Organising Committee met on 4 November in Leicester. Wobblies voted to contribute 50 pounds to striking dock workers in Liverpool, to support efforts to start a local radical paper in Aberystwyth, to publish a short pamphlet, *An Introduction to the IWW*, and to work towards launching a British Isles IWW newspaper.

Unemployed members in Oxford IWW and other unemployed workers in the city have launched the East Oxford Unemployed Workers Federation. The federation plans to leaflet 10,000 homes in the working-class area of Oxford and has some actions planned in connection with government plans to cut benefits.

In a separate initiative, unemployed members in Edinburgh distributed hundreds of leaflets at the local job centre attacking the same government plans. They attracted the attentions of the police who "just happened to be passing." There were no arrests.

Stevenson College IWW continues to attract new members and interest. The union organised a boycott of the canteen facilities in protest at the quality of food and prices which was very successful. The contractors who run the canteen reportedly want to meet the IWW to discuss the situation. The union is in contact with some part-time lecturers in Newcastle who are interested in organising.

The Couriers union continues to meet on a monthly basis in London. One member is taking an employer to court over failure to pay money owed. The Couriers union is supporting the action, but is looking at other

Around Our Union

way to get back at the employer. (We have no other members at the firm currently).

The commemoration of the murder of Joe Hill tookplace 17-19 November in Sheffield, a northern industrial city. The play "A dream of Joe Hill" was put on 11-19 November; the Bo Widerburg film about Joe Hill played all week as did "Land and Freedom" by Ken Loach (a film about the Spanish Civil War, and more importantly the revolution). "Leadbelly" and "The Wobblies" were also shown.

18-19 November saw numerous workshops on political song both in class and historical terms which were all well attended. Fred Lee also put on a session on the life of Joe Hill and the IWW to an audience of 25 persons at 10 am on the Sunday morning.

The IWW had a stall which sold £600 (\$900) of material in two days. We spoke to around 150 people who visited the stall for a chat and did an interview with the local press. We may even get an IWW branch going in the city. The stall was in a hall in which the nine invited socialist choirs performed, along with some solo singers (including Dave Douglass, IWW miner from nearby Dunscoft) and the odd comedian.

We also had the opportunity to speak to local revolutionary unionists of various persuasions, but managed to keep clear of some of the sectarian feuding currently in vogue. We had a much better and more constructive dialogue with the Swedish SAC and resolved to keep in contact. We will be inviting one of their number to our next meeting which will be in Oxford in February. This meeting will naturally be open to any IWW member from around the world...

Kevin Brandstatter
Regional Organising Committee

May Day Greeting Ads

Offer an opportunity to demonstrate your support for this paper and our message of revolutionary industrial unionism. Ads for the May issue must be received by March 25th. No commercial ads accepted.

Suggested donation levels: \$10 for a 1 1/2" ad (1 column), \$25 for a 4" ad (2 col.s), \$50 for a quarter page. We can set it up for you, or you can send camera-ready copy.

Extra copies are available as well...

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.

St. Louis Hospital Workers Organizing

"Then this manager said, 'I hope that patient dies. She's screwing up my accounts.'"

A registered nurse tells a group of other St. Louis health care workers this shocking story of how a hospital administrator reacted to a critically ill patient on life support. The others nod knowingly. One incident after another has shown these workers that their hospitals are dominated by corporate managers interested in saving money, not lives.

In 1992, Mike O'Neil, a nurse at St. Louis Hospital, formed the American Association of Health Care Professionals to educate workers on their labor rights. He realized that his hospital had become unsafe due to understaffing; other workers had seen the same thing at other area hospitals. Hospitals commonly took nurses from units where they had expertise and assigned them to units where they were not familiar with patients' problems.

One pediatric nurse told of being assigned to a ward of cancer patients, where she was unable to answer the simplest questions patients and their families had about their disease. A surgical nurse was assigned to manage a psychiatric ward. "This wasn't what I got into nursing for," O'Neil said.

He tried to use labor laws to stop the cutbacks that were saving hospitals money but costing patients their lives, but soon discovered that in Missouri non-union workers were considered "employees at will" and that hospital bosses had unlimited rights to reassign and fire them.

Working with the Teamsters, the Association tried to organize a union at suburban DePaul hospital in 1994. The hospital bosses there claimed to be financially strapped, but quickly hired an expensive union-busting law firm to run their anti-union campaign. Workers were deluged with anti-Teamster propaganda. And right after the election, the

Empowerment a joke, workers say

The majority of workers feel unmotivated, dislike their employers, suffer helter-skelter management and believe "employee empowerment" is an empty promise, a new U.S. survey suggests. The survey of more than 1,500 workers and managers was conducted by Kepner-Tregoe, a management consulting firm.

Results startled Kepner-Tregoe president T. Quinn Spitzer. "The vitriolic response was amazing. People really wanted to talk about their job... What is particularly interesting is that lots of managers corroborated what workers are saying..."

60% of workers say they are not rewarded or recognized for good job performance. Fifty-one percent of managers agreed. Almost half of workers say their peers are miserable with their jobs. But more than two-thirds of managers believe workers "are glad to be part of the organization."

Empowerment is a joke. Workers say their input is not valued. Thirty-three percent said their employers "never" valued their ideas. Asked to rank company priorities, both managers and workers said "employee morale" came last. The latest business trend, teams, are often a burden. Forty-one per cent of workers say their team assignments are "unrealistic or unfair."

Spitzer's conclusions: "Workers don't like their companies... They see companies putting lots of money into new initiatives that benefit the company but nothing is put toward employee development," Spitzer continued. "Workers hear the verbiage about how 'our people are the most important asset we have,' and they want to throw up."

ballots of the registered nurses were separated from the rest and impounded on a legal technicality.

St. Louis health care workers learned from that debate. "The Teamsters became the issue," O'Neil said. "And they really didn't understand workers in the health care industry." Many hospital workers were also disenchanted with the Teamsters' bureaucratic structure. This year the Association broke its ties with the Teamsters and set out to organize St. Louis health care workers on its own.

They continue to receive support from organized labor. UAW New Directions founder Jerry Tucker has spoken at health care workers' meetings and assisted their organizing efforts. And St. Louis Wobblies have been attending meetings and helping in leafleting and other support activities.

This writer discussed the organizing efforts on a local radio talk show Nov. 7, decrying the way capitalist greed is destroying the health care system. While 41 percent of American health care dollars come directly from the government (and much of the rest is subsidized by government tax policies), the average worker cannot afford decent care. In short, we have a bosses' government that has built a bosses' health care system. Many listeners called in with stories about poor treatment, in particular hospitals refusing to see patients needing emergency care unless they could show they had insurance.

Some callers expressed concern that unionization would drive health care costs up even further. But the real problems are the gouging by the big companies, and the budget cuts in Washington. Unionized hospital workers will be in a stronger position to fight to save hospitals from the effects of these cuts, and to insist on decent care.

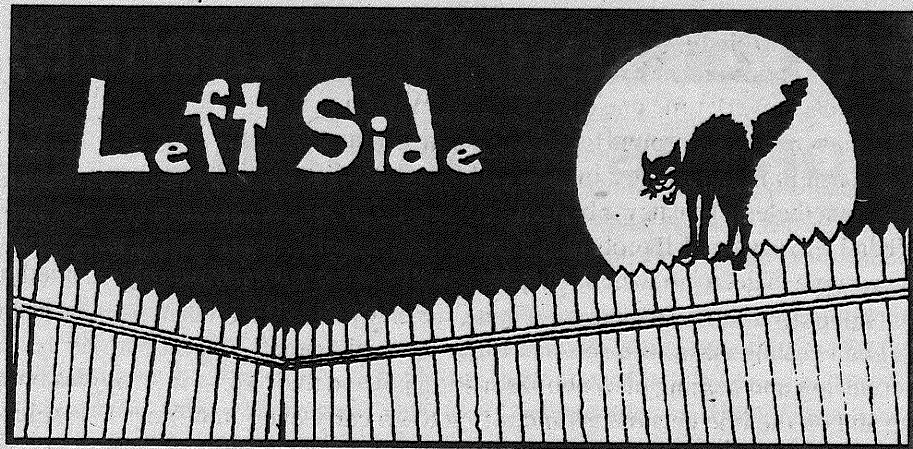
—Robert Rice

Garment Workers Union Attacked

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has condemned a vicious attack against members of the Bangladesh Independent Garment Workers Union (BIGU), and called on the government to investigate the attack and bring the culprits to justice.

Neil Kearney, General Secretary of the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers Federation, drew attention to the brutality of the attack at the Federation's Dec. 1 meeting: "The union offices were humming with activity on the night of November 21 when a gang of well-heeled and heavily armed thugs burst in. They fired shots wildly in the air, smashed furniture and threatened to kill anyone who resisted. Activists and members — mostly women — were clubbed with rifle butts. The union's lawyer was singled out in the attack. They ripped her sari, doused her in petrol and tried to set her ablaze. The warning they delivered was explicit: the union should cease its activities."

The attack occurred as the union prepares to celebrate its first anniversary as a politically independent union, the only union in the country founded and run by women workers. The union has been fighting several companies belonging to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association. These cases include situations where workers who stood up for their rights have been forced to resign, and then have been blacklisted. Some have been illegally detained and beaten. Falsified documents have been used to discredit them, and their families have been threatened.



One thing your not-so-humble scribe has been noticing over the past few years is the increasing plethora of ethnic restaurants representing varied cuisines from all corners of the Globe. I won't mention Mexican restaurants as they have long been a facet of the Browning of Freedomland. When one takes into account the various and sundry condiments and exotic meats and vegetable matter that goes into cuisines from other lands being strange to those who have not previously been exposed to them, there is something to say for a normal curiosity that exists among our species. It is a curiosity that overcomes the initial mistrust and reserve toward the exotic.

It is also the basic desire to establish communication that makes homo sapiens a social creature. This is what has to be the hope for survival of our species.

When your scribe was but a stripling, he lived with his family in a rural area during the Depression years when automotive travel to the city was a luxury indulged in rather unfrequently compared to today's expressways and high-speed automobiles. What driving was done was for purely economic reasons, such as going to the job.

Those were the days when many city-based merchants had their trucks carrying whatever merchandise they were selling to the outlying rural districts with a different route for each day of the week. One of such merchants was a butcher who had his refrigerated wagon in which he kept, besides sausages and cold cuts, several sides of beef and port, as well as dressed chickens. Like many other motorized merchants, he would always engage in a bit of conversation with his clientele as those were somehow easier-paced time sin those years.

This butcher happened to have been born and grew up in the Sudetenland, in what used to be Czechoslovakia. It was an area that was an ethnic mixture where lived not only Czech and Slovaks, but Germans, Polish, Ukrainians and Hungarians as well. They lived among each other, and learned to speak each other's languages while maintaining their own ethnic identity and pride. This butcher said that intermarriage was rare among these groups, but otherwise they were good neighbors and lived in harmony with each other.

It was only when the politicians came in and sowed mistrust and jealousy among these various ethnicities that there was any disharmony. Invariably this discord was instilled for the politician's own ulterior motives. This he would relate to us at the time that Adolf Hitler was making his move to annex the Sudetenland area.

Years later, when I had entered wage slavery myself, I would see the boss sowing mistrust between Black and White, between Polish, German, Italian and "Americans," and I was reminded of the stories of the old butcher.

The history of the Human Race has been one of innumerable encounters between various tribes and ethnicities. Those ethnic groups that have the longest histories and the most unique identities are the ones who have been mixed throughout the ages. National characteristics have resulted from being exposed to who knows how many other national characteristics.

If one were to double each of one's previous generations back to the time of the Crusades, there were not that many humans on Earth either then or now. There has been a lot of miscegenation and incest over the ages, and we are all distant cousins to each other.

Looking at what is going on in the former Yugoslavia, as well as Burma and numerous other parts of the world where ethnic strife rages, I am reminded of the words of Fred Thompson, commenting on the Palestine-Israel crisis and similar such conflicts. He pointed that out as irrefutable testimony to the obsolescence of the nation-state.

Of what use are nation-states anyway? At most a nation-state persecutes stateless nations. I have nothing against different customs and languages. While I think yellow chrysanthemums are beautiful, I don't believe I would enjoy a garden that was naught but yellow chrysanthemums. While I am fond of posole and frijoles, I also enjoy bratwurst, saganaki, gumbo, sashimi, linguine, curry, as well as looking forward to whatever I have not tasted yet.

Bill Haywood, when asked if the IWW was out to change the government, replied that if all the workers had control over their own jobs, government could be stuck in one's vest pocket.

Peace-keeping army indeed!

Draftees of the World, Unite!

You have nothing to lose but your generals!

— C.C. Redcloud

FREEDOM FOR PELTIER

A campaign of nonviolent civil disobedience planned to continue until Leonard Peltier is finally set free will begin March 20 in Washington, D.C. An orientation session will be held the evening of the 19th. Peltier has been unjustly imprisoned for 20 years. For information: PO Box 76609, Washington DC 20013-6609
202/783-2512 • 612/871-7110 • 913/842-5774

Making the "Cat" Meow

The media has created the public perception that the United Auto Workers suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of Caterpillar. In reality, company executives have no cause for jubilation. Indeed, the end of the strike has left them with some vexing problems that did not exist during the 17-month walkout. Consider these facts:

- Caterpillar is legally obligated to re-store 9,000 strikers to their former jobs, because this was a strike over the company's unfair labor practices. The company was obviously better off when the strikers were on the outside doing picket duty, where they couldn't interfere with the newly-organized work force or the production system.

- The UAW is now relieved of paying \$300 a week to each striker, an expenditure which has drained tens of millions from the union treasury. It can use the savings to develop other tactics to fight Cat.

- The company has to comply with a Labor Board order to discharge the scabs it hired to replace the strikers. The removal of the scabs will create an embarrassment for management, since many strikebreakers had expected to have permanent jobs. It will also mean at least a temporary dislocation of the production process.

- More than 80 percent of the strikers rejected the company's proposed six-year contract, which is, if anything, worse than the one they were offered before the strike began. There will be considerable anger and bitterness among the returning workers.

- There are more than 170 unfair labor practice complaints against Caterpillar which the UAW has filed with the NLRB, dating as far back as November 1992. A great many of these cases, which deal with a variety of efforts by Cat management to harass union activists in its work force, have yet to be resolved. The Board's decisions

will affect working conditions on the shop floor when strikers are back at work.

The pace of rehiring is a key issue

Cat managers have asserted that the rehiring of strikers may take weeks. The union position is that strikers must be restored to the payroll as of December 3, the date when the UAW agreed to return to work "unconditionally."

A Labor Board ruling states that "back pay shall begin from a date five days after the date on which each unfair labor striker unconditionally offers to return to work." There are at least two precedent-setting cases in which the five-day limit on rehiring was imposed on a company when workers involved in an unfair labor practice strike agreed to return "unconditionally" to their jobs: Drug Package Company, Inc. of O'Fallon, Mo. vs. Local 505 Graphic Communications International Union (94LLRM 1570) and S&E Enterprises, Inc., Las Vegas NV vs. Steelworkers (146 LLM 1044).

Caterpillar executives obviously hope to stretch out the period of rehiring as long as possible to "reorient" the former strikers to their new conditions of employment, including rules about behavior that will result in disciplinary action. However, the company risks having to give back pay to any striker who is not rehired by December 10.

Undoubtedly, the tension on the shop floor will be considerably greater in the coming weeks when the strikers are back on their assigned jobs than during the long months when they were trudging the picket lines. Caterpillar will not have an easy task to create a spirit of cooperation within its largely unhappy work force. If wise counsel prevails among Cat managers, they will decide to build a harmonious relationship with their employees based on mutual re-

continued next page

The Starve-Out Strike

Harry Kelber (above) is perhaps too optimistic in his assessment of the UAW piecards' decision to end the Caterpillar strike. But does it follow that, in the words of a leaflet that arrived a few days ago, "UAW Labor Lieutenants of Capital Stab Caterpillar Workers in the Back"?

Wobblies have always been dubious of the starve-out strike, in which workers put our ability to suffer misery and privation for months or years up against the bosses' willingness to wait us out. The purpose of a strike is to cut off production, and thereby to hit the bosses where it hurts — in their pocketbooks. A strike that hurts workers more than the bosses is worse than useless.

And it seems clear that the Caterpillar strike was not hurting the bosses — or at least not hurting them enough. There are many reasons why, ranging from widespread scabbing by UAW members to the union scabbing by Machinists, Teamsters, IBEW, etc.

The remaining strikers showed their mettle, refusing to give in even in the face of a clear signal from the UAW officials that they had decided to abandon the strike. The challenge facing workers now is to carry that determination back into the plants, continuing the struggle at the point of production until they win a decent contract — and beyond, until we rid ourselves of these parasites. Direct Action can make the Cat meow...

Lame Rises From Dead

President Clinton has nominated former AFL-CIO President-for-life Lane Kirkland to be an alternate representative to the United Nations General Assembly. Brother Kirkland has a long-standing interest in international affairs, having been a fervid supporter of the AFL's close cooperation with the Central Intelligence Agency in its efforts to impose "yellow" company unions on our fellow workers around the world.

Meanwhile, former chief presidential economist Martin Feldstein is concerned that John Sweeney's election as AFL top dog marks "a sharp departure from the policies of the AFL-CIO that have played an important role in developing high employment standards" in the U.S. He's suggesting that the AFL's historic role-over-and-play-dead policy encouraged employers to come to the U.S. in search of cheap, docile workers. Let's hope he's right, and a new dawn is in sight. Better yet, let's get out



there and organize fighting unions to make our own reality...

Misdirected

A hospital orderly, pissed-off over low pay and lousy working conditions, went on a shooting spree in a Manila hospital a few weeks back. Edgardo Fernandez, 16, went to the owner's apartment to complain that he had no money, grabbed a rifle from the wall, and opened fire on the occupants. The owner's mother-in-law, his two daughters, a niece, two hospital workers and a beautician were killed; another worker died of a heart attack during the shooting. The owner and his wife were away at the time...

Meanwhile, under the headline "Might Better Handgun Education Have Prevented This?" *The Match* reports on the continuing fall-out from Alexander Berkman's unsuccessful effort back in 1892 to shoot brutal industrial tycoon Henry Clay Frick. Frick had hired Pinkerton gunmen to enforce his company's rule over those who worked for a living, and Berkman decided to assassinate Frick to show that the oppressed could fight back. Unfortunately, Berkman proved

The World Bank and Us

The following column by Ken Saro-Wiwa, a dissident recently murdered by the Nigerian government, originally ran in the *Sunday Times* of Lagos, and is reprinted in *Similia: Essays on Anomic Nigeria* (Port Harcourt: Saros, 1991). This essay uses "World Bank" and "IMF" interchangeably. The reason for his blurring the two probably goes back to the history of structural adjustment programs in Nigeria. At the time of the Babangida coup in August 1985, the government had been negotiating with the IMF for a Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) loan; his government continued the negotiations but promised Nigerians a "national debate" before entering into any agreement.

Public reaction was overwhelmingly hostile, and the government declined the IMF loan. Then a couple months later Babangida announced a "home-grown" plan that looked quite similar to the IMF's plan in most respects. Having detected a spirit of sacrifice and hard work among the people during the course of the debate, they felt no reservations about taking their own version

"Their mission... is not to heal but to rub salt into wounds. To collect debts and to send the nations into even greater debt so that the World Bank can remain in the nations forever..."

to the World Bank for a SAP loan from them without further "debate":

Almost twenty years ago, touring the United States of America, I came to know several variations of my surname. In New York, I was called Sora-Wawo, in Los Angeles Sira-Wawa. But the limit was in At-

a bad shot, Frick survived, and Berkman served 22 years in prison.

Frick's legacy lives on in his grandson, Arizona governor J. Fife Symington, now engaged in a war against Arizona's poor and working-class population. "This snotty, rich bully also... happened to save the life of a college acquaintance—Bill Clinton" in 1967. Clinton got into trouble while swimming off Cape Cod, and was rescued by J. Fife Symington keeps a picture of Frick on the wall of his office, no doubt to inspire his mean-spirited attacks against today's working class. Had Berkman been a better shot, we'd have two less politicians on our backs (or at least two different ones). Who can say that would have been a tragedy?

Death Sentences

A study published in the American Heart Association's journal *Circulation* reports that women who worked rotating shifts for six or more years have a 50% higher risk of heart attacks, and suffer many other health consequences as well...

While the bosses kill workers with time clocks, unsafe working conditions (OSHA just recommended \$1.2 million fines against two Massachusetts construction firms that gave workers required safety harnesses, but didn't bother to provide safety lines to hook them up to), the state of Arizona is putting death row inmates on chain gangs and forcing them to work 10-hour days for 10 cents an hour. A spokesman for Gov. J. Fife Symington says this will keep them too busy to file lawsuits against the state.

While Clinton gumpets make noises against prison labor in China, slave labor is sweeping the U.S. It's the bosses' job-creation strategy... Companies are eagerly bidding for the right to run prisons on a for-profit basis... Ah, the joys of competition.

May Day: In the works is a special section on workers' culture for our May '96 issue. Your contributions are welcome.

lanta... where I was introduced as Saro-Wee-Wee. Uncomfortably close to the toilet, you might say.

I was minded, that day, to change my name to something more heavenly like Wiwa or Saros. I refrained from doing so. In the interest of history. Today, I'm used to these and other variations of my name.

Thus I was only half-surprised when an invitation arrived at my Surulere office addressed to... Ken Saro-Wee. And it came from the Indian High Commission.

It was an invitation to a party celebrating Indian National Day. I am not a party-going man. Invariably, I find myself, in the day, glued to my telephone or sitting in the front offices of the high and mighty in Nigeria pursuing you know what. At night, I'm in my study..., struggling endlessly with words in English or my native Khana. No one invites me to parties. Which is a blessing. So the half of my surprise was that the Indian High Commission had called me up...

Since I have never been to a diplomat's party, and I do not mind a new experience, I took my courage in my hands and wended my way to Eleke Crescent...

I suspected I would be lost at the party. I knew that my perpetual *adire* shirt would mark me out as a non-diplomat and that I did not have the polish to match a diplomat's shoes. I was lost. I held my soft drink (no alcohol was served) and the only diplomat I met almost sent me to my grave.

No, he did not deal me a blow. He was a high official of the World Bank. These sapped times are hungry times, and a hungry man is an angry man. I never have met any representative of the International Monetary Fund anywhere and this was an opportunity for me to send a message to the Fund through one of its representatives in Nigeria.

As it turned out, I had nothing new to tell the representative. He had been to all but two of the states of Nigeria, and most of it by road. He was aware of the distress caused by the Structural Adjustment Programme. The latest World Bank Report on Africa accepts as much. Forty years of the World Bank experiment in turning the economies of debtor-nations round has not resulted in success in a single country. Yet the Bank persists in its folly. Which makes you believe that their mission in debtor nations is not to heal but to rub salt into wounds. To collect debts and to send the nations into even greater debt so that the World Bank can remain in the nations forever.

The gentleman in question kept reminding me that the IMF would not have been in Nigeria if Nigeria had not gone on a borrowing spree. I know and have always known it. But the question which confronts us all is what to do in the circumstances. Must we see all our children die of kwashiorkor? Must we see all those who survive the ravages of disease and famine grow up as zombies because they have no books to read, cannot afford good education, decent housing, transportation and water? Perhaps the only thing they can look forward to is a "befitting burial" which we perversely still give the dead? All of which sends me right back to the present administration which continues to sing of the "gains of SAP." ...

I believe that all Nigerians, indeed, all Black people, must work hard, think hard, practise thrift and show dedication to progress. But the question which Government and all of us must now tackle is the

Making Cat Meow...

spect instead of the past practice of intimidation and disciplinary action...

A few friendly purrs on the part of Cat will receive a welcome response from its employees and their union.

— Harry Kelber

This column marks the beginning of my second year as IWW General Secretary/Treasurer. I've never worked harder at any job in my life. I get knots in my stomach every time one of my Fellow Workers calls to nudge me about some task I haven't gotten around to. My personal bills are piling up thanks to my modest compensation. I still have a full head of hair; but it's grayer than it was a year ago.

Nonetheless, I've never before gotten nearly so much satisfaction out of a job. When I leave office I'll probably have to cloak the nature of my IWW activities on my resume to get a job which will pay the bills. I suppose I'll put down something innocuous like "office manager." What I'd like to put down is "struggled for justice for the working class with some of the finest malcontents around."

Seeing and hearing of Wobblies risking jail and their necks in struggles on the job and on the line gets me up and raring to go early every morning. I've seldom been associated with such a creative, courageous, committed bunch. I'll be

from the desk of...

groaning over trying to make the books balance and I'll get a call from someone who holds membership in both the IWW and some AFL-CIO union who's fighting a lonely battle to promote a little more democracy in the union at his or her workplace. It makes it a little easier to go back to the books knowing that even this least favorite task is plays a small part in helping to maintain and build the kind of union that encourages working class democracy.

Fellow Worker Gilbert Mers, a Wobbly and organizer for decades and author of *Working the Waterfront* had a stroke about 6 months back. It has made it difficult for him to choose the right words. He called the other day to make sure he was in good standing with the IWW. When that's a priority for someone with his problems, it makes me appreciate anew the crumpled little red membership card in my breast pocket. In his frustration with his speech problem he told me he was useless. And I'm thinking "Fellow Worker, you're an inspiration. How can an inspiration be useless?"

The calls are most often humble, undervaluing efforts to get a fired worker back on the job, to get imposed overtime reduced, to get threats to health and safety cleaned up. I find each call re-affirms our principles and reaffirms my determination to build the IWW. These people are doing what they can to make the world better for the workers who make the world go round. And whether or not they realize it, we're going to get closer to our goal, not through the revolutionary actions of a few, but through the combined small actions of more and more workers every day. None of the individual efforts may be revolutionary in themselves, but in combination they move us closer to the solidarity necessary to change the world. Their effect on our membership figures has been noticeable in the past year. Our numbers have increased by 55% over the last 10 months. While we were a grain of sand on the shore, we're now a grain and a half. Shores are built one grain at a time. Hearing about all those small individual efforts keeps me plugging along. So keep those calls coming through the coming year Fellow Workers. I look forward to them.

Utah Phillips

Fellow Worker, folk singer, and longtime IWW proponent Utah Phillips has been diagnosed with congestive heart disease. He's been told that his chances for living more than 5 years are 50/50. In order to improve on those odds he has been forced to retire from taking his act on the road. He's working on some possibilities for future employment: more recordings and possibly radio. But for the time being he has no income.

We've set up an informal Utah Phillips Solidarity Fund to help him get through these rough times. Checks made out to Utah Phillips can be sent to the IWW, 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, MI, USA, 48197. We'll list your donation in the *Industrial Worker* and forward all funds and messages to Utah. The response from a posting on the internet and announcements on radio stations scattered around the U.S. has been heartening. Donations sent to the IWW to date are listed in this issue. All of the accompanying messages have been heartwarming. Utah may be a bit short on health and money at the moment. He isn't short on people who care about him and appreciate the message he has spread through his music and homilies.

— Fred Chase, GST

failure of World Bank "remedies" worldwide. A survey in Ghana recently showed that in spite of adherence to World Bank conditionalities, in spite of the fact that the Bank has enough statistics to show that the Ghanaian economy is improving, the fact stands that the average Ghanaian's earnings cannot feed him and his family, much less send his children to school or doctor them.

The representative of the World Bank in Ghana is reported to have said recently that the mismanagement of the past in Ghana was so immense that recovery under the IMF's guidelines will be almost impossible.

For Ghana, you may read Nigeria, Zambia, or wherever. Which, of course, means that the "gains of SAP" are likely to remain a chimera for all time.

The World Bank itself has now accepted that some of its programmes are faulty. It also accepts that it pays its employees incredible salaries and allowances, but it then places the blame on the various governments: the governments are autocratic,

corrupt and have not allowed the full development of the creative energies of their peoples. Maybe. This may mean that the World Bank and its Euro-American mentors will stop forcing incompetent rulers and brutes upon third and "enth" world societies in the belief that such men will brutalize their peoples and compel them to accept the bitter pill which the World Bank means to force down the nations' throats.

But methinks the World Bank has to accept that its real instrument of torture is its insistence on growth, its economic theorizing at the expense of human welfare. In Nigeria, as elsewhere, its potent instrument is the exchange rate. The fixing of that rate is, as far as I can see it, a con; it is dubious and no one can convince me otherwise. And the sooner debtor-nations realized the political nature of the World Bank, the sooner they will be able to face the bogus economic theories of the Bank with an equivalent weapon — people's power. At no matter what cost.

General Strike Rocks France

the consequences for themselves and for capitalism should workers take matters into their own hands. The government, too, appears to fear the consequences of its intransigence, but has little room to maneuver within the mandates imposed by transnational capital. The question is whether we, who produce the world's wealth, are willing to allow our lives and our dreams to be constrained by those mandates, or whether we will insist on taking our destinies into our own hands, and building a future we can look forward to, not fear...

Class struggle

French public sector workers have gripped the country in a nationwide general strike. Up to 5 million workers are involved in what is escalating to a trial of strength between the state and the working class.

As I write, French trains have been off the rails for the seventh consecutive day. Pickets have halted scab trains by holding mass meetings on the rails in the major stations, a tactic which the police seem unable to deal with.

Students have taken their own struggle out of the campuses and on to the street.

The right wing French media have grudgingly admitted that public opinion is on the side of the strikers. This was confirmed by a BBC journalist who could not find a single traffic-jam-bound commuter opposed to the strike!

French unions are split along political lines. There are a number of federations: CGT (broadly supportive of the former communist party, although with a syndicalist element—some sections refuse to sign labour contracts); CFDT (social democratic, but more militant and less doctrinaire); Force Ouvriere (supportive of what is left of the socialist party). There are a number of splinter organisations of the above, and there is CNT-F, the IWA section.

Total union membership is about 20 per cent of the working population. The mass nature of the strike means that the unions are not in control of it and would find great difficulty calling it off. A new group of workers is joining the strike every couple of days with unions "claiming responsibility" for the strikes after the event. The reality is that workers are wildcatting.

The dispute is about government plans to overhaul the welfare system, reducing benefits all round, cutting back on medicine and public sector workers' conditions. The government says there must be cuts to enable France to become part of the small groups of countries developing a single European currency. They claim that the French State cannot afford the welfare system. The workers have said "No cuts."

Given that a lot of political and economic power is at stake it is hard to see how the government will be able to back down. It may become a war of attrition.

Kevin Brandstatter

Fighting the World Economic Order

While France struggles with its massive epidemic of WOE, the German government is, no doubt, anxiously awaiting the outcome.

The German government has been claiming fiscal problems and asking for concessions from the unions. Germany's largest union, IG Metall, has presented an "Alliance for Jobs" proposal which offers to talk about wage concessions but demands: that wages must be tied to inflation, 300,000 new jobs in the next three years – 110,000 next year, and benefits for part-timers in exchange for allowing "flexible" schedul-

ing. IG Metall president Klaus Zwickel says that attempts to cut unemployment and sick pay will result in strikes.

Needless to say, business analysts and employers are "skittish" about the plan.

The turmoil in Europe tends to put the lie to the "global competition" myth, i.e. German workers must sacrifice to compete with the French – French workers must sacrifice to compete with the Germans or the English or the Americans...

When your boss talks about "global competition," he's referring to the contest among the transnational corporations to see who can beat-up workers best.

— Len Wilson

All is Possible if We Move Together...

The social confrontation is spreading like wildfire! The 'Juppe' Plan' is the last straw which will break the camels back. After the students, the railway workers, the RATP workers (regional transport system) and the postal workers come the medical workers, Air France and Air Inter workers, lorry drivers, teachers and many others... they all come to dance.

By wanting to submit social security and pensions to the laws of profit, under the pretext of 'reforms,' the government is not only attacking 'sectional interests,' it is calling into question fundamental social rights which concern us all... that is to say the growth of social inequalities at every level.

Today the 'Juppé Plan' is simply the perfection of a generalised process of rendering our existential conditions ever more insecure: an attack on salaries (rise in VAT,

new social security contributions, wage freezes, higher taxes, reduced unemployment benefits), the development of forms of under-paid under-employment, sectoral reconstruction plans (sackings, mobility, flexibility), growing inequality of access to public services (rising cost of using the RATP, the closure of maternal and junior protection centres, rising medical costs, etc.)...

Some would have us believe that this is a revolt of the 'well off.' Good joke. Workers in the public sector are being reproached for not accepting that which has been imposed on the private sector: the lengthening of the number of years of pension contributions from 37 and a half to 40 years, the degradation of working conditions, the loss of jobs, reduced workforces and raids on income... Simply not to go under becomes a 'privilege.'

On the contrary, the strikers of these last few weeks have opened a breach in the consensus of passivity and resignation. Beyond the evident need to squash the 'Juppé Plan' ... the demands which are coming to light today go well beyond those 'categories' into which they would place us: they express a need to defend not only what we have won but also to grab back a minimum quality of life.

- The right to a guaranteed income, in particular for the unemployed and those in unstable positions.

- A huge reduction in working hours so we can all work... less,

differently...

- Effective equality of access to social services such as health.

- The repeal of repressive and racist laws and regulations such as the infamous 'Pasqua Laws' (Pasqua was a former Home Secretary to the right of the right).

At the grass roots it is not only support for the strikers which is necessary, but also our participation in the general movement: we are neither 'spectators' nor simple 'users' but workers (public and private), the insecure, the unemployed, students, school



Their Reserves Aren't Big Enough... For The Depths Of Our Desire

Throughout France students are mobilising... All around us: 3.5 million unemployed, a growing mass of workers whose jobs are on the line across the planet, the growing impoverishment of whole continents whilst the wealth of the world never ceases to grow...

Here, even in Perpignan (SW France) there are loads of us who live in shitty conditions, unemployed, on a minimum income, grabbing a free ride on the transport and tax system, often not knowing where to sleep and what to eat.

Are our actions apolitical? Ridiculous question! It's unbelievable... as if the wish to jeopardise the whole of society wasn't a political decision aiming to provide a compliant and obedient workforce on demand. We are opposing this set-up! ... Paying people as little as possible is the only way to be competitive within a neo-liberal framework and to oppose restraints is to oppose the logic of the market... In other words our action is as political as that which would take the taxpayers' money to Mururoa instead of investing it in education...

All around us, despite the false pretences of the media, the flood of repression and exclusion is growing... Our future is being pawned, the present brings its own impoverishments. There is the right to be laid-off, the right to despair or anger, there is the humiliation of immigrant workers, there are the expulsions and the extraditions, there is the return to moral, sexist and religious orde... there is the teachers crisis, there is the restructuring of the social security system. There is nothing but the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer. Then there's the police and wage slavery which beckons. There's the take-over of

education by the bosses and Pasqua's schemes paid for out of public funds and there is racism.

20% of the population own 68% of its wealth whilst 60% make do with 12%. We face the end of education for pleasure, we face Chernobyl and the hole in the ozone, we face work which crushes us and unemployment which kills, we face a growth in public begging – now forbidden as it was in Perpignan this summer, we face the fall of the APL, we face the right which attacks and the left which lies, the unions in a state of crisis, we face a miserable income and an income of misery, overcrowded prisons, housing crises, boredom, a dead end future. We have had enough!

— Students on strike

Misery... It's Always the Poor They Attack the Most

For more than 20 years the austerity programmes continue. From the socialists in 1983 to that of Juppé, they all have in common the aim of building a liberal Europe (Maastricht Treaty) which imposes the need for squeezing public expenditure (reducing the budget deficit). This anti-social Europe is being built to make the old continent a competitive economic pole in the world market. The aim is to bring down the cost of labour by giving free reign to business interests... This is why the state is making political decisions as to which budgets to cut: education, health, ASSEDIC, social security... whilst leaving alone, of course, armaments and the political gravy train (6% rise).

Must we continue to submit our health, education and the rest of our living condi-

tions to the laws of competition? The globalisation of the market economy is synonymous with insecurity and poverty in the countries of the North and intense misery in those to the South. Everywhere we can see the installation of a real social apartheid between rich and poor regions, prosperous urban centres and the rotting suburbs, health for the rich and minimal security for the rest, schools and universities abandoned and starved of funds... This divided development depends on people being willing to take it...

It's well known: the thinner the carrot the bigger the stick. In order to maintain this unequal social order the state announces repressive measures: community policing since 1981, neighbourhood watch, a new penal code, increased police powers, video surveillance, repression of social movements, Schengen agreements etc. Scapegoats must be found. Today France is an openly racist country. Finally there is the principle of divide and rule: oppose the French and foreigners, workers and the unemployed, the haves and the have nots, women and men...

Our revolt against the logic of liberalism manifests itself by a refusal of all authoritarian systems and a call for solidarity between individuals and nations based on free exchange. We desire a share of wealth rather than simply misery. With or without work we must acquire the means to live with dignity. When we think of the profits linked to financial speculation and also the fiscal fraud linked to it which in France, every year, is equal to the budgetary deficit (230 billion francs) we no longer want them to speak to us of sacrifice.

— SCALP, Nantes

attenders; some are on strike some aren't but we have the same problems we are all in the same boat, we are victims of the same social regression.

Do the laws of economy condemn us? Let's burn the statute book! To struggle, to achieve dialogue, to imagine and build other ways of living together it is, now more than ever, the time for our rage, our anger, our needs and our desires so that this generalised dissatisfaction should become a movement of generalised social confrontation, so that Chirac and Juppe should step aside and that

we grab the maximum...

Our arms are occupation, requisition, expropriation, direct democracy, autonomy, resistance, general strike...

Our goals are equality, justice, solidarity, mutual aid and Freedom

— Collectif '18e Parallele' (Paris)

Solidarity Aids Liverpool Dockers

Striking Liverpool dockers have won a major victory in their campaign to gain reinstatement. Some 400 dock workers were fired by the Mersey Dock and Harbour Co. after they struck in solidarity with fellow workers sacked for refusing to work unpaid overtime (see November 1995 *Industrial Worker*).

The giant ACL company has reportedly instructed its flagship the Atlantic Conveyor to re-route to another UK port after the company came under pressure from the International Longshoremen's Association in the United States. The I.L.A. threatened to refuse to handle ACL cargo if the company used the strike-bound port.

Assistance is now needed to build links with Australian dockers because the strikers are aware of ships en route from Australia. In addition there is to be a debate in the European Parliament on the dispute because of the high levels of European Union funding that the Mersey Dock and Harbour Company have received.

The dockers are at present concentrating their efforts on an international campaign aimed at the

Dutch ABC line, which is a major Mersey Port user. They are appealing for world wide support to tie up ABC ships.

The following communication was received by strikers recently from the Australia Maritime Union, Central NSW:

"Dear Comrades,

"The "Cornelius Verolme" has arrived at an opportune time in Sydney and be assured the Central NSW branch will ensure that it does not start on time for at least another 24 hours and then will receive a "good serve" when working (i.e. a go slow) and then another 24 hours before its departure.

"If this does not convince the ABC line of our intentions to continue our utmost support then the next vessel may rust at the berth.

"Your struggle has been an inspiration to our members and you can be assured of the continued support of our members and other members of Australian unions.

yours in solidarity,

Robert Coombes Jim Donovan
Joint Branch Secretaries"

This sort of international solidarity – refusing to scab on each other's struggles no matter where they are taking place – is absolutely essential if we are to turn back the ongoing attacks against ourselves and our unions.

General Strike in London Ontario

As the *Industrial Worker* goes to press Dec. 11, a one-day General Strike is beginning in the city of London, Ontario. This move is led by Canadian Auto Workers union, as the most powerful private-sector union in Ontario, and is supported by public service unions and by the rank and file

generally. The London strike is planned as the first in a series of rotating one-day strikes in different cities. Support actions will occur in other places.

These rotating strikes are supported by most unions in the province as a means to protest government anti-labor laws, layoffs, and undermining of wages by cutting of social programs. The urban general strikes are the strongest action seen here in many years by trade unions. However, some unions – notably the Steelworkers and Food and Commercial Workers – oppose general strikes, arguing that workers should instead focus on returning the NDP to power in the 1998 elections. The "socialist" NDP was turned out of office recently after workers became disgusted by its capitulation to big-business interests.

Meanwhile, rank-and-file union members and supporters are building a movement for a larger provincial or national general strike with larger demands.

Several thousand signs, buttons and leaflets have been distributed in Ontario in recent weeks calling for an indefinite shut down to roll back the cuts to social programs and improve benefits for workers. Activists are spreading the campaign to other union members, student activists are also involved as well as unemployed.

Tade union leaders are not supporting the call for a larger general strike, though some locals have endorsed it. The Ottawa IWW branch is supporting the campaign.

British Miners Demand Their Own

The British National Union of Miners is trying to make one of the privatised mines recognise and negotiate with the union. RJB Mining, which operates the Budge pits, is refusing miners pay hikes even though it is immensely profitable.

"Budge's six-month interim results show that if the company can repay 219 million of its debt to the banks – and still show 85 million profit – then it can pay our members who produce that profit an increase in basic pay now," said NUM President Arthur Scargill.

In its north Selby pit in Yorkshire, RJB has threatened to fire workers who threatened to strike after the company slashed incentive bonus pay.

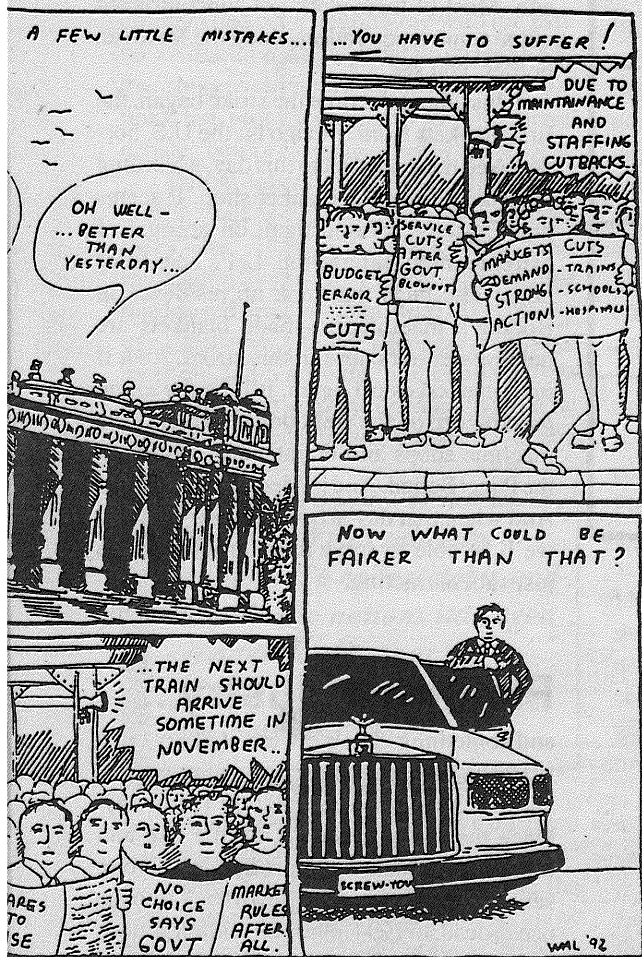
Although 83.4 percent of NUM members working for RJB voted in favor of strike action, the British courts have prohibited a strike. The High Court decision against the NUM was exactly the same as dozens of similar decisions taken against other trade unions which have found Tory laws preventing them from taking industrial action – even though they have balloted their members in accordance with those laws.

For example, the rail union, RMT, was told that a 24-hour strike could not go ahead because some of its members had only joined the union after the ballot vote had been held a situation which will always occur.

But even though the strike was prohibited, RJB has already made several concessions in an effort to head off a new strike vote: Budge has withdrawn the threat of a three-year pay freeze; the company said it would give an increase in pay (not negotiable) in 1996; RJB introduced a holiday bonus (with strings); and RJB paid £1,000 "efficiency supplements" for bosses, deputies and a small portion of NUM members.

War Zone – Union Jax Benefits Staley Workers

"War Zone" is a tape by labor troubador Eddie Starr, featuring his song, "War on the Workers." All proceeds go to Decatur, Ill., to benefit families of locked-out Staley workers and "replaced" Firestone strikers. \$10 donation to: Gene Reay, USWA, 3751 Penridge Dr. #114, Bridgeton MO 63044



Wildcat!

Calgary Hospital Workers Defy Back-to-Work Order

Hundreds of unionists from across Alberta joined striking Calgary hospital workers on picket lines Nov. 18th and 19th, joining strikers in defying a Labour Relations Board "back to work" order.

The hospital workers – members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 8 and the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees Local 6 – staged a wildcat strike Nov. 15 after learning that the regional health authority intended to contract-out laundry services in Calgary hospitals. The laundry workers walked out when they discovered their jobs were being replaced by a private company, K-Bro, in Edmonton.

The Alberta Labour Relations Board ordered striking workers back to work two days later, but workers voted to defy the injunction. They were joined that day by other hospital workers from food services, housekeeping and nurses. Doctors refused to book patients in for surgery and the Regional Health Authority was forced to declare a state of emergency in the hospitals.

On Nov. 18 hundreds of workers from Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Fort McMurray and Edmonton joined their fellow workers on the picket lines at Calgary's remaining four hospitals. The Tory government has shut down several hospitals across the province in the past year.

Striking workers kept scabs from moving laundry in or out of the hospital. Local administrators, exempt staff and management had been trying to run the laundry. Two hospitals service the Calgary region with laundry service, a further effect of the government's cutbacks in health care.

Workers on the picket lines are defiant. They have told the press that contracting-out was the final straw; they had taken the roll-backs in good faith and now that they

are going to lose their jobs they might as well hit the streets and show Albertans what this province will look like with reduced health services. Pickets chanted "General Strike" as more and more locals walked out over the weekend.

The Tory provincial government under Premier Ralph Klein (called "News of the North" by the *Wall Street Journal*) has been attacking Alberta's social safety net these past two years. These attacks have included massive budget cuts to hospitals, education and welfare. As well, the Klein government has captioned regional boards in health and education, stripping power away from local hospital and school boards. As a result, these regional health authorities have been given the responsibility to impose whatever changes are necessary to live within the government budget reductions.

Public sector workers in Alberta have taken wage and benefit cuts ranging from 5 to 20 percent. Still their jobs are not secure as the provincial government bulldozers through privatization of services.

K-Bro Linen, a private laundry company, recently was successful in its bid to privatize the University of Alberta's (Edmonton) Hospital laundry service, putting unionized workers out of work. K-Bro had been successful seven years ago in a low-ball bid to privatize laundry service at the Royal Alex Hospital in Edmonton.

K-Bro has received \$1 million in venture capital from the taxpayer-funded Alberta Venture Capital fund. The company claimed to need the money to expand operations in American hospitals; in reality it spent most of its energy trying to gain a monopoly over laundry services being privatized in Alberta.

Premier Klein has tried to defuse the situation by recommending a cooling-off period of six months before the health authority tries to privatize hospital services. This from the tough-talking populist who claimed that the demonstrations and name-calling "won't make me blink." Well he has

blinked, and is fighting back the tears.

While it has been easy for Klein to dismiss demonstrations, even those as big as 20,000 people, he is hard-pressed to explain the militancy and worker revolt in Calgary, the Tories' stronghold in Alberta. It is a personal embarrassment for Klein to have this series of strikes happening in his backyard. The strike adds flames to a smoldering situation in health care.

The Alberta Medical Association made Klein blink this week when they refused to take a \$100 million roll back, instead opting for a mass publicity campaign attacking the government and its cuts to health care.

Thousands of Albertans have signed petitions and sent cards and letters to the government calling for an end to cuts in Medicare and hospital budgets.

The president of CUPE's Alberta Division told reporters that while this began as a strike for one group of workers protecting their jobs, it has grown into a struggle to stop the healthcare cuts and "protect our health care system for all Albertans."

The Health Authority is now seeking a court order to force the strikers back to work. Pickets are defiant, and are claiming to be prepared to face down the courts in order to save their jobs., "We'll make Ralph (Klein) blink with a General Strike," says one picketer.

— Eugene W. Plawiuk

IBM mass firings

On November 9th IBM management continued its mass firings. 1,200 workers from 11 divisions were told they no longer had jobs. Firings took place in Raleigh, NC; Austin, Texas; Rochester, Minn; San Jose, Ca; Poughkeepsie and Somers, NY.

As the mass firings continue, IBM management continues to hire temps as well as new hires at substantially lower pay. IBM Workers need to *organize and fight back*.

— Lee Conrad, IBM Workers United

Boeing workers reject concessions...

fellow workers who haven't had a paycheck in a hell of a long time. Got to respect folks with that much solidarity. The week before that there was a 2,000 person rally up in Everett. Yes, *that* Everett, the one famous in IWW history. Boeing strikers and supporters nearly filled the Everett Memorial Stadium to hear an interesting bunch of solidarity speeches. I don't know if the newly elected AFL-CIO tops really expect to inaugurate a "New Era for Labor." But I did appreciate the fact that, in Everett, none of the usual Democratic Party politicians were allowed to stump for votes on labor's dime.

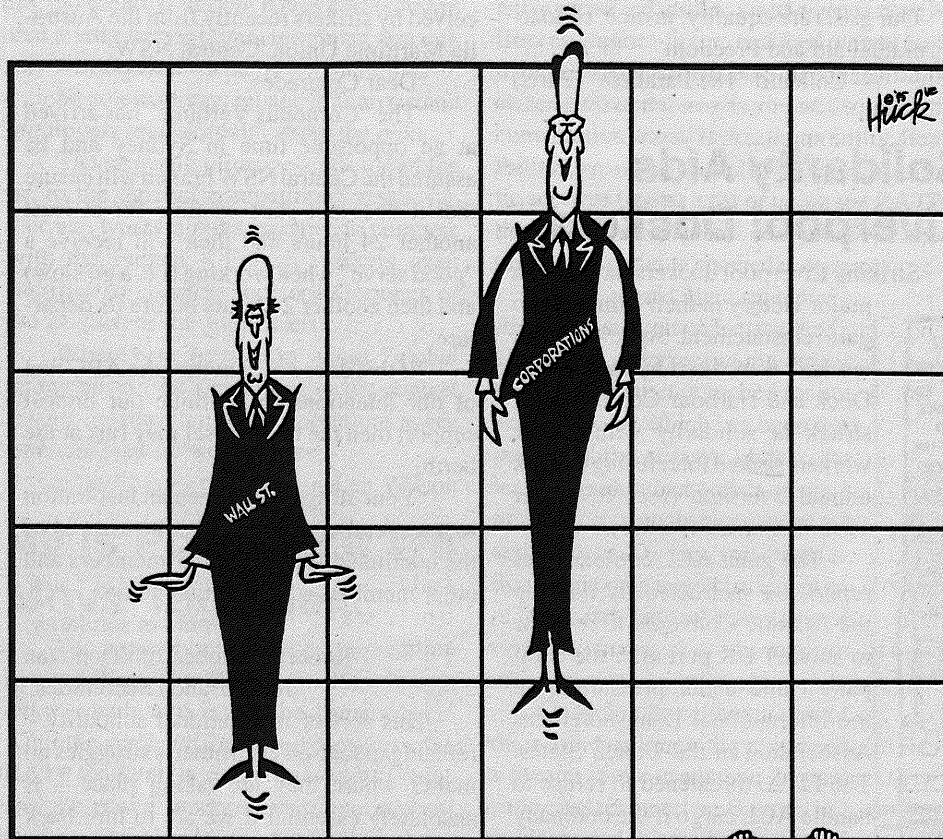
This fact alone probably cut the rally down by several hours. I even found the speeches by Sweeney, Chavez-Thompson, and Trumka to be more militant than I've ever heard from the mouths of AFL-CIO officials. Can't imagine that ex-AFL leader Lane Kirkland even knows the word capitalism. But the AFL-CIO's new President, John Sweeney, used it as an insult, the way it's supposed to be used. I'm not holding my breath for him to start a genuine new era for labor — i.e., one in which greedy corporate execs and capitalists find honest jobs, though. It was also nice that the radicals with axes to grind were outnumbered, yet treated politely, by actual unionists. Unionists from the Firefighters, Teachers, Farm Workers, State County & Municipal Workers, Newspaper Guild, Teamsters, Steelworkers, Operating Engineers, United Transportation Union (railroad switch operators), Grocery Clerks, Longshore, and Machinists.

In fact, the only thing I recall about that rally that I didn't like was the leaflet that went around for something called the Maltby Forum. At first it looked like a legit kind of leaflet for a speaker on the North American Free Trade Agreement. Something that the townspeople of Maltby thought might interest strikers and our supporters, perhaps. Then I noted that the guest speaker was a former exec at General Motors. Noted that, and spit on the ground a few times to get the slimy taste out of my mouth. Spit again a moment later when I noted that this self-same ex-GM squigmont was a leading light for Ross Perot's United We Stand. In fact, think I'll spit again right now. 'Scuse me.

This morning, the Monday after Thanksgiving, the first scab ran through the 40 strikers and strikers' spouses in our line at a quarter to six. Off to the scab's left, big Kevin held up a sign that said "Smile!" And then three of us whipped out our secret weapons: big, fancy-looking cameras with blinding flashes. Never seen anyone look so terrified. Intelligent is better than terrified, of course. Too bad scabs are incapable of looking intelligent. We settled for terrified.

Most of the people driving in were Boeing engineers, members of the Seattle Professional Engineering Employees' Association, and we didn't photograph them. You could say that SPEEA is a union. They negotiate wages for their members, of course. What they don't do is go out on strike when we Machinists do. One of my fellow camera-bugs tells me that SPEEA's officials have decided to work without a contract until after our strike ends. They could have joined us and totally shut the company down tight, but didn't. "Bunch of dummies," he said, and I had to agree.

The Teamsters, whose members drive 747 wings and AWACS radomes and various other gizmos up and down I-5 between the various Boeing plants, are still working, too. All of them who drove through the picket lines did honk their horns and wave at us, at least. Some SPEEA members and Teamsters have been joining our pickets on their off hours, which is very nice. Their unions' officials have sent our hardship fund money and food, I hear. Maybe next strike, the workers at Boeing, all the work-



"THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH RISING PROFITS, RISING PRODUCTIVITY AND A SOARING STOCK MARKET BUT EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION HEADING NOWHERE."
— SECRETARY OF LABOR ROBERT B. REICH, OCT. 31, 1995

ers at Boeing, will see the sense of hauling together in the most effective way. "Incoming!" someone shouts. More cars' headlights were sneaking up to our gate. All 40 of us got ready for action.

A couple of days ago, my wife and I drove around to the various 751 halls to drop off copies of a strike solidarity sheet I publish every week. Songs from the Little Red Song Book, cartoons, that sort of thing. Whatever will keep spirits high and minds alert. We pulled in to the Auburn hall parking lot after dark, probably 5 in the evening. It was only a couple blocks from the Auburn Boeing plant. That's the plant, long known for its workers' militancy, where two supervisors filling in for strikers poured acid into an unlined tank recently. Picketers ran for safety, while the city of Auburn evacuated a nearby grade school. ("Of course they were qualified to be doing that operation," said the Boeing flak on TV that night. "They've supervised that operation for years.") I hadn't set foot inside the place since being transferred away from Auburn years ago.

When we walked in, it was like walking into some well-oiled machine. A table hugged one long wall of the place, laden with donated food, books and discount coupons. Along the opposite wall, communiqués from the IAM and other unions lay in neat stacks. It was on the bulletin board above that table that Getz & I saw something quite amazing. A notice announcing that workers on the Union Pacific railroad, and United Parcel Service, who routinely move parts and raw material into and out of Boeing's plants, were refusing to cross our lines. The Teamsters and SPEEA members at Boeing ought to take a page from the UP and UPS workers' book, don't you think?

This morning, the Monday after Thanksgiving, Jim and Gerald and I were warming our hands around the picketline smudgepot. At least those two didn't get their hair all gummy from the creosote and the gaseous styrofoam. Being bald does have its advantages. Gerald opined that the "whole lot of them up at the Seattle Hall will be out after the next election." Jim nodded. I shrugged. "Did you notice," Gerald went on, "that we got our contract-vote validation cards in the mail the very day after the company and union negotiators announced that they were returning to the table? And the day before the vote, the company sends

us that letter welcoming us back to work! Bill Johnson and them will never be re-elected." Jim nodded again. I shrugged again and said, "When I was up at the Seattle Hall to vote, one of the bigwigs in my local told me something interesting about that." "Yeah?" "Seems that... the only way that Boeing would offer us a contract before Thanksgiving was if the union negotiators would all recommend it." "You believe that?" Gerald asked. Jim shook his head and finished off the last swig of his coffee. I shrugged, "At least, when they handed out the contract summary on voting day, the union seemed to have backed off from it."

"I didn't see that," said Jim. "Well, remember how the newsprint summary said the negotiators unanimously recommended passage?" "Sure." "OK, then didn't your copy of the summary have another piece of paper inserted into it?" "Umm, yes." "On that paper, it said that the summary was the best we could do — unless we continued to strike. Not quite the same thing as an out-and-out endorsement." "Johnson's still out," said Jim, putting a now-empty styrofoam cup into the stack of the glowing smudgepot. "The guys up in Everett are really radical. It was on TV yesterday where a bunch of them walked from the gate they were picketing to the home of Boeing's chief negotiator. Yelled at him to come out and talk, till the police shooed them away. They'll vote him out, for sure." I shrugged once more. "They might, and he might deserve it. But, come the election in a couple years, lots of members won't even bother to vote. Others will want to believe the best of Johnson. After all, unlike his predecessor, no one suspects him of embezzling union funds. So I won't be surprised whether he's dumped or kept." "He's out, unless he comes up with a con-

tract that pays our medical and stops subcontracting." "Medical, maybe. But I bet no contract can pull the fangs on subcontracting. As long as labor is cheaper at Heath Tecna or American Building Maintenance than here, Boeing'll gladly contract out to places like that."

"Or Mexico, like with the blanket shop," Gerald said. Less than a hundred yards away, the shop where Vietnamese (mostly) women (mostly) used to make insulating blankets for various Boeing aircraft sat not only empty, but tiny, compared to its size a year ago. Most of their work got subcontracted out to some maquiladora along the Mexican border, you see.

Just about the time the strike began, the first blankets from Mexico hit the U.S. border. And there they sit to this day, according to strikers from the blanket shop. It seems that Customs refused them on account of extreme insect infestation. Let's hear it for bugs! The bugs that took up residence in Boeing's maquiladora-made blankets are helping out our cause in this strike. And, if unionism takes off again, it'll be the *union bugs* placed on the work done in all the little machine shops and maintenance outfits in the Puget Sound. And in Mexico. And China. And when that day arrives, fellow workers, we'll be able to solve more problems than just subcontracting.

— Mark Manning

Fishing Industry...

and something else. Trawlers will lay out a net as wide as a circumference of two miles and catch as much as 550,000 fish a day. Once the catch is aboard, all the fish and other sea life that is not profitable — wrong sex, size or species — is thrown back into the ocean dead. In 1994, over 569 million pounds of dead fish was dumped by the Seattle fleet. That comes out to one in every three fish caught. Also, over 15 million crabs were dumped last year.

Back on the Ocean Phoenix, the fire-watch continues to tell me of the make-up of the crew and of the working conditions, as we have some time to kill waiting for the welder to finish a weld so that I can make the next fit up on the firemain. He spoke of coming up to Seattle from East L.A. a few years back and finding work on trawlers. These ships are like floating colonialist plantations, the officers, engineers and pushers are all white. The folks who do the real work are made up of Hispanics, Filipinos, Blacks from the Caribbean and East Africa, Native Americans and some poor whites (many of whom are biker types).

The ship carries a crew of around 300 people when it is at sea. When the ship is at port waiting for the next season to open, it has a small crew to do light maintenance, repair nets and work as fire watches for workers like me that come aboard to repair the ship or put in new systems. The conditions on the ship start off with cramped living quarters that makes overcrowded prison cells look like luxury suites. The working conditions are very dangerous, with speed-ups, long hours, and having to do your factory work while the ship is rockin' and a rollin' in high seas. I heard and saw numerous cases of physical abuse and racial and sexual harassment. Few workers on land would put up with the disrespectful and degrading way the officers and pushers talk to the crew.

Few of these ships go into the shipyards for work, unless they have to go into drydock. Most of the work on them is done by contractors who work the ship where ever it is docked. The contractors bid on different work and the contractor who is able to pay their workers the least amount of money and cut the most corners (quality, safety and what not) gets the work. Those who work for the contractors are really nothing more than skilled temp workers. The contractor

Deathtraps Work the High Seas...

may only have a few days of work or maybe a few weeks or months. Once the work is up with one contractor, then it is on to the next one that has work.

These are small companies with few full-time workers and no benefits. They lack safety equipment and follow few health and safety laws. Unlike the shipyards, where workers only work within their trade, the contractors expect their workers to be able to do most everything. On the Ocean Phoenix I not only repiped the aft to firemain, and put in a new fish oil piping system, but I also put in a deck extension, a tank top and two new bulkheads, all of which was ship-fitter work.

Contract workers are forced to work long hours and then are faced with (sometimes) long lay offs. Work on the Ocean Phoenix started off at 10 hours a day, five days a week. By the time the job was done

"They will net the last fish, fall the last tree... and exploit workers to the fullest extent possible, in their madness driven by their lust for wealth and power... This system cannot be reformed..."

we were up to 12 hours a day, seven days a week. Though I made a few good contacts on the Ocean Phoenix, I was not sorry to see that ship sail. After taking a few days off, I worked a few weeks on a sternwheeler. After that I was sent to a ship the likes of which I had never seen before. By name it was called the M/V Rybak Chukotai. This was the first of the Russian ships that All Alaskan Seafoods is bringing over to the U.S. Four more will be coming in to Seattle and four will be going down to Louisiana. I have worked all kinds of ships from tramp steamers of nearly ever flag of the world, to banana boats, and most every type of fishing ship there is, but none of these ships came close to being as foul as the Rybak.

The Rybak was built in Gdansk, Poland in 1980. I have only worked on a few ships built in Eastern Europe when it was a "workers paradise," my general impression has been that these ships are far inferior to other ships built around the world. The Rybak was the first such ship that I was able to get a good look at (maybe too good of a look at). Things that are standardized throughout the world in shipbuilding do not apply to the Rybak. Primary, secondary and sub structures are not square to each other, flanges not twoholed, pipes not uniform with each other or square to the structure. This makes the work of pipefitters and shipfitters very hard. Though a ship is not a square, everything upon that ship is built as if it were a series of squares. And all angles are figured as degrees off square. Even something that is rounded in shape, the circumference is figured off what is square. I have no idea how you could build a ship as poorly as the Rybak. It was often commented by workers, that it must have taken a lot of work to make things as fucked-up as they were on that ship. It seemed as if the builders of this ship had neither the knowledge nor the skills to build a proper ship.

Before the Rybak made its way to Seattle, it spent six years unused at anchor in a port in Siberia. It seems that when Marxism fell in Russia their maritime industry collapsed, and their merchant marine fleet got mothballed. As one Russian crew member told me, freedom came to mean the lack of work. Thus, the maritime workers also got mothballed. So Russian maritime workers are forced to take any work they can find, no matter how bad the conditions are.

When the Rybak first came into Seattle it was so foul that you could smell the ship before you could see it. At first sight you would have to ask yourself how something

so rusted out could still float? It looked as if it were a large bowl of light brown soup that had been overfilled and the soup was spilling over its sides. Rust just poured out of that ship. The closer you got to the ship the greater the smell got. If you were one of the unlucky ones who had to go aboard the Rybak you soon realized that it was not just one foul smell, but many different disgusting odors. Nowhere on the ship could you get away from the smell. Imagine, if you can, the combined smell of rotting fish and crabs, dead rats and a sewage system that was completely backed up with human shit and other foul things. The smell was so bad you could taste it, and the odor would get into your hair and clothes. I had to burn incense in my car to keep the smell out of it. The ship was overrun with large rats. One crew member told me that at night you could hear them in the ductwork and the bulkheads. They tried to bring on cats to deal with the problem, but they underestimated the rats. The rats killed all of the cats. You had to be careful where you put your hands for there were rat traps all over the place. I almost put my hand in one when I was tracing out a pipe. About the most disgusting thing I have ever seen was a rat that had chewed into a powerline in one of the aft compartments and there it was all rotting with the top of its head burned off.

The Rybak was full of wild stories as different mysterious things were found. Like the large compartment on the factory deck that had bars welded across the portholes, as if that space was used to imprison people. Then there were the bones found inside of a false wall that some thought were human.

These once proud seamen had to live in these conditions. They also had to endure the cold because the steamheating system did not work (that was the system I worked on the most). All they had were small electric space heaters. Even while the ship was in Seattle they had to live on it, just to make their small wages to send back to families they had not seen in over a year.

The working conditions of us contract workers was bad. Be it the smell, the live and dead rats, oily bilges, asbestos dust and so on. At one point OSHA came in to test for asbestos in the air after they had gotten a complaint. Unfortunately they did their test before work started one morning and the dust had settled overnight. At the next, so-called safety meeting, we were told not to talk to OSHA or the fire marshals, and that if we had a problem with something to come to them, the bosses. Anyone dumb enough to do that would find themselves out of a job. Being that the so-called unions don't want anything to do with contract workers, we had to either put up with all this or move on to another job, if we could find one. In one case that I know of that happened. A pipefitter was sent down to an area with rotting crabs in it, after smelling it he picked up his tools and walked off the job without telling anyone. They sent another one down there and the same thing happened.

Jobs like this also are dangerous because you have people working outside of their trade and they use people with no experience doing things that only skilled people should be doing. Two times I nearly got hit because people who were rigging did not know what they were doing and they gave no warning when moving loads. I saved one young kid from braining himself with a steel plate when he lost control of it because of bad rigging. One worker got electrocuted because a lock-out was not place on a system that was being worked on.

Fire was a bad problem on the Rybak. We had three major fires that forced us to evacuate the ship. One of these fires took four hours to put out and as I was on the dock I counted 14 fire engines brought in to fight

it. The first problem was that the ship was a mess. Flammable liquids stored any old place without warning signs, oxidizers next to flammable, oily rags piled up in corners, and so on. Then there was the foam. Foam is used on most fishing ships as insulation, and it has a lower flashpoint than gasoline. And when it burns it gives off cyanide gas. When we had to do hotwork on bulkheads we were not allowed to strip off all the foam first, only about a foot around the area of the work was taken off. The bilges were so oily that when I had to burn out a pipe in them I could only burn about an inch at a time before the firewatch had to put out the fire.

Then there were the firewatches, since there were between 400 to 500 contact workers on the Rybak, and only a few crew members could speak English. All Alaskan had to hire a large number of firewatches. The job of a firewatch is maybe one of the most boring jobs one could have. And it is one of the most important jobs on a ship.

Federal and state regulations state that when doing hotwork we must have "competent" firewatches. Since all laws are written by liars and fools, no one really knows what competent means. To All Alaskan it means hiring people off the street, at minimum wage and not giving them any training. To me it means realizing the importance of their work, paying them a real wage, and training them so that they know the difference between the classes of fire, how to put the fires out and a number of other things.

The worst firewatches are those that know nothing about their job, but are enthusiastic about doing it. They will shoot water onto powerlines and electrical boxes, not understanding that they could electrocute someone or damage equipment. One time a worker was burning a hole in a deck and no sooner than he got done the firewatch shot water up through the hole, across the red hot steel turning it into steamy water and burning that worker's face. When asked why he did that he stated that the deck was red hot and he wanted to cool it off.

After one inspection by the fire marshal in which All Alaskan was cited for improper fire extinguishers, they realized that they could be held responsible if something happened. Rather than train their firewatches they passed the buck to us contract workers and made us responsible for the firewatches, their equipment and their actions. After the meeting in which they told us that I checked out the fire extinguisher of my firewatch. Every fire extinguisher states what class of fire it is for and it has a rating plus it is to be sealed. The rating was lower than it should have been and it was not sealed. I asked him to take it back and get another one. He was told to use it anyway for there were no more to be had. I told my boss and he said to keep on working. Had something happened I would be the one blamed. There is that old capitalist story again, always blame the workers when in fact the blame lies in capitalist greed.

I was able to talk with one crew mem-

ber for a good while one day, and he spoke rather depressing words about the Rybak being the end of the line for workers like him. In his view, there was no lower point than humans could fall than to working on such a ship. And in thinking about it, he was not only speaking for the Russian seamen, but for all the workers upon that ship. Of all the talk of the Marxists and Capitalists, of the bleeding-heart liberals and other such liars and con artists, the fact of the matter is that all of the social/economic systems that are dominated by a few on top - issuing commands to those down the social/economic ladder - exist only for the self interest of those on top. The only gains we have made have come through the use of force, and any time we let up on that force upon our masters we lose what little we have. Because of the weakness of the modern resistance to exploitation a reactionary tide is sweeping us. And for the working class this has meant a freefall downwards.

As for the exploitation of the oceans, it is but another example of the wrong direction humanity has taken. Whatever words influence you, be it those of the scientists who warn of the rapid extinction of life, be it the working-class militants who speak of the increased exploitation of working people and of the world's resources, or be it the spiritual warnings of the original people of this land, all of them reach the same conclusions. Human society is heading in a suicidal direction. Ten years ago I went out to Dineh and Hopi land with a group to video tape elders on the issues around the struggle at Big Mountain. The elder woman of one family set up in a traditional way an interview with Thomas Banyacya, a Hopi spiritual elder. After we completed that interview he asked if we would return the next day. Nothing in my life prepared me for what I heard that day. There is a kiva within an old village where the three eldest Hopi spiritual people met each day. Sitting upon the ladder going down into the kiva, where I could keep an eye out for the police of the Mormon-controlled tribal council who would arrest us if they found us there, I listened intently. They spoke of Hopi prophecies that go back thousands of years, and of the wrong path that human society has taken. They gave the warning that if we did not return to the right path that grave consequences would befall us all. And they explained in detail what would happen. I could clearly see that they spoke the truth. For me no other words are needed to explain what is going on and what we must do about it.

But for those of you who need more, just last week there was an article in the paper that put their words into scientific terms. A study compiled by 1,500 scientists worldwide sent a warning of extinction to the world. These scientists, the engineers of the industrial monster, have come to realize what the Hopi have known for thousand of years; that if we continue as we are extinction will be the result. And within that study the overfishing of the seas was one of the things they pointed out.

The work on the Rybak was not com-

continued on page 10

Subscribe to the Industrial Worker

Subscriptions are \$15 per year (12 issues)

Enclosed: \$15, 1 year \$_____ donation to the IW Sustaining Fund
 \$15, bundle of 5, 6 months (ask for special IWW member rates)

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State/Prov _____ Post Code _____

Send Subscriptions, Renewals and Bundle Requests to:
Industrial Worker Distribution, 103 W Michigan, Ypsilanti MI 48197

Spain at war: the Spanish Civil War in context, 1931-1939 by George Esenwein and Adrian Shubert. London & New York: Longman, 1995, 313 pp. \$22.95

To remember Spain: the Anarchist and Syndicalist Revolution of 1936 by Murray Bookchin. AK Press (22 Luton Place, Edinburgh, Scotland EH8 9Pe; POB 40682, San Francisco CA 94140-0682), 1994. 69 pp. £4.50 or \$6.

'Tis really a pity that more workers don't know about the Spanish Civil War and the social revolution which began to erupt out of it; especially as revolutionary unionists played such a significant role. Two books have come out recently which can help remedy our collective amnesia about Spain. One is very personal and partisan, while the other maintains a scholarly distance. Read in tandem, they provide a reasonably well-informed view of what actually happened when civil war ripped the veil of legitimation from ruling class authority and social revolution came to fruition.

Murray Bookchin is the author of two lengthy essays which have been bound together by our fellow workers at AK Press into *To Remember Spain: The Anarchist And Syndicalist Revolution Of 1936*. As a long time anarchist, Murray naturally makes his observations and reflections on the vic-

Solidarity or Extinction?

continued from page 9

pleted before it had to set sail. Because I was not willing to sail that death ship to Siberia I was laid off. Back when I was working on the Ocean Phoenix I issued a flyer from the Industrial Transportation Project of the I.W.W. That flyer explained the destruction of the oceans because of over fishing, and about working conditions, and the need of working class solidarity to deal with these problems. It also, explained that we need to stop blaming environmentalists and Indian fishing treaty rights for the decline of the fishing industry and that we should place the blame where it belonged, on the greedy master class. I placed that flyer throughout both ships and one Russia crew member asked for copies to take back to Siberia with him. I gave 500. My Chicano friend took 500 copies to Dutch Harbor with him.

The Eurocentric mind tends to isolate problems. Rather than see the whole problem they divide it up into competing "issues." When looking the dangers that humanity faces some point to environmental abuses as the danger that may destroy us, others point to the weapons of mass destruction, still other point to the way we treat each other. What the Eurocentric minds fails to understand is that it is our society and its wrong direction that will destroy us all. At the center of most Native traditional beliefs is that all things are connected. And working those two ships, for me, clearly shows the truth in that. The environmental abuse, the exploitation of working people, racism, sexism and the overwhelming greed of the capitalist class.

There is no difference between the way the capitalist treat working people and the way they treat Mother Earth. The capitalists feel they have the right to exploit both. They will net the last fish, fall the last tree, foul the last breath of clean air, and exploit working people to the fullest extent possible, in their madness driven by their lust for wealth and power. It is for this reason that this system cannot be reformed. It must be driven from the body of humanity, every aspect of it, every thought pattern that justifies it, must be ground into dust so that it can never again raise its evil head upon our world. And then we can rebuild our world based upon the well being of all. And we must come to realize that our struggle of today is not just about better conditions or a more humane economic system, it is also about the survival of all of us.

— Arthur J. Miller

Remembering Spain

tories, defeats – the rights, the wrongs, the lefts – from his own partisan perspective. Be that as it may, readers will find an abundance of useful insight in these essays. As an example, Bookchin quotes from Hegel's youthful work on positive Christianity to make a point about how the mentality of servitude is ingrained or not in people who learn from others. What makes it especially fascinating is that Murray is making this observation amidst his discussion of anarchists and charismatic leaders like Durruti:

"Hegel brilliantly draws the distinction between Socrates and Jesus: the former was a teacher who sought to arouse a quest for knowledge in anyone who was prepared to discuss; the latter an oracle who pronounced for adoring disciples... The difference, as Hegel points out, lay not only in the character of the two men but in that of their 'followers.' Socrates' friends had been reared in a social tradition that [and here is where Hegel begins] 'developed their powers in many directions. They had absorbed that democratic spirit which gives an individual a greater measure of independence and makes it impossible for any tolerably good head to depend wholly and absolutely on one person... They loved Socrates because of his virtue and his philosophy, not virtue and his philosophy because of him.' [End Hegel] The followers of Jesus, on the other hand, were submissive acolytes: [Hegel again] 'Lacking any great store of spiritual energy of their own, they had found the basis of their conviction about the teaching of Jesus principally in their friendship with him and dependence on him... Their ambition was to grasp and keep this doctrine faithfully and to transmit it equally faithfully to others without any addition, without letting it acquire any variations in detail by working on it themselves.'"

Murray also carries around his share of ideological baggage, which impels him to make remarks like, "The limitations of the trade union movement, even in its anarcho-syndicalist form, have become manifestly clear. To see in trade unions (whether syndicalist or not) an inherent potentiality for revolutionary struggle is to assume that the interests of workers and capitalists, *merely as classes*, are intrinsically incompatible." Mr. Bookchin believes that the recuperative tendencies of capitalist reform make and remake the worker over in the image of "obedience, hierarchy, the work ethic, an authoritarian discipline in the working class as a whole; indeed, in many of the 'emancipatory' movements as well."

Is there then nothing to be done, ac-

A New Little Red Songbook

The Little Red Song Book: To Fan The Flames of Discontent 36th edition, May 1 1995, \$10, paper. Industrial Workers of the World.

For those of you Fellow Worker readers who have not as yet seen or availed yourself of this new 36th edition, you are in for a special treat. Its new dimensions, eleven and a quarter by four and an eighth inches afford you a great bargain, insofar as there is twice as much material as there had been in previous editions. It still has the convenience of fitting comfortably in your vest pocket as well as your back pockets, provided they are deep enough.

Because of the new, expanded format there are over 70 new items appearing in this edition, including contributions by some of our overseas Wobblies, from such far-flung places as Australia, Canada and Ireland. For the first time there are songs from the Spanish Confederacion Nacional del Trabajo as well as a Mexican revolutionary song. There are Spanish translations of Solidarity For-

warding to Mr. Bookchin?

No; not unless we abandon hopelessly outdated strategies like the self-organization of the working class into unions whose goal is the abolition of wage-slavery and instead adopt Murray's strategy of organizing a municipally based green socialism. Forewarned is forearmed, fellow workers.

However one may evaluate Murray Bookchin's conclusions, *To Remember Spain* is generally fascinating, thought-provoking and informative. The philosophical/tactical ruminations are worth the purchase price for workers interested in remembering the past in order to avoid the mistakes of the present and future.

In *Spain At War: The Spanish Civil War In Context*, George Esenwein and Adrian Shubert present a subject-structured approach to history, which takes into account not only the anarchists and syndicalists and a variety of left, right and center Republicans; but also the major players in the Nationalist camp – the monarchists, the Catholic Church, the fascists, militarists and plain vanilla conservatives. Compared with Bookchin, Esenwein and Shubert offer a refreshingly distanced tour through the labyrinth of Spanish political warfare.

Providing readers with this decade-long account makes it easier to see how the various contending forces involved in the class conflicts of '30s Spain navigated and justified themselves during the turbulence leading up to and including the civil war and revolution. This history also makes clear the defeat of our class-conscious sisters and brothers in Spain, and the fact that it had more to do with the numerical, military and technical superiority of the Nationalist rebellion than any philosophical failings of their own. This is not to say that they soft-peddle the help that Franco got from Hitler and Mussolini or the Communist Party of Spain's role in blocking with the liberals of the Republic to repress the emerging social revolution. In essence, Shubert and Esenwein's scholarship confirm what Bookchin pronounces vis a vis the Communist Party of Spain. It was neither communist nor a party, but in reality an instrument for the promotion of Soviet foreign policy goals with its membership reduced to a gaggle of murderous, pro-Soviet liberals. The book is however, more than the exposure of Stalinism to the dispassionate light of historical analysis.

Spain At War is much broader and more comprehensive. It includes an extensive analysis of foreign intervention and foreign policy and their impact on Spanish activity.

ever and We Shall Not Be Moved, as well as The Internationale, which also has versions in French and Swedish and a new version by Billy Bragg. Wherever available, musical notation has been provided along with songs that may be unfamiliar to some, particularly in the examples from overseas.

A song based on words by Mother Jones, Fight Like Hell, makes its first appearance here as well as songs by two former IWW General Secretaries, Goddard Graves and Kathleen Taylor. It is great to see contributions from our Fellow Workers in Canada, Australia and the British Isles whose particular circumstances, while being a bit different than here in Freedomland, nevertheless provide the global link that all workers, no matter where they are, have more in common with each other than with their respective rulers and/or employers.

The Song Book Committee is to be commended for a job well done. A number of the old classics were altered in order to make them gender-neutral, which is under-

The Republic's liberals would probably have acted quite differently, if they had known that the capitalist democracies were going to let them twist in the wind in order to appease the capitalist dictatorships under Hitler and Mussolini. On the other hand, the militarists under Franco would probably not have had a very easy time of defeating the forces of the Republic, if it had not been for the aid and comfort giving to them by the German and Italian States. The clear connection between the Franco's victory and the beginning of World War II just five months later becomes all the clearer as one

Book Review

finishes *Spain At War*.

As Esenwein and Shubert point out, during the first three decades of the 20th Century, Spain had been sharply divided between forces trying to push it out of feudalism on to a higher and freer plane and those who were attempting to drag it back into a vortex of obscurantist traditions. As these elements clashed, class-conscious workers broke through to the forefront in the struggle for progress. The workers organized in the Confederacion Nacional del Trabajo (CNT) those associated with the Iberian Anarchist Federation (FAI), and the militants of the Party of Marxist Unification (POUM) were all on the cutting edge of emerging, vibrant socialist revolutionary impulse in Spain. Reading about the Asturian miners' organizing and their general strike of 1934 is both inspiring and instructive:

"This announcement was the occasion for the Socialists to launch their much heralded rising against the fascist threat. It was a total failure everywhere... except Asturias, where the radicalism of the miners carried the movement far beyond what the socialist leadership had intended and turned it into a full-scale social revolution."

Keep in mind, this strike was organized two years before the Spanish Civil War began. Nuggets like this one are what keep pulsing through the pages of this work and make it well worth the read. *Spain At War* can add formidable memory to any worker's class conscious arsenal. Thus, whether to ally or to disdain alliances, whether to strike or hold off, how to treat national/ethnic oppression, liberal and/or religious tendencies – in short all the questions which tend to arise during the fast-breaking events which force themselves on workers during revolutionary moments – they're all here, fellow workers, in this excellent recounting of Spain's brightest and darkest days of the 20th Century. The task is to synthesize that knowledge and to critically apply it as we make our way along the path towards freedom from wage slavery.

— Mike Ballard X334260

standable. Unfortunately some old-timers that were deleted for the same reason, which your reviewer finds unfortunate. I feel they could have been included with a footnote that these songs were written within the context of the times they were written in.

My one big criticism is the deletion of two of Joe Hill's classics for which he had even composed the music, namely The Rebel Girl and Workers Of The World, Awaken, especially since we already have the music for those two songs. I have heard from folkies that Joe Hill's music is impossible to play and sing to, but in my young life I have listened to many old timers who were not musical wizards handle his songs with no difficulty.

However, these minor criticisms are greatly compensated for by the wealth of additional material that this 36th edition affords us, and I can recommend this new edition of the Little Red Song Book with unbridled enthusiasm!

— Carlos Cortez

Labor History & Popular Culture

The IWW Literature Dept. offers a limited stock of academic labor studies, (auto)biographies of activists, and labor history. Many are about to go out of print. Some already have. Available while supplies last...

Hard Rock Epic, Western Miners and the Industrial Revolution, 1860-1910 by Mark Wyman, U of CA Press, 331 pp., illus. \$13. Sympathetic account of Western miners' struggles, including WFM & IWW.

The Road to Rebellion, Class Formation and Kansas Populism, 1865-1900 by Scott McNall, U of Chicago Press, 354 pp., pub'd \$49.95, now \$20. The Farmers' Alliance & Peoples' Party seizure of state power.

Blue-Collar Aristocrats, Life-Styles at a Working-Class Tavern by E.E. LeMasters, U of WI Press, 218 pp., pub'd at \$25, now \$15, hardcover. On-the-spot sociological reportage of lives and mores.

RAW, High Culture for Lowbrows ed. by Art Spiegelman & Francoise Mouly, Penguin, 267 pp., \$10. A colorful anthology of twisted comix by leading artists.

X, Pictures by Sue Coe by Coe and Judith Moore, New Press, 20 pp., color, \$5, hardcover. Political art for the unsqueamish chronicling the life and times of Malcolm X.

Emma Goldman in Exile, From the Russian Revolution to the Spanish Civil War by Alice Wexler, Beacon Press, 301 pp., pub'd at \$24.95, now \$14, hardcover.

Year One of the Russian Revolution by Victor Serge, Bookmarks, 456 pp. pub'd at \$24.75, now \$12, paper. A blow-by-blow account of the first year of the Russian Revolution by an anarchist who went there.

"Yours for the Revolution," The Appeal to Reason, 1895-1922 ed. John Graham, U of NE Press, pub'd at \$19.95, now \$10, paper. Anthology of articles and graphics from the pre-eminent Socialist newspaper in American history.

The Union League Movement in the Deep South by Michael Fitzgerald, LA State U. Press, 283 pp., pub'd \$29.95, now \$12. A secret Black reconstructionist organization which radically changed the conditions of African-American laborers.

Plain Folk in the New South: Social Change and Cultural Persistence, 1880-1915 by I.A. Newby, LSU Press, 588 pages, hard, published at \$35, now \$10. An intriguing cultural history of poor white share-

croppers who became textile mill workers.

The Dispossessed: America's Underclasses from the Civil War to the Present by Jacqueline Jones, Basic Books, 399 pp., hardcover, published at \$25, now \$16.

Live From Death Row by Mumia Abu-Jamal. Published at \$20, \$17 from us.

Where the Sun Never Shines: A History of America's Bloody Coal Industry by Priscilla Long. 420 pp., \$10.00, paper.

Woodie's 20 Grow Big Songs. Woodie Guthrie's songbook for little kids. Hardcover, 50 pages, published at \$16, now \$10.

The Disappearance of Local 717: An Underground History of Packard Electric by Benjamin Sachs, pamphlet, 38 pages, \$3. How the Warren, OH, local was destroyed by the 12 hour speed-up and labor-management "cooperation."

Women of Valor: The Struggle Against the Great Depression as Told in Their Own Life Stories edited by Sternshev and Sealander, Ivan R. Dee, 312 pages, hardcover, pub'd at \$26.95, now \$12.

Music/Song

Good News. Sweet Honey in the Rock All Used Up. Utah Phillips

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 - Wobbly songs.

As Seen on No TV. Chris Chandler It Takes A Lot of People. Tribute to Woody Guthrie by Larry Long & kids

A World to Win. Tom Juravich Greenfire. Dakota Sid & Travers Clifford

Food Phone Gas Lodging. Charlie King Justice. Toshi Reagon

Out of Darkness. Tom Juravich Look to the Left. Anne Feeney

All Cassettes: \$10 each

T-SHIRTS

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

Film Workers (worker stepping over Hollywood sign), One Big Union \$10 Red shirts, black print. Button: Don't Whine - Organize Film Workers Organizing Committee IU 630. \$1. Los Angeles GMB, 1748 Clinton St., LA CA 90026. Ask for list of books about the IWW. 213-353-9885.

IWW Globe Black & red, M, L or XL. 50/50, \$14. Denver Group, 1130 Bannock, Denver CO 80204

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

I'm A Little Wobbly Red with black kitten (childrens sizes 11-12 & 14-16 only) \$8. The Hand That Will Rule the World - One Big Union Grey pocket-t, IWW on pocket, workers with fist on back. \$15. An Injury To One Is An Injury To All Navy pocket-t, SLC branch seal on pocket, sab cat on back \$15. Joe Hill White t with picture by FW Cortez \$10.

Employing Class Red sabo cat t-shirt \$10. Please add \$5 for postage/handling. Salt Lake IWW, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0514

IWW "Wings" 3" wide bullion pin, IWW Globe surrounded by sabots. \$10. POB 8882, Baltimore MD 21224-0882.

Available from IWW Branches
Workers Guide to Direct Action. Workers Guide to Organizing \$2.95 each. Lehigh Branch. Ask for catalog
Workers Guide to Direct Action 75¢ Collective Bargaining Manual \$2.50. New York GMB, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick NY 13348
The Objectives of Anarcho-Syndicalism by Rudolf Rocker. \$1. Shopfloor Struggles of American Workers by Martin Glaberman 50 cents. Ask for catalogue. Philadelphia GMB, 4722 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia PA 19143
Video: Resistance, Sabotage & Music \$21.50. Puget Sound Branch, POB 20752, Seattle WA 98102
OUTSIDE U.S.
Canadian Songbook \$5. 36th Edition Little Red Songbook \$10. Toronto Branch, c/o J. Dymny, 11 Andrews Ave., Toronto ONT M6J 1S2
British Isles - a selection of IWW literature is available from F. Lee, IWW, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB, as is the magazine Burning Fuse £1
Black IWW t-shirts, red globe logo £5 plus post and packing from Oxford IWW

Books for Rebel Workers

Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology. edited by Joyce Kornbluh. Collection of articles, cartoons, songs & poetry from the IWW press. \$22

One Big Union. by IWW. The basic introduction to the structure and methods of the Industrial Workers of the World. \$2

IWW Little Red Songbook (36th Edition) 103 labor songs from around the world, with music. Includes classics and new songs by Billy Bragg, Anne Feeney, Charlie King, Utah Phillips, etc. \$10

1923 IWW Songbook Facsimile reprint of IWW Songs, \$5

Posters by Carlos Cortez Lucy Parsons, Ben Fletcher or Joe Hill. \$15

Solidarity Unionism. by Staughton Lynd. Critical reading for all who care about the future of the labor movement. \$7

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

Fellow Worker: The Life of Fred Thompson. Compiled by D. Roediger. Autobiographical reflections and philosophy from a veteran Wobbly who bridged the generations. \$10

Hard-Pressed in the Heartland. by Peter Rachleff P-9's struggle against Hormel & the UFCW suggests the possibility of a militant, rank & file, community-based unionism. \$12

Mask of Democracy: Labor Suppression in Mexico. by Dan LaBotz. Rank & file insurgencies, maquila-doras and NAFTA all get attention. The need for world 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

Bumperstickers

Six bumperstickers, each with IWW Globe on left. Slogans: Solidarity Forever, One Big Union, Because Capitalism Cannot Be Reformed, An Injury to One Is an Injury to All!, Don't Mourn Organize, Labor is Entitled to All It Creates. Black on durable white stock, \$1.25 each, post-paid.

Video Documentary

Older = Bolder: Anarchist Elders, by Zimya Toms-Trend 28-minutes; veteran Wobblies reflect on their struggles and ideas. VHS, \$20.00

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

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

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

Solidarity Forever-An oral history of the IWW. Steward Bird, Dan Georgakas & Deborah Shaffer, eds. A compilation of interviews with former and veteran Wobblies. Badly transcribed, but interesting reading. \$11

Mad in the USA. by Gary Huck & Mike Konopacki. Their third cartoon collection. "These unbeholden bozos are the best class-warrior cartoonists of our time." \$12

Working the Waterfront. Wobbly longshoreman Gilbert Mers tells of 42 years on the Texas waterfront as a rank-and-file radical. Workers' history as it should be told. Hardcover: \$20

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

Power! by MacShane, Plaut & Ward. Black workers and their struggle to improve everyday life and transform the system in South Africa. \$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 for the first time. \$8

Crystal Gazing the Amber Fluid. Poetry by Carlos Cortez. \$4

War At Home: Covert Action Against U.S. Activists & What We Can Do About It. by Brian Glick \$5

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

Silent Agitators 10 designs to a sheet. 50 cents a sheet, minimum order 4 sheets. Wet and stick.

IWW Buttons Fire Your Boss! \$1 each Black Cat/Direct Action IWW Globe circled by motto: "Labor is Entitled to All it Creates." Black & Red, \$1.50.

ORDER FORM: Name _____ Address _____ City/State/Postal Code _____
Quantity Item Price
return to: IWW Literature Dept. 103 West Michigan Ave. Ypsilanti, MI 48197 USA
U.S. Funds Only TOTAL ORDER: \$_____

Cndn. Boss Locked Out

Thirteen workers at a North Sydney (Cape Breton, Canada) aerospace plant owned by IMP Group Ltd. locked out their bosses Nov. 27th in an attempt to keep their jobs.

The workers were angry at IMP's decision to remove the plant's equipment from the high-unemployment area. Official regional unemployment tops 20 percent, with fishing, coal and steel industries all decimated in recent years. The IMP plant has employed as many as 75 people in the past.

IMP purchased the plant from the government two years ago with a \$5 million provincial government loan. The plant had been owned by CBM Technology, which used up \$16.7 million in federal and provincial financing in three years before it went into receivership in 1991.

Workers insist that IMP never seriously tried to attract work for the facility after two government projects fell through. So rather than see their jobs head south, they settled into the company offices, answering the telephone and sending out news releases on the IMP facsimile machine.

"We intend to stay here as long as it takes until we get some answers as to why this machinery has to leave here," the workers' spokesman said. "It was put here with government money to employ Cape Breton people and technology, and as far as we are concerned it was a viable industry."

IMP initially refused to meet with workers until they abandoned the occupation. However, they quickly backed down and negotiated an agreement to put the plant-closing on hold on the second day of the occupation. Workers have been given until Jan. 31 to put together a plan aimed at saving the plant.

This is not the first lock-out of the bosses in the region. In 1992, employees blockaded a steel rope factory in Cape Breton, preventing an American company from removing equipment. Eventually the workers, with assistance from the Nova Scotia government, succeeded in reopening the rope plant. In 1993, workers at a Port Hawkesbury facility that manufactured gas tanks occupied their workplace until they were given enhanced severance packages.

Atlantic Canada has a history of public

investment in "private" enterprises in support of "job" creation - millions have been spent and lost in futile attempts to attract jobs, only to see the jobs flee once the subsidies run out. The rule of thumb used to be that every "job" that was to be created could expect a "gift" of up to \$100,000 from one level of government or another. But now that well has run dry and the "high-tech" (and other) plants are emptying.

Detroit Newspaper Strike Continues

Striking Detroit newspaper workers have started their own weekly newspaper, the *Journal*, in an effort to pull advertising dollars away from the struck *Detroit News* and *Free Press*. The unions are honoring court injunctions prohibiting more than token picketing at the papers' printing plant, although picketing is continuing at several smaller regional distribution centers. However, the unions are focussing their efforts on attempts to persuade advertisers to withdraw their ads.

Knight-Ridder reports that the papers have already lost more than \$70 million from the strike, and expect to lose another \$40 million in the next few months. Last year, the papers made profits of \$55 million. But the publishers have shown no interest in settling the strike, and have announced that even if the unions abandon the strike they will not take most of the strikers back.

Two workers have sued the publishers for injuries suffered on the picket line when they were run-down by a scab driver outside a distribution warehouse in southwest Detroit. James Mikonczyk and Vito Sciuto were scarred with tire tracks when Mikonczyk was run down by a Detroit News-papers Inc. delivery truck Oct. 3. His thigh bone was snapped by the truck's impact. Sciuto also suffered serious head injuries when he was beaten by security guards.

Mikonczyk spent six weeks in the hospital after he was run down. His elbow was damaged so severely that doctors used 14 pieces of hardware to piece it back together. Sciuto, meanwhile, suffers from a damaged brain and frequent seizures.

a period of recession, ... they offer to the employer in peace the same traitorous services... The "unions" will give a No-Strike pledge. The "unions" will enforce the pledge. The "unions" will snitch on any worker so wild and undisciplined that he will not be bound by another's pledge...

But who are the "unions." Are they democratic bodies in which duespayers have any hope or any redress against the new social caste?

In such "democratic" unions as the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the Lady Garment Workers (both the best

representatives of "democracy" in their respective federations) it is far more difficult to get rid of a Hillman or a Dubofsky than it was to get rid of a Czar!

No Senator, no Corporation Director, no King, no Pope, no Dictator, no President is half as hard to dislodge from his position of power as is the head of one of the job trusts of the AFL or the head of one of the political rackets of the CIO.

The modern union is NOT the property - or even the concern - of its dues-paying members. It is the private property of a clique; a clique that cannot be removed from office except by the substitution of a similar clique...

But the medicine men have also made

U.S. Strike Stings Dutch Bee Farm

Bee production workers at Koppert Biological Systems' Ann Arbor, Mich., plant are still on strike, and the Dutch transnational continues to refuse to recognize their union (FLOC, see article last issue). Workers are demanding a pay raise, safer working conditions, and union recognition.

Koppert opened the Ann Arbor bee breeding center a little more than a year ago, after fleeing Quebec in search of lower-paid workers. When workers demanded better wages, general manager Willem Verkerk told them that as agricultural workers they had no rights under U.S. law. The Dutch owners agreed, ordering the union to "leave our company at rest."

Koppert is operating with "replacement workers" and other scabs borrowed from other Koppert plants. An electrician hired to fix building code violations is honoring the picket line.

Indonesian Unionists Arrested

Independent labour leader Muchtar Pakpahan, and up to 35 other labour activists were twice arrested and later released after participating in training meetings on labour rights in Medan, North Sumatra. In the last week of November, security forces broke up two meetings organised by the independent union SBSI, the Indonesian Prosperous Workers' Union, on the grounds that the meetings did not have proper authorization (police require unions to apply for permission to hold meetings) and could "disturb public order."

The arrests are clearly intended to serve as a warning against holding future meetings. The Regional Military Commander and Head of the Coordinating Body for Defence and Security (Bakorstanasda) for Northern Sumatra, Major General Sudaryanto, said November 28 that all SBSI activities in his region have been banned because they could disturb order.

Muchtar Pakpahan had been imprisoned in 1994 after police cracked down on the SBSI in the aftermath of widespread labour riots in Medan. After international protests, he was released pending an appeal of his conviction, and was ultimately ac-

quitted of all charges. More recently, however, he has been named by Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) Chief of General Affairs Lieutenant General Soeyono, as one of three individuals behind the alleged re-emergence of communism - banned under the New Order Government - in the form of "shapeless organisations."

Amnesty International urges people to write calling for an end to arbitrary detention and intimidation of union activists, and urging the Indonesian Government to ensure that those peacefully expressing their right to freedom of association do so free from intimidation and the threat of imprisonment. Write: Minister of Manpower Drs Abdul Latief and Menteri Tenaga Kerja, Jalan Jenderal Gatot Subroto, Jakarta, Indonesia Fax: +62 21 840 2746; Maj. Gen. Sudaryanto, Pangdam I/Bukit Barisan, Markas Besar KODAM I, Medan, Sumatra Utara, Indonesia. Copies should be sent to: Secretary General, National Commission on Human Rights, Prof. Dr. Baharuddin Lopa, Sekretaris Jenderal, Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia (KOMNAS HAM), Jl. Pemuda No. 104, Arawamangun, Jakarta Timur, Indonesia and to local embassies.

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 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 for initiation and first month's dues 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 is same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as \$10.00

I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.
 I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations.
 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*

The Medicine Men

... Medicine Man Roosevelt created for the employers a machine built for the express purpose of dampening the rising revolt of the worker, and canalizing that revolt into safe and harmless channels... Knowing that pure solutions are explosive but that dilutes can be handled with safety, Roosevelt insisted on the dilution of unionism and the dilution of the organizations formed in the name of unionism. The "check-off," otherwise known as union conscription, became as essential a part of his policy as was the tolerance of mild blow-ups (such as the sit-downs) in order to

obviate more serious explosions. The "labor leaders" he rescued from anonymity, the lawyers to administer labor laws whom he rescued from the breadlines; they became a new social caste, the replica in modern times of the acolytes and lackeys of the witch-doctors and medicine men of the ancient savage times. These acolytes... stand between the worker and his master, owing allegiance to neither and loyal to no power other than their own preservation.

During the war, at the bidding of their Witch Doctor in Chief, they pledged themselves to act as traitors and quislings in the ranks of labor, hiding their treachery to unionism under the guise of "patriotism."

Now, fearful of their waning power in

50 years ago in the IWW press

12¹/₂ ¢ an hour

That's what U.S. Hands off the Haitian People (PO Box 371702, Miami FL 33137) reports that many Haitian textile workers are being paid under the benevolent protection of the U.S. Marines and USAID. While Haiti's minimum wage is \$2.40 a day, most assembly plants pay far less under piece rate systems which result in many workers being paid as little as \$1 a day. Among the companies benefitting from these starvation wages are Wal-Mart, KMart, Sears, JC Penney and the Walt Disney Corp.

Workers at Quality Garments SA (a subcontractor for KMart and Disney) work 8 to 10 hours a day, six days a week in a poorly ventilated factory, breathing in cotton dust. When production falls behind, workers are required to work Sundays (at straight-time) as well. Their boss says he tries to avoid this, as it interferes with his relaxing at the beach, but workers report going seven weeks without a day off.