

Industrial Worker

OCTOBER 1996

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EDUCATION

ORGANIZATION

EMANCIPATION

IWW strikes Seattle convenience store

Five Wobblies at Seattle's Lincoln Park Mini Mart, a mid-sized Texaco gas station and convenience store, walked off the job August 27 to protest management harassment of union members and the company's refusal to negotiate. Strikers returned to work Sept. 9, and filed for a National Labor Relations Board election in view of the boss' refusal to recognize the union despite his workforce's total support for the striket.

Picketlines were reinforced by other members of the Puget Sound General Membership Branch, as Wobbly pickets held business to a third of usual. LPPM's owner kept the store open by working the counter himself (probably the first time he's worked in many years), putting the manager on the counter, and assigning workers at a travel agency he also owns to fill in. The scabbing can't have been very strenuous, as the mini mart was practically deserted by customers. LPPM repeatedly harassed picketers and filed police complaints (who, after talking to witnesses, concluded that the complaints were groundless, but nevertheless began monitoring the picketline).

The LPPM workers are solid and will continue pressing for union recognition and decent working conditions. Workers report that the boss has been much better behaved since the strike, having apparently learned how much easier it is to do without bosses than without workers. Following is the text of the leaflet distributed to potential customers during the strike:

We are on strike because our manager, Larry Parko, has resorted to harassing union employees here at Lincoln Park Mini Mart (LPPM), instead of talking with us about union matters. These violations of federal labor law have made the workplace environment intolerable, and it has been difficult to perform simple job duties, without us being afraid of "what the boss will do next." We organized with the Industrial Workers of the World at our job site because we work for little pay (between \$5 and \$6.50 per hour); we receive no medical benefits, sick pay, or holiday pay, and we have no input in decisions made by management. Both the ownership (Jim Webb) and management feel that this is an acceptable way to treat employees, and have resisted every effort by us to rectify the situation.

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International dockers conference plans Mersey solidarity actions

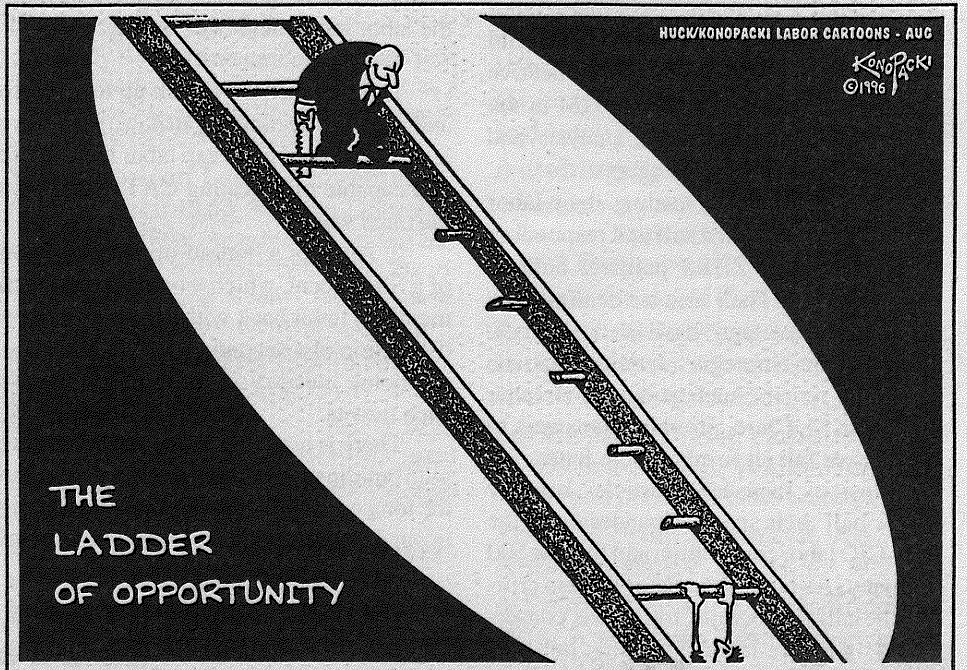
The Liverpool lockout will be 1 year old on 28th September. Over the coming weeks, the international boycott of shipping lines dealing with the Mersey Docks and Harbour company is set to escalate.

Dockers delegated by their unions and/or port organisations in eight countries (Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Spain, Sweden, USA, and England) and 12 ports (Sydney, Montreal, Aarhus, Copenhagen, Le Havre, Tarragona, Bilbao, Stockholm, Gothenburg, Portland (Oregon), St. Johns (New Brunswick), and Liverpool) spent August 31st and Sept. 1st debating tactics and strategy. Their common aims are to force Mersey Docks to concede reinstatement, and to build a democratic alliance of dock workers internationally. By Sunday afternoon, a hectic programme of immediate action was ready to be taken back to ports and unions for ratification.

The International Transport Workers Federation and its affiliates are being asked to work towards an international day of action - a coordinated campaign to hit all ACL/CAST traffic and containers, along with other shipping consortiums using Liverpool and Medway ports.

Swedish and Danish dockers will join Liverpool in visits to Germany while French dockers will renew approaches to Belgium and Holland. Visits to Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and Israel will seek action against the Gracechurch, Ellerman and Zim lines.

A rolling programme of action in North-



This is the future the bosses are building. Will we stop them?

ern Europe, Southern Europe, America and Canada will seek support for boycotts, go-slows and other methods which affect productivity and efficiency on Ellerman, Zim, Cast and Canmar ships.

Gracechurch Line action

The acting manager at Gracechurch Container Line was surprised when a handful of anarchists entered his office and began a discussion on the issue of scab labour.

A few minutes later he went ballistic as

40 dockers, Women of the Waterfront, children, babies and other protesters came through the door whose lock had mysteriously jammed open. Secretarial staff watched in amazement as their male colleagues veered from threatening physical violence to expressing willingness to talk to "a spokesman" if the rest would leave.

Dockers and WoWs explained that there were no "spokesmen" as they controlled their own dispute which affected everyone.

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IWW Assembly Plans for Future

IWW members from California, Colorado, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming met in Salt Lake City over the Labor Day weekend to discuss ways of strengthening the IWW and resolving the union's long-running financial crisis.

While the proceedings were generally amiable, two questions sparked some passion. For several years the IWW has been spending substantially more than its income, relying on bequests from long-time members who died in the mid-1980s to make up the difference. The size of the annual deficit has been reduced in recent years as a result of membership growth and cost-cutting, but income remains far short of expenses. While proposals to raise dues were sent to referendum and delegates discussed a wide range of fundraising possibilities, the broader crisis will have to be taken up by IWW branches and members in the next few months.

Another controversy involved the editorial policy of the *Industrial Worker*. Delegates from the San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch objected to an article on the Los Angeles truckers strike which prominently mentioned ILWU scabbing. Bay Area Wobs said the article undermined their organizing efforts among maritime workers, and suggested that the editor contact affected branches for guidance before running such stories. FW Bekken insisted that so long as he was editor he would continue to hit union scabbing just as hard as he could. Several fellow workers from the construction industry joined in, arguing that union scabbing was one of the most pressing problems facing the labor movement

and that the *Industrial Worker* coverage of it aided their organizing efforts. FW Arthur Miller suggested that if anything the paper was letting union scabs off easy, pointing to Boeing where Seattle union workers (just back from their own strike) were helping the company break a strike by Boeing workers in Canada (see report this issue).

Perhaps the most important part of the proceedings was the (too brief) time devoted to industrial meetings. Last year's Assembly saw the first IWW industrial union meetings in decades when education and computer workers convened to discuss organizing efforts in their industries. In Salt Lake City, Wobblies working in the construction, education, computer, health care and entertainment industries met to further the process or re-establishing the IWW's industrial organizations. Education workers resolved to petition for an Industrial Union charter by October 1st, noting that they had established job branches at three colleges and a high school and had established job control among University of Cali-

fornia at Berkeley recyclers. EWIU 620 members will establish a general organizing committee to coordinate and support ongoing and proposed organizing drives, and create a resource bank of organizing and health and safety leaflets.

Building Our Future

The proceedings kicked off with a public forum, which Wobbly troubadour Mark Ross opened with "The Lumberjack's Prayer." Despite the heat and noise from a nearby festival, FW Ross' IWW songs and stories got things off to a rousing start. *Industrial Worker* editor Jon Bekken followed with a talk sharply differentiating the IWW from the business unionism and belly crawling of the AFL-CIO, noting that direct action unionism was never more needed than it is today. "The IWW is the future," Bekken said; "accept no substitutes."

IWW General Secretary-Treasurer Fred Chase followed, pointing to the union's strong growth in recent years and to several

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In This Issue...

120-Hour Weeks for Utah Construction Truckers?

Borders on the Run?

Union Scabbing Defeats Canadian Boeing Workers

Poem for Columbus Day



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Z Labor Articles Tranquilize Labor

In response to June IW comments in Left Side column by C.C. Redcloud that IW readers "are recommended to give it (Z mag.) a glance," and that "their labor news coverage is on target," I strongly recommend a closer reading of Z labor articles. I find the articles very detrimental to labor by reason of lacking in facts and passions that can counter worker oppression. Redcloud recommends Z magazine. I say that if labor is going to radicalize to the point of its old social movement abilities of huge collective actions that can kick CAT and GM in the teeth, Z's limp, tepid labor analysis and passions must be rebelled against.

I've been closely reading their labor articles for a year and a half and responding to them on their ZBBS political bulletin board network. Their articles dealing with "labor news coverage" have been adequate. However, the strategic recommendations their labor writers, such as Jeremy Brecher and Laura McClure, provide as answers to labor's free fall sit firmly on the fence.

Most of their labor articles roughly devote half their space to pandering to the AFL-CIO labor corporation and fortune 500 company. As leftists the labor writers criticize the anti-democratic, top-down, conservative-by-nature labor hierarchy, but they do not recommend its radicalization or dumping it for a group such as the IWW. Since the AFL-CIO jackal will remain true to its jackal nature, it must be treated as such in writing, organizing and labor rebellion. It shouldn't be pandered to and reported on to the degree Z gives to it.

Industrial Worker

THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM

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Readers' Soapbox

The other approximate half of their labor articles' space goes to an alternative recommendation shared by Brecher and McClure that labor should build grass-roots labor organizations to pull itself out of its coma. Great idea, terrible time. Labor has functioning organizations, but little time and resources. What labor needs now is **action** - movement, action that can spark the labor movement back to life.

What I recommend is:

1. Build the IWW back up to strength and conduct secondary strikes, which are legal, large enough to zap labor back to life and capable of defeating CAT and GM in the class war.

2. Attempt a bottom-up radicalization of a SEIU local, which would have enough members to hit back with the larger collective action of a secondary strike. The nursing home industry is particularly ripe for such moves.

There is nothing fundamentally wrong with building grass-roots organizations. But the long odds on such a strategy succeeding in our depoliticized society, the existence of

adequate labor organizations with some resources and support organizations, and labor's dire need for action and popular movement make me conclude that Z's recommendation of building grass-roots labor organizations is premature, but should be undertaken when there is a viable labor movement to feed grass-roots labor. Now labor must build the IWW and/or radicalize some SEIU locals and fight back in size and force.

Boycott Z labor lullabies.

For a radical labor movement. IWW,
Matt Rozyczko, San Francisco Wob

Protest prison conditions

Thank you for keeping me on your mailing list... I appreciate the solidarity. I have been finding myself in agreement, far more often than in the past, with the articles and editorial perspectives of the *Industrial Worker*. Keep up the good work.

The Ohio legislature is proposing to charge prisoners for visits to doctors and dentists. Director Wilkinson even wants to charge us for our 'entertainment,' though

we already pay through the I&E fund - the perverse profits of the commissary that overcharges us by as much as 80 percent.

Except for prisoners who slave for the Ohio Penal Industries or the Ohio OverSeas Industries, prison laborers are paid between \$3 and \$24 a month. This "pay" has been the same since 1982, though prices have gone up over 50 percent and many items that used to be allowed in sundry or food boxes from outside must now be purchased from the commissary at their inflated prices.

I and many prisoners were medically experimented upon without our consent, and as a result now suffer from many ailments. We are forced to drink lead and toxin-laden water. Here there are as many as 114 men in a space designed for 48. The air is often stale, and diseases spread quickly. Our diet is nutritionally unsound and poorly prepared. These are the reasons we are frequently ill.

Letters of protest should be sent to members of the Ohio Legislature, such as Mike Wise or Diane Grendell, at The Statehouse, Columbus OH 43266-0603, or to Gov. George Vionovich at 77 S. High St., Columbus OH 43266-0601.

I will end this letter with a blessing for a more peaceful and just world.

Jacob Feuerwerker, Marion OH

I.W.W. DIRECTORY

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

IU 330: Building Construction Workers
IU 450: Print & Publishing House Workers
IU 460: Food Processing Workers
IU 510: Marine Transport Workers
IU 610: Health Service Workers
IU 620: Education Workers
IU 630: Entertainment Workers
IU 660: General Distribution Workers
IU 670: Public Service Workers

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney Regional IWW- PO Box 241, Surrey Mills 2010 Wobbly@xchange.apana.org.au

CANADA

MANITOBA

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

ONTARIO

Ottawa GMB- 388 1/2 Kent, K2P 2A9. 613/231-2922 <indwrk@web.apc.org>
Toronto Group- Joe Chang, 137 Roncesvalles Suite 208, M6R 2L2 416/539-0780. Meets 1st Thurs 7 pm; phone for location.

BRITISH ISLES

Regional Organising Committee- 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 4WB, tel no 0116-266-1835. For contacts throughout the British Isles write or phone this office.

ENGLAND

London Group and IU 530 Couriers Union- BM Box 4529, London WC1N 3XX, 0171-358-9124
Oxford branch- c/o Oxford Claimants and Unemployed Workers Union, East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Street, Oxford
Swindon Region GMB & Research Councils IU 620 group- del: Kevin Brandstatter, 9 Omdurman Street, Swindon SN2 1HA, 01793-610707

SCOTLAND

Stevenson College IU 620 Branch- Rm 3.05 Bankhead Avenue, Sighthill, Edinburgh

WALES

Aberystwyth IWW- PO Box 17, Aberystwyth, Dyfed phone 01970 624590

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles GMB- Meets 2nd, 4th Sundays. Location call (24hr): 213/368-4604. Andrew Willett 1724 Westmoreland Blvd., LA 90006.
IU630 Film Workers- Miguel Sanchez, 1748 Clinton St. Los Angeles 90026 213/368-4604 <fwo@mach1.directnet.com>

Mendocino- Bill Meyers, del. 707/884-1818.
San Diego Group- P.O. Box 907, San Diego 92112-0907. 619/284-WOBS
Santa Cruz GMB- PO Box 534, 95061

IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop- 1921 Ashby Berkeley 94703 510/549-0176

UCB Recyclers IU620 Job Shop-504 Eshleman Berkely 94720 510/642-4895. del.s: Monica Berini, Liam Flynn, Charles Long

IU670 Berkeley Recycling Ctr. Job Shop- del: Jojo Mends, 1231 Second St., Berkeley 94710
San Francisco Bay Area GMB- PO Box 40485, S.F. 94140. e-mail: sfgmb@iww.org
Offices: Redstone Building, 2940 16th St. (at Capp), #216-2, San Francisco 94103 415/863-WOBS
Long Haul Resource Center, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 94705 510/845-0540. Mon, Thurs 4-7 p.m., Tues, Wed, Fri 3-6, Sun. 6-9p.m. GMB meets 3rd Saturdays at Long Haul, 1:30 p.m., Open Delegates Meeting 1st Saturdays at Long Haul, 1:30 p.m. General Organizing Committee meets 4th Saturdays at the San Francisco office. GDC meetings as needed contact: 510/549-0358.

COLORADO

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

GEORGIA

Atlanta Group- George Nikas, 11 Clarendon Pl., Avondale Estates 30002. gnikas@unix.cc.emory.edu

HAWAII

O'ahu GMB- PO Box 11928, Honolulu 96828; 808/247-8584; wilcox@uhunix.uhcc.hawaii.edu

ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB- 1340 W Irving Park Road #287 60613. 312/549-5045. Meets 1st Sunday 3 pm (call for location).

MARYLAND

Baltimore GMB- Del. Rafie Bey, PO Box 8882, 21224-0882. 410/367-3024

MASSACHUSETTS

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

Boston Area GMB & Education Workers IU 620- PO Box 391724, Cambridge 02139. del: Steve Kellerman 617/469-5162 Meets 2nd Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Lucy Parsons Center, Central Square, Cambridge.

MICHIGAN

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

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

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

MINNESOTA

Duluth GMB- 8 N. 2nd Ave E., #301, Duluth 55803 218/723-7887.

Minneapolis-St. Paul- 7315 Dupont Ave. S., Richfield 55423-3025. 612/869-4139.

MISSOURI

St. Louis GMB- c/o Bob Tibbs, Jr., 10072 Hedge Dr., St. Louis 63137. 314/868-1472

MONTANA

Butte- Mark Ross, 111 W. Quartz 59701. 406/782-4465

NEW JERSEY

Cape May County GMB & Building Construction Workers IU 330- c/o Richard Neill, POB 261, Cape May Court House 08210.

NEW YORK

IU670 Socialist Party USA Natl Office Job Shop- 516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. 212/691-0776
Capital District Group- POB 74, Altamont NY 12009. (518)861-5627.

Rochester- Del: Ric Garren, 716/232-4005.
NYC GMB- Del: Wade Rawluk, 5610 Netherland Ave #4D, Bronx 10471. 718/796-3671.
Rochelle Semel, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick 13348. 607/293-6489.

NORTH CAROLINA

Asheville- Nathan Smith, P.O. Box 2732, 28802

OREGON

Eugene GMB - c/o Rick George, 1840 W. 10th Ave., 97402 email: rickg@efn.org
Portland Group- POB 15005, 97293-5005. email: mmiller@ordednet.org

PENNSYLVANIA

Lehigh Valley GMB- POB 4133 Bethlehem 18018 610/515-0181. Del: Trish D'Amore 434-0128. <len.flank@node99.com> Lancaster IWW: POB 796, Lancaster PA 17603.

Philadelphia GMB- 4722 Baltimore Ave. 19143. 215/724-1424 ext. 1 <phillyiww@iww.org>
IU660 Wooden Shoe Books Records Job Shop- 112 S. 20th St. 19103. 215/569-2477.

SOUTH CAROLINA

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

TEXAS

Houston Group- PO Box 981101, 77098.

UTAH

Salt Lake Branch- POB 520514, Salt Lake City 84152-0514. 801/296-7196 slcgm@iww.org

VERMONT

Burlington Branch- c/o Thomas Jordan or Deborah Ormsbee, POB 1004, Williston 05495. 802/482-4601 or 863-0571 nfnena@igc.apc.org

WASHINGTON

IU460 Fairhaven Co-op Flour Mill Job Shop- 1115 Railroad Ave. Bellingham 98225.
Industrial Transportation Project- Arthur Miller, POB 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464
Puget Sound GMB- P.O. Box 4814 Seattle 98104-0814 206/935-9012

WISCONSIN

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

WYOMING

Jackson- Teton Jack Langan, del., POB 4056, 89001. 307/733-4553

Borders action in Ann Arbor

Michael Moore was in Ann Arbor, Michigan, September 9th promoting his new book, *Downsize This*. He is on a national tour which is taking him to Borders (and other) stores across the U.S. Moore has gained notoriety for tweaking the noses of the powers-that-be through his documentary "Roger and Me" and his now defunct television series "T.V. Nation." The Ann Arbor Borders wasn't large enough to handle his talk, So Borders rented the classic 1,700 seat Michigan Theatre directly across the street from their store.

Wobblies stationed themselves outside the theatre with signs to be read both by people attending the talk and customers at Borders across the street. The signs read: "Borders Fires a Union Organizer. Are You Furious?," playing on the Borders slogan "Are you curious?," and "Hey Michael, What About Miriam?" Hundreds of leaflets were distributed explaining Miriam Fried's unjust treatment by Borders.

The audience for Moore's performance was sympathetic, asking Moore for his comments on Miriam's situation. His reaction was rather defensive. He claimed he had only heard of the firing a week earlier, although Wobblies and supporters had been in email communication with him regarding the matter for over a month. He gave the Borders line that wages at Borders are higher than the industry standard, without saying anything about how those wages relate to the cost of living. He did suggest that he thought it would be appropriate for Miriam to agree to abide by company policy and for Borders to give her back her job. Miriam never refused to honor company policy. She was allegedly fired for saying she would have to think about complying with a policy which was being ignored by most workers in the Philadelphia store, including managers. Moore did suggest that his book was available at a bookstore around the corner from Borders for those who couldn't bring themselves to buy it at Borders, a comment which couldn't have been too pleasing to the sponsor of his talk.

When the audience left the theatre, virtually all were in support of the Wobbly message. One man read the "Are you furious?" message and nodded his head, saying "I am!" Former Borders workers, victims of the recent closing of the company's Ann Arbor warehouse, expressed their appreciation for the Wobbly presence; two of them announcing that they were the people who had asked the questions about Miriam. Hundreds of sympathetic people were informed of Miriam's situation, and many said they would not be shopping at Borders until Miriam was rehired. Many expressed disap-

Around Our Union

pointment that Moore had not taken a stronger stand in support of Miriam. Perhaps Moore got the message that he was not meeting the expectations of his audience. His performance in regard to the issue in an appearance at the Philadelphia Borders a few days later was much more supportive.

Moore Backs Union in Philly

Michael Moore did a book signing at Borders Philadelphia Sept. 11. Of course Wobs met him at the door with our placards and fliers, along with a huge turnout from the community. The police department's Civil Affairs guys even materialized, along with about 20 UFCW staff members (a first in both cases). When Moore got there he pow-wowed with Miriam for a minute, then declared his solidarity with her in a loud voice and invited the whole protest inside. He said he would donate the profits from the day's sales of his book to the union effort, and would ask Borders management to have a meeting between himself, Miriam and them to get her a reinstatement.

We cheered and marched upstairs with our banners and signs to a reading area jammed with people. The store's poor publicity coordinator looked ill the entire time, as well he should. And workers at the store got a great morale boost - they were cheering and shouting along during the presentations about how they weren't paid enough. Moore spoke about the state of the economy, corporate welfare, and about Miriam's case. The IWW globe was behind his podium, where the photographer from Associated Press could hardly miss it. The store was totally packed. Before he finished and took questions, Moore gave over the microphone to Miriam, who gave a clear, strong and concise statement on the organizing drive and her own case.

After the talk, Miriam and FW Alexis Buss went and spoke with Moore in the back offices. The management promised to have a conference call between Moore, Fried, General Manager David Stewart (who was out of town at a meeting), and Miriam's union rep, some time soon.

Shortly after the event Stewart faxed in a letter, distributed to employee mailboxes,

Capital District 'Doubleheader'

Capital District IWW completed a picketing and leafletting 'doubleheader' August 27th to support the Campaign for a Liveable Minimum Wage and to call attention to union-buster Borders Books.

Local Wobblies attracted a great deal of media coverage for their living wage picket at a Schenectady, NY McDonald's. Capital area radio, television and newspapers featured interviews and announcements about this latest action.

"I guess we surprised the mainstream media since we're still agitating for a higher minimum wage in the face of the federal increase to \$5.15 by next July," IWW delegate Greg Giorgio said. "We want to be clear about trying to organize around the issue of a real living wage. But we also told reporters that this depends on organized

mass action."

Following the McDonald's picket, IWW members travelled to the local Borders Books to picket in solidarity with fired organizer Miriam Fried. A torrential rain began a few minutes before they arrived at the bookstore, and a sidewalk vigil became a moot point as the downpour continued.

FW Martin Manley suggested the group enter the store to distribute leaflets "until we're asked to leave." This strategy, which has been effective where other IWW groups have employed it, proved successful here as well.

Capital District IWW will continue their monthly living wage actions and plans more activities in support of the right to organize at Borders Books. Please contact them through the IWW directory to participate.



New York Wobs picket Waldenbooks

On August 24, members and friends of the New York IWW General Membership Branch picketed Waldenbooks in Brooklyn Heights, NY. Waldenbooks is part of the Borders national chain of bookstores. (Borders operates stores under the Borders, Bretano's, Planet Music and Waldenbooks names.) IWW activist and organizer Miriam Fried was fired from the Borders bookstore in Philadelphia because of her union activity. This unlawful firing moved Wobs to action in major cities across the country, with pickets and leaflets alerting communities to the book chain's anti-union and unlawful activity. In Brooklyn Heights alone, picketers distributed a thousand leaflets. Pictured above, left to right, are picketers Nick Packer, Wade Wawluk, Mira Bai, Ron Milton, Rochelle Semel, John Hansen, Danny Isaacs and Miranda Edison.

that began "I understand that many of you were upset at the events that took place at the Michael Moore signing..." Stewart claimed Borders sponsored the signing not to sell books, but rather as part of its commitment to free speech. Sen. Barbara Mikulski cancelled an event scheduled for Sep 16th at the Philadelphia store after local Wobblies contacted her publicist and war.

As we go to press Moore is continuing his book tour, with appearances slated at Borders in New York City and Iowa City. The NYC appearance is at a newly opened store; Wobbly pickets are asking Moore and book buyers to honor the line.

Berkeley recyclers press job safety

The Ecology Center Curbside Recyclers are organizing against increasingly frequent violations of the IWW contract as they prepare for negotiations for a new pact. A speed-up is in effect, with Center drivers being ordered to drive their routes solo despite contractual provisions calling for a loader on each run. Management has not been replacing workers, thereby creating a staff shortage which it cites to justify its refusal to assign sufficient workers to do the job safely. Where loaders are being assigned, these are increasingly non-union temps.

The City of Berkeley has directed the Center to start a plastics program which is adding to the already unbearable work load. One fellow worker who was injured while trying to keep up with the speed-up was prescribed heavy narcotics by the company chosen clinic to cover up his pain and sent back to work. After three-and-a-half months of this, the fellow worker demanded a second opinion; instead the company doctor closed his claim and told him to work with the pain. The IWW has arranged for the

second opinion.

The eco-liberals at the Ecology Center evidently see no connection between the rights of labor and the environment. Instead - using lack of funds as their excuse, though the recycling program brings in the bulk of Center monies - managers behave just like bosses anywhere, demanding that workers produce more with less and throwing them on the scrapheap as their bodies are broken under the press of speed-up and unsafe conditions. But the bosses have evidently left the IWW out of their calculations.

from a report by Michelle Barnes and Liam Flynn in *Wildcat!*, newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area GMB.

Wobs in anti-war protest

Members of the Burlington Branch joined a Sept. 10 demonstration in support of the Kurdish and Iraqi people and against the on-going U.S. war against them. FW Orin Langelle spoke to the protestors, noting, "This war is not about helping the Kurds. They are being used as pawns to justify this attack by the U.S. government to protect the multinational oil corporations who reap billions of dollars of profits each year."

Organizing academic pieceworkers in Hawai'i

The August 28 issue of the *Honolulu Weekly* features a report on Academic Pieceworkers - the "casual" lecturers paid by the class on a semester-by-semester basis at rock-bottom wages - illustrated by a photo of local Wobblies on a picketline. The same issue has a short article on the IWW describing as us "The meanest little union your boss ever tried to mess with," and quoting FW Pete Wilcox about IWW efforts to organize UH teaching assistants and to pressure Borders Books to reinstate FW Miriam Fried.

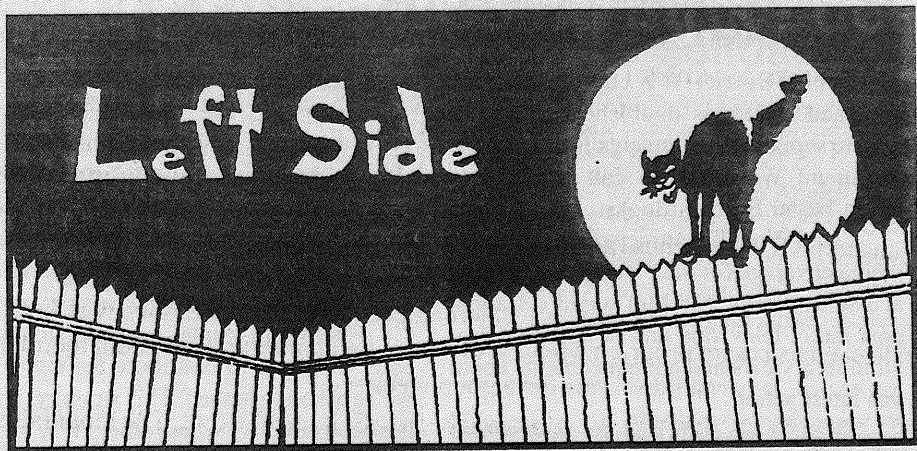
PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

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.



their big convention to nominate their candidate for the highest office in Freedomland. One of the best commentaries on this occasion was written by some wag in one of the entertainment freebies. "The Democrats are gathering in Chicago to nominate the second Republican candidate for president." Your scribe remembers years ago when he was going to grammar school having to answer a test in which a number of subjects were to be paired off as either opposites or the same, like hot and cold or hot and warm. Among this list were the words Republican and Democrat. No doubt due to living with a socialist mother and a Wobbly father, those two words were marked down as synonyms. It goes without saying that your budding young scribe got a fail mark on that particular question.

Well over half a century later this doddering old scribe has yet to change his mind. It is said that the electorate through the exercise of their franchise have the opportunity of choosing who shall hold the highest office of this land. Those who confer long beforehand in smoke-filled rooms have already made the decision of the two clowns will be presented for choosing. So whichever way the electorate chooses to make their option, the system is still in safe hands.

There are those who will tell you that there are minority candidates who represent an alternative to the two major parties, but it is very difficult for those minority candidates to even get on the ballot. You will also notice that when the media publishes the election returns, no mention is ever made as to how many votes the minority candidate received. You can well assume that in light of the complete ignoring of the alternative runners on the part of the mass media, the minority candidates would have a pitifully small showing. Such would be an excellent opportunity to point out the futility of voting for any alternatives, much less going through the difficulty of getting on the ballot. However, those who manipulate us Freedomland working-stiffs are making sure that we are not even aware that such a thing as alternative candidates even exist.

As the one old wag who your scribe loves to quote points out, if elections ever changed anything they would be made illegal!

Face it, do you get to vote on anything that directly affects your lives? Do you have the opportunity of voting on how much your taxes should go up? Do you get to vote on whether your jobsite moves to another country or stays right in your own part of the country? You don't even get to vote on the cost of living. You only get to vote on those bastards who make all those decisions for you, and you don't even get to vote on their salaries. As has been pointed out in this column before, the politicians gets money from the rich and votes from the poor on the promise of protecting each from the other.

It takes no great analysis to figure which promise is conscientiously kept!

However, this is not to throw up one's hands in despair. Even though all hope may be lost in the politicians and their electoral chazerei, there is still one powerful force that the working peoples haven't really begun to use. The working class of this earth has at their fingertips a force that far outweighs any electoral power – the withholding of their efficiency. As Joe Hill wrote, "If the workers took a notion, they could stop all speeding trains; Every ship upon the Ocean, they could tie with mighty chains; Every wheel in the creation, Every mine and every mill; Fleets and armies of all nations will at our command stand still."

Small wonder that these past few decades have been accompanied by a relentless campaign of union-busting. Even the conservative business unions still had within them the potential of making the united action of the workers a force to be reckoned with. Those of you who know your labor history well, with the relentless persecution of unions like the IWW and other such militant unions in other parts of the world, also know that our elected representatives always favored the unions that were the most accommodating to the employer. To have persecuted them may have only directed the working-stiffs' attention to unions like the IWW or other organizations that recognize the basic precepts of the class struggle.

As long as there is work there will be workers. The class who are the employers are only a recent phenomenon in human history. It is incumbent upon the greater majority of us, who are the real productive members of human society, to realize that it is continuing folly to permit a minuscule number of our species to continue to live luxuriously off of the fruits of our labor. A class that is of no cultural, social, economic or ecological use to the rest of us and the other forms of life we share this planet with.

True, the scarcity of employment opportunities and the migration of jobs to cheaper paying countries makes a much more difficult task than in the earlier days of the union movement, but when taking a look at what's happening to this earth of our, what other alternatives do we have?

While the parasite class constitutes but an infinitesimal portion of our numbers, they have managed to come together on a global scale. It is high time that workers organize on a global scale. It is imperative if we want to keep this globe of ours!

— C.C. Redcloud

Labor Day

It is truly impressive how boss press editors who ignore the existence of unions 51 weeks out of the year suddenly turn up labor stories and find columns on the labor movement for their opinion pages – and how despite all the spilled ink they manage to avoid saying anything of importance. On my way back from Assembly, I had occasion to read several Labor Day papers while waiting in airports. The Salt Lake City papers spoke of labor in the past tense. The *Chicago Tribune* ran a debate of sorts. One columnist blamed unions (more specifically teachers' unions) for falling wages (claiming to be a friend of workers, he says the unions won too many days off, thereby forcing parents to miss work, thereby pulling down their wages – I'm not making this up). The other noted that workers are having a tough time getting by on the rock-bottom wages being paid nowadays. The cause? Them damn' furriners taking our jobs.

The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, on the other hand, praised Sweeney's leadership of the AFL-CIO, and ran three labor columns. Columnist Neal Peirce opened with a (mis)quote from Joe Hill's "Workers of the World Awaken"; somehow he got from there to a not-so-stirring call for unions to climb in bed with the bosses. Another pundit explained that today's workers are living the good life. And UMW president Cecil Roberts weighed in with a call to continue funding health benefits for retired miners.

This is the boss press' coverage at its best; normally workers are simply invisible in their pages. If you want the real story about the labor movement to get out, the only way is to support efforts such as this one. We make bulk copies of the *Industrial Worker* available at nominal rates to encourage wider distribution, and rely on your financial support to keep afloat...

Accept No Substitutes

A reader sends a copy of the *AFSCME Public Employee* with a note, "Makes one want to regurgitate, not agitate" atop the cover photo of Bill Clinton flanked by suited union bureaucrats. Inside Clinton boasts that when he was governor of Arkansas he was a dues-paying AFSCME member (they don't explain why he wasn't expelled). The magazine is a slick glossy, with lots of color photos of piecards and politricksters in action and not a hint of working-class consciousness. He also sent the cartoon which runs in the next column...

Meanwhile, in New York City the AFL-CIO invited Mayor Rudolph Giuliani to march flanked by Labor Council officers (Council President Brian McLaughlin also sits in the state legislature as a Democrat, for all the good it does workers). While some workers heckled the notoriously anti-labor mayor (now in the process of trying to

Running in place

According to a study done by Frank Levy, an MIT economist, an average 40-year-old male worker with a high school education in 1979 who worked a 40 hour week of wage-slavery sold his time for \$37,442 (as measured in 1994 dollars) a year. His wife, on average, worked 16 hours a week for \$8,585 a year. By 1994, the same 40-year-old high school grad working 40 hours a week, sold himself for \$29,263 per year, while his wife worked 32 hours a week for \$12,930 a year. In other words, the family worked more hours in 1994 making less money per year – \$42,193.94 in 1979 vs. \$46,037.79 in 1994.

Get the picture; get organized!

Why not fill out the application to join the One Big Union now? Stop gettin pissed on and start gettin pissed off.

— Flora Tristan

privatize the city's hospitals, schools and water supply), the piecards praised him as "someone who works with us."

While the fakers continue grovelling at the feet of the Demopublicrats, they have come up with an innovative way to finance AFL-CIO efforts. Several years ago, the AFL reached an agreement with Bank of New York to peddle credit cards and other financial services to members of AFL-affiliated unions on the theory that this would somehow encourage workers to join the business unions. Now they've taken the program one step further, signing an agreement with Household International Inc. to take over the "Union Privilege Master Card" and the right to telemarket to AFL members in exchange for \$60 million a year in royalties off the monies to be made skinning the faithful.

Editor's Notebook



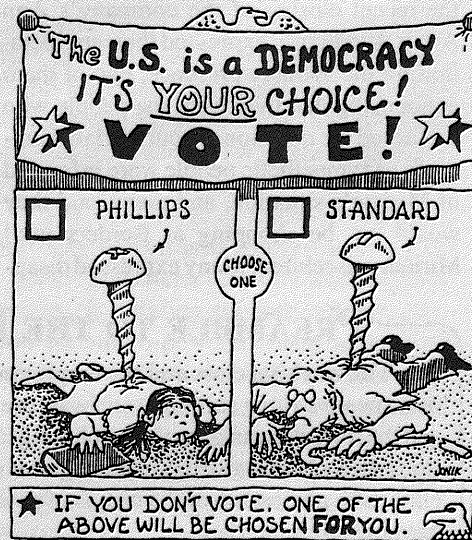
Progress

Back in 1956, Vice President Richard Nixon predicted an industry-wide four-day work schedule "in the not too distant future." The notion that a shorter work week was on the horizon was so widespread that *Parade* magazine ran an article explaining that workers preferred long hours and that a shorter work week would lead to increased rates of crime and divorce. They don't spew such outrageous nonsense any more – but only because the labor movement is so weak that the question of shorter hours is no longer on the table....

Fellow Inflation Fighters

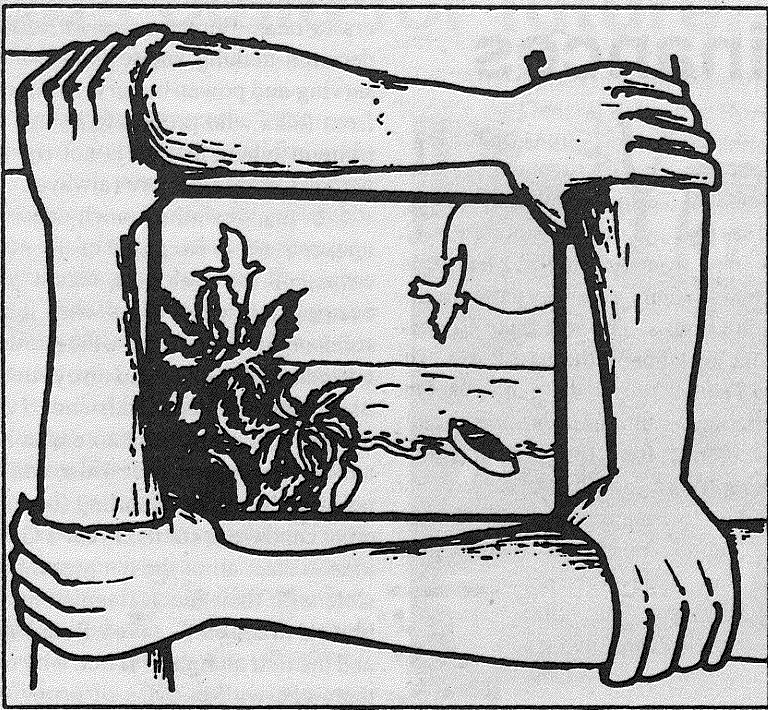
The bosses are all fired up about the danger of workers' extravagant wage claims touching off a new bout of inflation. How we can accomplish this as our wages continue falling only a well-paid economist can understand. But the *New York Times* ran a Sept. 5 report bemoaning the fate of the poor capitalists who have difficulty finding workers at the measly wages they're willing to pay. If a few hundred thousand of us were unemployed (on top of the millions already out of work), these parasites figure, workers might be less uppity. On the other hand, if we got ourselves organized right, we could show the plutocrats what it's like to work for a living...

—Jon Bekken



Michigan college to celebrate IWW

The Kalamazoo, Michigan, College Theatre Dept. is sponsoring "Labor Heritage Week: The Wobblies" from Nov. 8th through the 17th. "Liberty and Order," a one-woman show by actress Robin Bennett on IWW organizer Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, will kick off the program Nov. 8th at 4 p.m. IWW General Secretary-Treasurer Fred Chase will speak on the history and current efforts of the IWW on Nov. 13th at 7 p.m. And "Joe Hill," a new play by Bryan Zocher featuring Hill's life and songs, will premiere Nov. 14th (and run through the 17th).



Our Merchants of Death

U.S. corporations that manufacture and sell weapons of death and destruction have the most powerful lobby imaginable. They've got Congress and the White House eating out of their hands. The Pentagon acts as their sales force, peddling their killer hardware to countries around the world, stirring up an arms race among nations that neither need nor can afford to pay for these costly armaments. Consider this:

The Pentagon, unlike any other government agency, has never had any trouble getting Congress to rubber stamp the budget it asks for. Last year it asked for a whopping \$265 billion, and guess what? Congress not only gave it the full amount but added an extra \$12 billion! And this at a time when Republicans and Democrats alike are slashing and burning every social program they can get their hands on, including those that provide a meager subsistence for poor children. They try to outdo each other in complying with the wishes of the military lobby lest they be accused — horror of horrors — of being “soft on defense.”

In this year's election campaign, Dole and Clinton vie with each other to prove who is tougher on “defense.” You can be sure there won't be a word about the scandalous waste, cost overruns and mismanagement, amounting to multi-billions of dollars, that are periodically exposed. They'll both talk about shrinking government, but do you imagine for a minute that they're talking about the Pentagon? Here is Dole promising California workers that he would throw in an extra \$30 billion to build more

“In November We Remember”

It has for some years been tradition to run in the November IW greeting ads along the theme “In November We Remember.” This year we will look at militant labor struggles of the '30s and discussing their implications for current struggles — most notably the need for widespread solidarity regardless of the bosses' laws.

Greeting Ads must be received by October 11th to run in the November issue. In accordance with IWW Bylaws, no commercial advertising will be accepted. Suggested donation levels are \$5 for a 2-line listing under a general “In November We Remember” heading; \$10 for a 1 inch tall ad (1 column wide); \$35 for 4 inches by 4 7/8 inches (2 columns); or \$80 for a quarter page. We can set it up from your message, or you can send in camera-ready copy.

We can also provide extra copies of the November issue at normal bundle rates (10 cents per to members and branches to cover postage; 60 cents per to non-members).

B-2 bombers and \$60 billion for a missile defense system. (And all this talk about cutting spending and balancing the budget!) Don't you think that Clinton will come up with military projects to match Dole's?

Aren't there better ways to employ workers than manufacturing bombs, bullets, land mines and other weaponry that kill, maim and otherwise destroy the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent people?

The selling pitch for these huge military outlays is that they create thousands of jobs, but the real purpose is to fill the deep pockets of military contractors, who are heavy financial contributors to both political parties. Aren't there better ways to employ American workers than putting them on jobs to manufacture bombers, attack aircraft, bombs, bullets, land mines and other weaponry that kill, maim and otherwise destroy the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent people?

Now comes Defense Secretary William Perry, the chief salesman for the arms dealers, with a request that the Clinton administration lift the ban (in effect since 1976) on the sale of high-tech military equipment to Latin America. The president is seriously considering complying with Perry's wishes, whose obvious effect would be to ignite an arms race among the impoverished countries south of our borders.

It is an established fact that the ban on selling highly-advanced weaponry to Latin America has been a major factor in maintaining peace and promoting democracy in a region formerly plagued by military conflicts and dictatorships. Is it in our national interest to start an arms race among countries like Argentina, Brazil and Chile in order to provide a lucrative market for American merchants of death?

— Harry Kelber

French workers oppose deportation of West Africans

Airline workers in Paris attempted to stop the racist state from deporting West African immigrants on August 28, but police power beat them down. “Airline personnel must not be turned into police assistants,” said one union member in Paris where 11,000 people marched in support of human rights for immigrants. Workers in Mali, Africa also attempted to stop the trafficking in humans on August 29, but French troops from Senegal quashed the resistance.

Another article in this issue details the results of the 1996 IWW General Assembly in Salt Lake City. I want to share a few personal impressions of the most harmonious Assembly I can remember in recent years. The Salt Lake Wobs were gracious hosts. The Union owes its thanks to those who put a lot of effort into acquiring an excellent building for the Assembly, providing housing for Wobs coming from as far as Hawaii and Philadelphia, arranging entertainment, and to some for doing double duty as members of Food Not Bombs, providing nutritious and appetizing lunches (and this coming from a dedicated carnivore) for those in attendance.

As we were being driven to the center where the Assembly was held, we listened to a radio program where Wobs were being interviewed about their Union activities. It was a good start for a good weekend.

from the desk of...

I'd never been to Salt Lake before. The mountains are impressive, surrounding the valley in virtually every direction. Fellow Workers Ken and Amber Wulle took a few of us up to Sugar Hill, now a park, once the site of the prison where Joe Hill was executed by firing squad. As I looked out at the mountains, I had the hope that the last thing Joe saw and his last thoughts were of their beauty.

The American Legion was in town for a convention over the same weekend, 10,000 strong. The IWW and the Legion have had their run-ins in the past. In the most notorious case Wesley Everest was hanged by Legionnaire vigilantes in Centralia, Washington. While there were 50 Wobs at Assembly and we liked the odds, we decided to concentrate on building the Union rather than settling old scores.

And the assembly was productive. There have been assemblies in the past where Wobs have come to blows. In this one the criticism of Fellow Workers was respectful. We seem to have come to the conclusion that we need to be united in the struggle against the bosses rather than wasting time attacking one another. I got a call the other day from a woman in Toronto who wanted information on the Union. I told her about recent IWW growth there. She said she wasn't surprised as workers there feel under attack due to recent government cutbacks in government programs of benefit to the poor and working class. She said she had come across some of our literature at a May Day parade. She commented that it isn't unusual for radical labor newspapers to criticize governments, but that ours was the only one she had seen which also took on the labor bosses who weren't serving their membership properly. Labor is increasingly under attack from many quarters. Rank and file labor militance and solidarity seems to be growing. The IWW has always been a refuge for disgruntled workers. If we continue to work together as the performance at assembly promised, we can expect our numbers to continue to grow.

The hat was passed at Assembly for some Wobs striking for recognition at a store in Seattle. This was one immediate action among several we were informed of, representing some of the most IWW organizing activity in a long while.

We got to meet Miriam Fried. Wobs detailed the impressive support they have generated for her across the country. Recent events detailed elsewhere in this issue suggest that we may have a shot at winning this struggle against Borders.

I think we can be very proud of our prompt militant response on this issue. Not only was it the right thing to do, and one of those unusual situations where we aren't fighting a futile battle, it has generated publicity and support for the IWW. Nice combination. If we continue to grow, perhaps situations like these will become the norm rather than the exception. We're active, growing, even starting to meet with some success.

Keep it up, Fellow Workers, and one of these days the Wobbly Assembly will be headlines, and a gathering of 10,000 Legionnaires will just be a footnote in the news.

See you on the picket line.

— Fred Chase
General Secretary-Treasurer

Readers' Soapbox... Organizing Sears

Your article in the September issue about Sears comes as no surprise to anyone who recalls the 1957 Senate Committee Hearings conducted by Robert Kennedy. Aside from the exposé of Dave Beck, then Teamster president, also exposed were the machinations of labor consultant Nathan Shefferman on behalf of Sears and especially their Boston retail operations. All of this is detailed in the McClellan Committee Senate Hearings.

I resigned as employee relations manager for Sears' Eastern territory in early 1953 over the strictly illegal actions taken by Shefferman and his people to impede the organization of the Boston area retail stores by the AFL Retail Clerks Union. The then group manager and I were overruled on allowing the matter to proceed via an NLRB

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election. With cooperation from the Teamsters and others, the organizing drive was eventually thwarted.

From that date on I refused to handle labor union matters for any employer. The Senate Hearing Record is only part of the sad story. Your members in Philadelphia may expect great opposition in their efforts and should have good legal advice.

Walter G. Hooke

Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Bill Rogers, Knoxville TN | \$5 |
| Kelly Cassidy, Norwood MA | 5 |
| Donald Bradshaw, New Brunswick NJ | 5 |
| Mike Long, Honolulu HI | 40 |
| Toivo Halonen, Cleveland OH | 10 |
| Leon Maclean, Phoenix AZ | 5 |
| Roger Carpenter, Farmingdale ME | 15 |

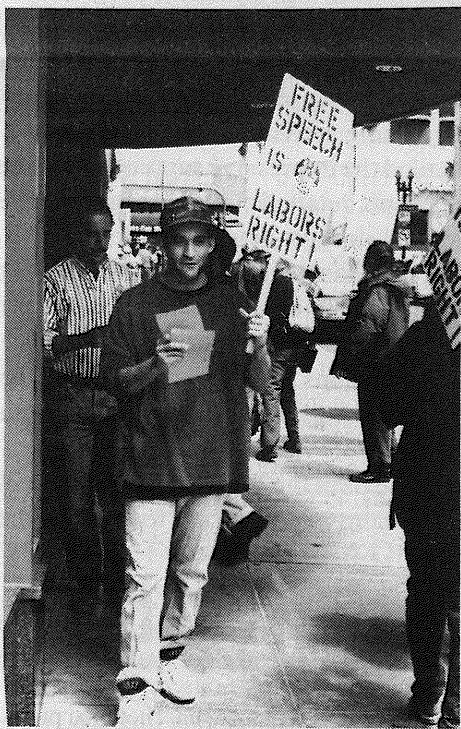
Utah Philips Solidarity Fund

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Leon Rosselson, Middlesex England | \$50 |
| Madison IWW GMB, Madison WI | 100 |
| William Camwell, Phoenix AZ | 25 |
| Folkert Mohrhof, Hamburg Germany | 12 |

Reflections on the IWW Assembly...

Upbeat Assembly tackles finances

'IWW parking this way' in the lot outside, red and black welcoming signs and Wobbly banners inside and out, literature tables filled with all kinds of scurrilous good stuff, fine SLC GMB T's featuring Joe Hill and more, spacious meeting rooms on two levels, Food Not Bombs in the kitchen below, plenty of familiar friendly faces and many new ones – the Salt Lake Branch had clearly done the Union proud. After a sleepless, overnight flight from Honolulu and a fruitless trek up to the LDS Visitors Center (the Center's purpose is not to inform, it turned out, just to convert the day-tripper), I arrived at the Indian Walk-In Center at about 8:30 on Friday evening – late, but in time for the second half of an upbeat, informative public forum on the IWW, featuring among others FWs Miriam Fried and Bob Helms on the Borders struggle. Miriam's airfare had been paid for out of the Charlie Sato memorial fund – the first annual award made – so it was especially pleasing to see how strong and articulate she is. If Charlie was watching, she was smiling. After the forum, off to Duffy's Bar for beer with a FW from Minnesota. You're not supposed to drink it, they say, but it's OK to sell it, including OK at the University of Hawaii for a Mormon-owned, SLC-based corporation like Marriot. Two pleasant hours swapping stories about Wobbly projects in Honolulu and Minneapolis and discovering a shared profound respect for the writings of FW Chomsky.



Wobblies set up picket lines across the country when Borders tried to crush our organizing efforts by firing Miriam Fried.

Saturday was supposed to start at 10 a.m., an hour later than Santa Cruz and Philadelphia, as I recall, but come the time there were still a lot of folks missing. FW Mark Ross provided some lively fiddle music as members converged. Things finally got under way around 10:30 with about 40 Wobs present and more drifting in (and some out) as the weekend progressed. The diversity of our membership – surely the IWW's greatest strength – was again apparent, although women made up only about 25 percent of this year's group at GA. Is O'ahu the only GMB where women form a (slight) majority? FWs Harmon (SLC) and Helms (Philadelphia) agreed to serve as co-moderators. They did a fine job throughout the weekend, even during occasional stormy weather.

Saturday and Sunday went past quickly. After the customary procedural skirmishes, there was another positive report from FW Chase – five new GMBs since last year and



another soon to come, membership up 35%, more organizing efforts, notably in Philly and the Bay Area (and recently Seattle), interest in the Union from abroad, not least Sierra Leone, and a higher profile for the Union in the alternative and some mainstream media. Income was up (dues from the increased membership, Bob Rivera's fine efforts with IWW literature, a more efficient IW operation, etc.), but so were expenses, and Fred suggested that ideas to resolve the continuing financial problem should be a key GA agenda item.

FW Bekken followed with a generally positive report on the state of the union's newspaper. He recognized the need for greater consultation with branches (and advance warning) where feasible before running sensitive stories about such matters as local organizing efforts involving other unions. On another controversial issue, however, he provided a spirited, lucid and, in my opinion, wholly justified refusal to beat around the bush on such matters as scabbing by other unions. If the shoe fits, wear it. Equally reasonably, in my view, members from some branches argued that there is a need to distinguish, where justified, between individual groups of workers who cross picket lines and those from the same union who do not, rather than damn all of them for the actions of a sub-group or for having invertebrates as "leaders." There followed brief and area reports from Branches, with more details to follow in the IW or GOB, an informative update by two SLC members on the outrageous situation at the Hexcel plant (the subject of a Wobbly action the following Monday morning), and the first round of parallel workshops. That evening, members adjourned to a variety of restaurants and watering holes, with many attending a public performance at a nearby pub by FW Ross.

After another late start, Sunday began with more workshops. Workshop topics and groupings for the two days included the women's caucus, IU meetings, a radical queer labor session, organizing strategies, Zapatista support work, the newly reinvigorated General Defense Committee and finances. Summaries of workshop proceedings back in plenary session meant that members got some idea of what had gone on in each one. There followed a lengthy discussion about finances, with suggestions presented by the Boston GMB, the Bay Area (two), or from the floor for increasing dues. Most attempted to protect low-end payers in difficult circumstances, while increasing costs at the high end, with the general aim of making the current highly regressive scale less so overall. One suggestion for a "flat" rate of 1% for everyone was popular with some members, but it was noted that this could actually increase dues for many current \$3 and \$5 members, as much as double in some cases – something

virtually no one appeared willing to see happen, least of all branches with many homeless and unemployed members – and that the same proposal's effect of tripling or quadrupling maximum dues from the current \$12 to \$50 a month or more for some members would make dual-carding a hard sell among such folks as carpenters, electricians, plumbers and education workers.

Other proposals were offered for raising income for the Union, especially for the GHQ operation, which is certain to have to increase as the Union grows, either without touching dues, or at least without major increases. These included paid advertising in the IW and elsewhere (already suggested as a way of subsidizing the paper) from entities with aims compatible with the Union's, the sale of earmarked assessment stamps, other voluntary assessments and donations, concerts featuring (adequately paid) professional IWW musicians and others, additional kinds of fund-raisers (witness the recent success of several such efforts on behalf of FW Utah Phillips), commercial publishing of one or more books (probably an edited collection) about the IWW today, and more. Several proposals will be submitted to referendum in November. There followed the annual Wobbly equivalent of the Miss World pageant, otherwise known as 'nominations,' Good and Welfare, and singing of Solidarity Forever, led by FW Ross.

As usual, I came away from GA pleased to be a Wob and to have FWs of the caliber present as co-strugglers for a better world. Not everything was rosy, however. First, I am frustrated each year by the hour or more (out of not so many available) lost to bickering over procedure and the agenda. Both are matters that could largely be settled in advance and by precedent, saving valuable time for some items presently given short shrift, in my view, such as IU meetings. The agenda, at least, should be circulated in writing in advance by the GEB, while leaving room for additions from those in attendance on the day. Second, people making sometimes quite complex proposals about such matters as dues changes or restructuring the Union should have the good grace and common sense to come prepared with handouts (recyclable, of course) for the assembled masses. As it is now, time and mental effort are lost as "presenters" (I use the term loosely) read, often incomprehensibly, from turgid written matter to which only they have access, or worse, attempt to cobble together complex "motions" in real time as a desperate secretary and impatient audience try to follow along.

Third, I noted what to me was a new and ugly phenomenon: members of a branch prefacing several of their public remarks with things like "As the biggest branch in the Union," or "Since we're twice the size of the next biggest GMB and have job shops

bigger than most GMBs." The idea seemed to be that such attributes entitled the speakers to more floor time, more influence in decision-making, and so on. It sounded self-serving and power-hungry, strange coming from folks who profess to be against such traits in others. Might is not right, fellow workers, minorities are (always).

In my view, the branch concerned has unquestionably been one of the major successes of the Union in recent years, an example to the rest of us when it comes to solid organizing and on-the-ground commitment and hard work. I also count some of its members as personal friends. I don't see the point of what came across as bragging and arrogance, however. I also don't see the point of that branch running (by my count) eight candidates for next year's GEB. Is the idea to elect all of them – presumably possible with their much-flaunted numbers of branch members – seven Board members and the first alternate? If not, why nominate them all (with bundles of proxy votes, to boot)? If so, how representative would a GEB be which consisted entirely, or nearly so, of members from one town and predominantly one industry of a Union with international and multi-industry pretensions?

Finally, is there not some better way of selecting candidates for Union office than the current beauty contest and name recognition approach. Some members present at GA are nominated and agree to run. Other names are tossed out, of Wobs virtually no one in the room has ever met or knows much about. None of this might matter, one could argue, since all will later get the chance to put a written bio-blurb in the GOB.

Perhaps it doesn't matter in the long run; most candidates may be good Wobs who will serve the Union well. Note, however, the often dysfunctional state of the GEB in recent years. Note the resignations, the refusal to serve of one member after being elected, the fact that each year a number of those nominated at GA decline candidacy, not having been asked if they were interested beforehand and/or being ineligible for one reason or another, and note the way the whole process disfavors solid Wobs, often long-serving Wobs, but Wobs unable to make it to Assembly.

Shouldn't representation be by IU, perhaps tempered by geography and GMB strength as the Union gradually reverts to its fighting IU structure over the next few years? To my way of thinking, at any rate, the current process is one of the few blatantly undemocratic features of a generally participatorily democratic organization.

Don't get me wrong. I have my gripes, but GAs are important and fun and worth attending if you can make it. This one was no exception. None of the moans and groans have anything to do with the SLC members. They did us proud throughout, and finished off with a great evening of beer and fine singing by a fellow worker from San Francisco at a bar opened especially for the occasion. Many Wobs, myself included, had to head back to work later that evening or early next day, and so missed the Hexcel action. I look forward to reading a report on that by someone who was there.

— Mike Long
O'ahu GMB IU 620

U.S. Job Cuts Soar

The number of Americans who lost their jobs soared in July to 41,843 from 23,283 in July 1995. The number of job cuts was the largest since January, when AT&T announced massive layoffs that boosted the monthly total to 97,379.

From January through July, an average of 44,622 Americans lost their jobs each month, up 32.6 percent from last year. The surge in July came on the heels of a sharp rise in layoffs in the first half of the year. July's layoffs brought the year's seven-month total to 312,356.

Wobs build for future...

continued from page 1

industrial struggles presently underway. Wobblies are "providing a model for workers to use in their work situations," Chase noted. "A democratic and militant labor movement is going to grow, and we can have a lot to do with creating that labor movement." But that movement will not be built by union officials. "The leaders in this organization are the organizers on the streets and in the jobs," Chase said. "I'm subject to recall at any moment if I mess up, and I wish all unions were like that; I think the workers would be a lot better off..."

One of those organizers, Miriam Fried, concluded the presentations, discussing the ongoing Borders campaign and thanking Wobblies around the country for their prompt, determined response when Borders fired her in an attempt to break the union. "When Borders fired me I really learned what solidarity meant." FW Fried noted she joined the IWW after an organizer told her the union was fighting for dignity on the job. "That's what I thought was lacking in the job - that's what made me say 'I will do anything I can for this.'"

"Borders is scared," Fried concluded. "They are holding captive meetings at every store in their chain, even before anyone has said the word Union. There's an anti-union message in the employee handbook. We're terrifying them, and I think that's a good thing." Ultimately, she added, Borders efforts to intimidate its workers would fail. "We can do anything as long as we have solidarity behind us."

In the discussion that followed, several Wobblies pointed to the need to better integrate our workplace organizing efforts with efforts to address issues of racism, sexism and environmental destruction on the job and in society. Other topics of discussion included the Borders campaign (with Wobblies from all over sharing tactics and ideas), the need to increase *Industrial Worker* circulation, efforts to help workers in business unions take control of those organizations, and the desperate plight of the ruling class. One Wobbly - a construction worker forced to deal with the rich on a daily basis as he remodels their palatial dwellings - offered his conclusion that the rich were insane. "Basically they have too much money; it's a real obvious thing to me that these people are sick." It being our humanitarian duty to relieve our rulers of this ill-gotten booty so that they might lead more satisfying and productive lives, we adjourned for the evening to prepare for the job.

Getting Down to Business

Saturday and Sunday were devoted to reports, workshops and plenary discussions devoted primarily to the union's financial situation. GST Chase reported that IWW membership is up 35 percent over last year, and 71 percent over the last year-and-a-half. In the last year we added five branches, and waged several major organizing drives. But the bulk of his report was devoted to the financial situation. He argued against efforts to resolve the crisis by slashing union publications or our headquarters operation, suggesting instead that we work together to increase membership and income.

Seattle Strike...

We hope that you will continue to support our efforts for better working conditions, and that you help us with our unfair labour practice strike by not crossing our picket line, until management has addressed our dispute with how we are being treated as a union, and a solution has been reached.

(The reverse side gave information on how to contact the owner at his travel agencies to let him know what people thought of his scabby, union-busting operation.)

After reports from the *Industrial Worker* editor, the General Executive Board and the Audit Committee, we heard a series of short reports from delegates on local activities. As always, these reports demonstrated the enormous range of activities being undertaken by Wobblies everywhere, ranging from solidarity campaigns to work with Russian seamen waging a direct action campaign to turn back attacks on their working conditions. We also heard from OCAW members about their struggle to maintain a union at Hexcel, touching off a discussion on the difficulties of maintaining unions under present conditions and the desperate need to return to labor's militant roots if we are to survive. And a collection was taken up for strike relief for striking IWWs in Seattle.



IWW member Paul Poulos, picketing the Brooklyn Heights Waldenbooks.

In addition to discussing the IWW's financial condition, delegates also discussed concerns that have been raised over our rules governing eligibility to membership. Some members were concerned that the IWW constitution might bar skilled workers who rotate into foremen positions, or teachers who often serve on committees with input into hiring and renewal decisions. However, the general consensus was that the IWW's present rules restricting membership to bona fide workers (including apprentices, the unemployed, retirees, and members of worker cooperatives, but

Drivers face 120-hour 'weeks' in Utah

The Utah Dept. of Transportation is in the process of adopting regulations which would exempt many drivers from U.S. laws limiting the hours drivers can be worked. New federal regulations permit exemption of drivers in four categories: transport of agricultural products during the growing season; snow and ice removal; transport of water drilling rigs and construction materials and equipment to and from construction sites; and utility service vehicles.

Presently drivers can not be worked more than 60 hours over a seven-day period; under the proposed regulations the clock would restart any time the driver is off-duty for 24 or more hours. Since trucking firms were routinely violating the law, working drivers as much as 102 hours in a week, the government apparently decided to make these abuses legal.

A driver could be ordered to work four 15-hour days (no more than ten hours behind the wheel, and at least 8 hours between shifts), get one day off, and be put back on for four more 15-hour days - a total of 120 hours over nine days. This novel interpretation of the five-day week will result in fatigued workers who rarely get a chance to

"Borders is scared... We're terrifying them, and I think that's a good thing."

Borders' efforts to intimidate workers will fail. "We can do anything as long as we have solidarity behind us."

barring paid officials of business unions and political parties) should be maintained.

Delegates approved a resolution endorsing a national day of protest against police brutality (Oct. 22) being organized by Food Not Bombs and other organizations, and directed GST Chase to write the Chicago authorities to protest attacks on protesters in the aftermath of the Democratic Convention, including a police assault against at least one IWW member. After resolutions of thanks to the Salt Lake City GMB and Food Not Bombs for their hospitality, we adjourned with a rousing rendition of Solidarity Forever and retired to a local bar for refreshments.

Nominations and Elections

The Fall ballot will include several referenda, including a proposal to restructure the IWW to give regional organizing committees financial autonomy, and proposals to change dues rates. One proposal would leave subminimum and minimum dues rates at present levels, while raising regular dues to \$10 and maximum dues to \$15. Another would set dues at 1 percent of income, with a floor of \$3 and a ceiling of \$25; while a third would set monthly dues at one hour's wage for part-time workers, and two hours' wages for full-time workers. Discussion on the Assembly floor over the merits of these proposals was lively, and the debate is sure to continue in the pages of our *General Organization Bulletin*.

Several candidates were also nominated to serve as IWW officers for 1997. The following list includes all nominations made on the floor of the assembly, except where nominees declined on the spot. Their eligibility to stand for office has not yet been verified, and some may choose to decline nomination.

Nominated for IWW General Secretary-Treasurer were Bill Meyers (Arcata, CA) and Fred Chase (Ann Arbor, MI).

Nominated for IWW General Executive Board were: Monica Berini (Oakland), Kevin Brandstatter (Swindon), Mike D'Amore (Lehigh Valley), Ray Elbourne

see their families.

While trucking firms actively participated in drafting the new regulation, International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 222 did not lift a finger to stop the regulations - even though Local 222 President Ralph Taurone assured a rank-and-file driver who learned of the then-pending rule change that the union was participating in the process. Taurone (who is running for Teamsters Intl. vice president on the Hoffa Jr. ticket) also told driver Jay Wulle that the regulation would help union companies compete with scab operators, and that he was undermining union contractors by filing complaints with the state over violations of regulations governing hours, working conditions and safety. (Instead, union drivers should presumably work longer hours under less safe conditions, thereby undercutting the scabs and littering the Utah highways with corpses.) Ever the politician, Taurone later signed a petition (signed by 700 drivers and supporters) protesting the regulation which was presented to U.D.O.T. Sept. 3rd, but did not follow through on a promise to send a union representative to the hearing.

In view of the safety concerns that FW

(Melbourne), Dan Fisher (Philadelphia), Liam Flynn (Berkeley), Mike Garcia (Salt Lake City), Gnat (San Francisco), Bob Helms (Philadelphia), Jeff Hoskins (Oakland), Ingrid Koch (Youngstown), Mark Johnson (Seattle), Tom Jordan (Burlington), Orin Langle (Burlington), Fred Lee (Leicester), Charles Long (Berkeley), Jennifer Madsen (Salt Lake City), Rod Neves (Berkeley), Anne Peterman (Burlington), Penny Pixler (Chicago), Mike Reinsboro (Los Angeles), Nicky Richards (San Francisco), Jim Roarick (Decatur), Robert Rush (Berkeley), Rochelle Semel (Hartwick), Jeff Stein (Urbana), Bob Tibbs (St Louis).

Jon Bekken (Cambridge, MA) and Anne Peterman (Burlington, VT) were nominated to edit the *Industrial Worker*.

Several cities were nominated to host the 1997 Assembly, and the final decision was deferred to referendum: Boston MA, Burlington VT, Chicago IL, Eugene OR, London UK, St Louis MO, Ypsilanti MI.

Mark Ross (Butte, MT), Bob Rivera (Ypsilanti, MI), Mike Reinsboro (Los Angeles), Heather Harman (Salt Lake City) and Dan Fisher (Philadelphia) were elected to the Internal Mediation Committee. Frank Callahan (Boston) is first alternate.

— X331117

National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality

October 22nd marks the 71st anniversary of the arrests of Sacco and Vanzetti. A coalition is organizing protests targeting the police state. "Instead of protecting the public," organizers say, "police departments around the country are waging a campaign of violence and intimidation against the people in our communities... The U.S. locks up a higher percentage of its people than any other country in the world... Jails are being built instead of schools and hospitals..."

"But who will protect people from being routinely brutalized for being the 'wrong color' or being homeless or poor? Who will protect the people being hunted by La Migra for the crime of trying to find work? Who will protect our youth who are jacked up, arrested and worse by cops for how they look or dress? Who will protect us from the abuse of power and political repression that has been sanctioned by the new Federal crime bill and 'anti-terrorist' laws? It is up to us to stop the epidemic of police abuse and violence."

For information contact Food Not Bombs, 3145 Geary Blvd. #12, San Francisco CA 94118, 1-800-884-1136.

Wulle and others have raised, the state has decided to hold an as-yet unscheduled public meeting to decide on the regulation. It remains to be seen whether the Teamsters will take any action to defend the lives and health of its members, and of the rest of us who share the roads these exhausted drivers will be working.

FW Paul Poulos adds: A fact too often hidden from public eye is that interstate drivers are exempted from the overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. So apart from the unconscionable "hours of service" which drivers are required to work, their pay falls far short of what it might be if they were paid the requisite time-and-one-half rate which other workers receive.

We readily recognize the airplane bomber as a terrorist - however, we never acknowledge the terrorists in suits (CEOs) who require fatigued drivers to kill themselves and thousands of unsuspecting motorists because they were forced into service without the proper rest; or forced to falsify their logs to hold their jobs. Enough double-speak - this is outright murder, it should be criminalized, and the punishment to CEOs should be decided by the victims' families.

Teachers protest – in their underwear

Thousands of teachers from the eastern Indian state of Bihar marched in Delhi Sept. 5, protesting non-payment of salaries for the last 15 years. Clad only in their underwear, the teachers attempted to march to the President's residence, but were turned back by police. Workers said they were on the verge of starvation. The protest fell on Teacher's Day, when the Indian President acknowledges some of the country's outstanding educators.

Students organize in Uruguay

Direct action by students at over 30 schools in August succeeded in pressuring the bosses' Central Directive Council to recognize their unions in a "national debate" on education reform. The students occupied high schools, teacher colleges, and the Institute of Professors from August 14 to September 4.

Zimbabwe general strike threat blocks firings

What began as a wildcat solidarity strike to demand that nurses' pay raise match inflation may turn into a general strike if the state continues to refuse to negotiate.

The strike began in late August in response to a six percent wage increase offer to nurses who were expecting an offer to match Zimbabwe's 22 percent inflation rate.

The state responded by announcing that all strikers were fired, but mass demonstrations of almost 10,000 strikers asserted otherwise. "We are all still government employees. We were not hired on TV and we will not be fired on TV," said the president of the Public Service Association union. The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions vowed private sector workers would launch a general strike if the state did not negotiate. The government was forced to agree, and workers suspended the strike Sept. 4 (though not without heated debate) while negotiations continued. But with the beginning of the school year, the union is threatening to bring out teachers in a broader strike if workers demands are not met.

The 180,000-member Public Service Association has raised its demands to match what the politicians already voted for themselves – a 60 percent pay raise.

Mersey Dockers Fight On...

continued from page 1

With the manager apparently on the phone to head office in London, the police suddenly arrived. But in an unprecedented development officers declined to clear the room or arrest any alleged trespassers, preferring to wait outside for the denouement.

On leaving the office, demonstrators draped a banner over the balcony of the Port of Liverpool buildings and the Victorian edifice echoed "Dockers In, Scabs Out."

No doubt the discussion can be taken forward on docks around the world. Gracechurch connect Liverpool with Izmir and Istanbul in Turkey, and Salerno, Piraeus, Limasol, Haifa and Ashdod on the Mediterranean run. The ships calling in Liverpool are the Gracechurch Comet, Meteor, Sun, Crown and Star.

— Greg Dropkin

Piecard Piffle

But as international rank-and-file solidarity is building, trade union bureaucrats are trying to negotiate surrender. T&GWU officials are seeking a settlement short of full reinstatement, while the ITF leadership is deeply hostile to the style of independent international rank and file direct contacts pursued by the Liverpool dockers. Several European ports pulled out of the conference at the last minute after receiving faxes from

Health workers spill their own blood

They call them "the bleeders." Nurses and other health workers stand on the plaza in Mexico City, put needles into their arms, and let their blood flow onto the ground. In recent weeks a lot of blood has been flowing from the veins of the Federal District's nurses and other hospital employees. The workers are bleeding themselves to protest both conditions in the hospitals and lack of union democracy.

Since July dozens of workers employed by the Administration of Health Services of the Department of the Federal District (DDF), some of them also involved in hunger strikes, have been drawing their own blood and spilling it on the ground to protest the lack of equipment and supplies in the Federal District hospitals and clinics.

DDF workers complain that they do not have soap, gloves, needles and other supplies that they need to carry out their work. The lack of supplies, they say, increases the danger of infection and threatens patients' health. Doctors and nurses often send the families of patients to buy medical supplies including medicines, surgical equipment, food and clothing. Families who cannot provide these items may find that their loved ones in the hospital go hungry, get sick from infection, or simply cannot be treated.

Since February, members of Local 12 of the Sole Union of Workers of the Government of the Federal District (SUTGDF) had been asking the hospital to provide adequate equipment for patient care. The workers movement to pressure the Federal District government to provide supplies became involved in the Local 12 union elections, and at that point the issues became somewhat more complicated.

The SUTGDF has 111,000 members, divided into 39 sections whose members provide most of the city services from the water and sewer system to gardens and parks. The SUTGDF is a "sole union" meaning workers cannot create another rival labor organization. Members of political parties which oppose the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) are not permitted to hold office. Opposition groups complain that the head of the SUTGDF runs the union in an authoritarian fashion. Opposition groups claim that union elections held in July were fraudulent. The leaders of those opposition slates have been among the lead-

ITF General Secretary David Cockcroft.

Payments from the T&GWU Hardship Fund have also been delayed, on the grounds that no one is actually starving. And Liverpool stewards' request to address the forthcoming Trades Union Congress remains in limbo, with the T&GWU proposing that a union official speak on their behalf.

But the key issue is the aim of forthcoming negotiations. For the dockers the talks must seek the reinstatement of all men sacked in the dispute, including Torside and various smaller groups, with the reinstated men taking up their jobs as dockers rather than redeployment into ancillary areas. But T&GWU officials say negotiations cannot go beyond the 329 men directly employed by MDHC last September, and ancillary jobs must be acceptable as a form of re-employment. Coincidentally, this is also the company's position.

For years, Mersey Docks has been happier to deal with the union than with the Liverpool stewards. The problem for the company is that the international blockade has been organized by the rank and file, and has done enough damage to convince shipping lines around the world that Liverpool is a 'strike-bound port.'

Mersey dockers were shocked to learn that Australian dockers were told the dispute was "over." For the sacked men it is not over and it can't be over until they win.

MICKEY MOUSE GOES TO HAITI



ers of the protests and have also been bleeding themselves.

Since the union elections in July, the health workers have attempted to seize the SUTDGF hall, have organized protests in front of the Federal District Assembly, and have drawn their blood on the national plaza. The health workers demand the resignation of Armando Ruiz Massieu, director general of Health Services of the Federal District whom they hold responsible for many of the problems. The Federal District Assembly has asked for the intervention of the Ministry of the Interior (Gobernacion).

The health workers have the support of the May First Inter-union organization, a radical labor federation, and of other unions.

— Dan LaBotz

Mexican Labor News & Analysis

Workers Seize Factory

Workers at El Salvador's GABO maquiladora have occupied their plant to ensure that the machinery is not taken, their only way of getting back salaries and severance pay. Management secretly (and illegally) sold the machinery in February to Daewoo for \$229,885. The owners claim they closed the plant because of a lack of materials, but it appears the sale was planned well in advance. There were 450 workers at the company when it closed, none of whom have been paid for their final month.

Workers are asking for emergency support for several pregnant workers denied health benefits because the owner did not pay their premiums (although they were deducted from paychecks). Donations made out: "fedecaces-cis" can be sent to cis/pasaje los piños #17, urb. Padilla cuellar, San Salvador, El Salvador. Faxes should be sent to the government demanding that workers get back salaries and severance pay from the proceeds from the sale of the machinery: Presidente de la Republica Dr. Armando Calderon Sol, 503/281-0018; Lic. Manuel Enrique Hinds, Ministro de Hacienda, 503/271-0591 (responsible for implementing the Free Trade Zone Law); Ministro de Trabajo, Eduardo Tomasino, 503/279-0877.

Another occupation is underway at Inmacasa (formally Fenix). On September 3rd, after workers had finished their work day, the boss tried to take 30 sewing machines and transfer them to another maquila, Roca S.A. de C.V. Workers blocked the transfer, guarding the machinery in the street and later moving it back inside the factory. The company produces clothes for Oshkosh.

Zambian workers fire boss

Workers at the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation effectively fired their boss in September, forcing him on leave until allegations of disrespect are investigated. The workers then went on a wildcat strike to pressure the Corporate board to take their grievances seriously. The board now threatens to fire all the strikers.

Canadian phone workers face office sickness, capital flight

Depending on where you work in Canada as a telephone worker, you may face either being fired and "replaced" by contracted-out operators or getting cancer from your office.

In Ontario and Quebec, 3,500 telephone operators fear mass-firings if anticipated contracting-out becomes official. The workers urge supporters in central Canada to call operators and ask to speak to their boss, Bell Canada's President. "The Operator will be glad to connect you," said the union.

In Hamilton, Ontario, 50 telephone workers finally moved out of a section of their building they were forced to work in where 22 other workers have been diagnosed with various cancers or had miscarriages. The workers first documented the danger of their jobsite in March, but the bosses and union took almost six months to agree to move the workers.

Bell Canada made record profits of almost \$1 billion last year.

Drivers take direct action

Bus drivers in Vancouver took direct action September 11 by refusing to drive buses with defective brakes. The British Columbia Transit Corporation is disputing the drivers' claims, even after one bus' brakes failed shortly before it crashed into a concrete blockade.

Canadian Auto Workers organize coffee chain

Five Starbucks outlets in Vancouver may soon be Canadian Auto Workers union shops, if the CAW's September 15 certification is approved by the state. Starbucks bosses cite "tremendous opportunities" for their "partners" (i.e. workers) if they stay unorganized, but workers face zero job security, minimal pay, and only enough benefits to compete with similar service sector bosses. The bosses also claim they have no idea where any pay raise might come from, what with their annual profits reaching only a paltry \$26.1 million last year.

AFL's Sweeney & Trumka Arrested In Detroit Strike

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney was arrested August 30th for blocking the entrance to *The Detroit News*, marking the first time Sweeney has been arrested since assuming the presidency of the federation. He said it demonstrated the labor movement's commitment to winning contracts for more than 2,000 people on strike at the *News* and *Free Press*. Arrested with Sweeney were Richard Trumka, the federation's secretary-treasurer, and 19 others, including two strikers. The protest cut off access to the front of the building, although scabs entered and exited through the side garage doors most of them use anyway.

Boeing strike defeated by union scabbing

More than 800 of the 900 Canadian Autoworkers (CAW) Local 2169 members on strike against Boeing in Winnipeg, Manitoba, packed into a meeting hall August 16 to vote on the company's final offer. Many were wearing T-shirts reading "assaulted and peppered," referring to a police attack on the picket lines minutes after the strike began July 11.

After 38 days on strike, and abandoned by their fellow Boeing workers south of the border, 86 percent of workers voted to surrender. The company threatened to shut down the plant for good if the contract was refused, after strikers voted by 67 percent to reject a previous proposal.

Some 350 workers returned to work immediately, with other call-backs scheduled to continue through November. More than 200 jobs have been permanently eliminated. In addition to the 212 lost jobs, workers also failed in their efforts to win better benefits although they did win modest pay hikes. Wages now range from Cdn \$11.83

Chicago police attack protesters

As President Clinton took the stage at the Democratic National Convention August 29th Chicago police raided the site of Active Resistance, a counter-convention conference. Several uniformed officers forced their way into a building which had served as a central meeting site for the conference, pepper-spraying conference participants, searching personal belongings and confiscating radio equipment and papers. As officers entered from the back of the building, they ordered conference participants to sit down. Those who did not sit down were pushed down. One officer threatened to push a woman down the back stairs. Lynn Harrington was kicked and, when she asked officers "what are you doing?" was pepper-sprayed in the face at close range. Conference participants repeatedly requested a search warrant and officers' badge numbers, but were not provided with either. They were told they were not being arrested or detained, but were not permitted to leave. On their way out, officers pepper-sprayed participants indiscriminately. Two activists required hospitalization after the incident.

The police raids came at the end of a day of 14 arrests of activists and independent media makers. Eight conference participants were arrested at the Festival of the Oppressed procession, including the parade's traffic safety coordinator. Six videographers working with CounterMedia, a coalition of alternative media makers, were arrested covering the march. Their cameras were confiscated and some of their film was destroyed by arresting officers.

Clerical workers settle at Columbia University

As we go to press 164 clerical workers at Barnard College of Columbia University have ended their 5-month strike, winning a pay hike substantially larger than the 1.5% the college had offered and turning back efforts to gut health coverage. Workers will get a 9.5% raise over three years, slightly less than the pay hikes granted to staff at Columbia Teachers' College last year. Workers with more than 5 years on the job will also receive annual bonuses of \$150 to \$400. Union efforts to raise the issue of pay equity were not successful.

Many professors refused to hold classes on campus during the strike, and dozens of students unfurled banners and carried signs supporting the strikers during graduation ceremonies. The union had charged the College with bad faith bargaining and retaliation against union members.

to \$22.21 an hour.

"The company screwed us over," said a CAW member with 10 years service who asked his name not be used. "The company is punishing all of us who were with the union." Since seniority is departmental, the company has used work reorganization to call back selectively.

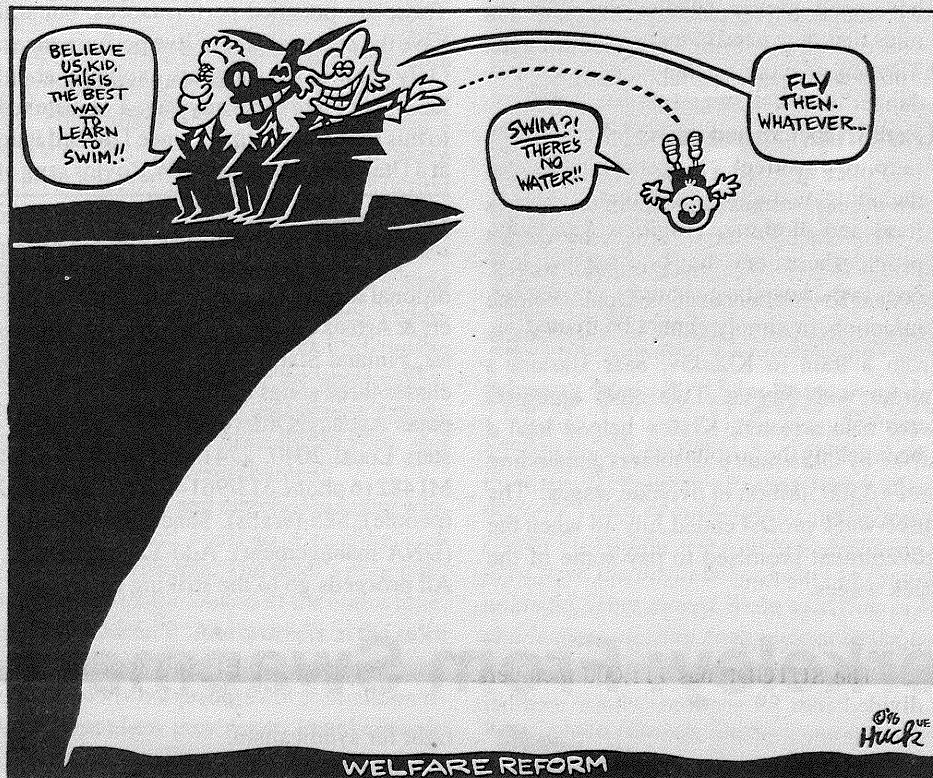
Another worker described the plant as a war zone. One worker, Barry Hoepfner, was fired for walking behind a scab and saying, "I guess they hire scabs here."

The Winnipeg strike follows an earlier strike by Boeing workers in Seattle, during which workers from other unions scabbed on the strikers while production continued uninterrupted at Boeing plants elsewhere. Now the Seattle workers have returned the favor, undermining the efforts by their Canadian fellow workers to hold onto their

jobs and improve their lot in life. The result of all this union scabbing is that Boeing workers everywhere are losing ground. Why not give One Big Union solidarity a try instead?

McDonnell Douglas settles

Striking members of the International Association of Machinists have voted by a 2-1 margin to end their 3-month strike against McDonnell Douglas Corp. The strike revolved around the issue of job security and subcontracting, but many workers say the contract produced by federal mediators offers little if any effective protection. The company says it intends to expand production in St. Louis, but refuses to put anything in the contract and complained that — after losing thousands of jobs in recent years — union workers don't believe them.



Labor Party blasts U.S. welfare bill

The U.S. Labor Party made its strongest anti-Democratic Party statement yet in August by condemning President Clinton's signing a bill to "end welfare as we know it."

The Labor Party called the bill an "attack on all American workers" and "a tactic in the class war predatory corporations and their politician allies have declared on America's working people."

"This amounts to creating pools of labor inside the American economy that are in effect coerced and forced to work for subsistence or less. This will effectively depress other workers' wages as well. The lowest 30% of wage earners can expect a

Kill a worker, collect \$38 bill.

More than one-fifth of all taxpayer dollars paid out to federal contractors is paid to companies cited for serious violations of workplace safety rules. Last year \$38 billion in government contracts went to companies who had killed 35 workers and sent 55 more to hospital.

Bargain basement workers

A study by McKinsey Global Institute reports that hourly manufacturing wages including benefits in 1995 were \$31.88 in West Germany, \$29.88 in Switzerland, \$26.88 in Belgium, \$25.38 in Austria, \$23.66 in Japan, and \$17.20 in the United States (and falling fast). And U.S. workers work harder too. Managers of Japanese owned companies operating U.S. plants describe American workers as "really terrific — they work as hard as can be." As we continue our march toward global competitiveness, we can look forward to \$5 an hour labor costs, longer (and harder) working hours, and economic prosperity — at least for those on top.

13% reduction in income as a result of this legislation.

"This is clearly an attempt to restore a version of the forced labor of the workhouse or the convict-lease system that the labor movement fought so hard against in the 19th century."

The Labor Party also agreed with anti-poverty organizations that most people receiving welfare have fewer children than other citizens, are mostly white, and will probably not raise children that will themselves receive welfare benefits. In fact, most people in the US living in poverty are employed and almost three times the cost of welfare is given to corporations in the form of tax deferrals and outright subsidies.

Voice of the Membership

This newspaper is a voice of the IWW membership, and so represents a diverse range of views. Articles not so designated do not represent the official position of the IWW.

America Online workers need union

Below are excerpts from an open letter recently sent to Mike Ritonia, general manager of AOL's Oklahoma City Call Center. Copies were emailed to several AOL workers before management terminated the fellow worker's AOL account:

Tonight, I left AOL as a Tech Rep in training....

This billion-dollar company pays paltry, insulting wages... Seven Dollars an hour is less than \$15,000.00 a year. Could you live on that sir? So, we have this billion dollar company with only 5,000 employees, exploiting labor for huge windfalls that are seen by only a select few, including the multi-millionaire CEO Steve Case. ...

The people who were fired after the testing were called out of the classroom, told of their dismissal, and had to go back to their classmates to gather their belongings and leave. How humiliating! How disrespectful! The job-depending tests were given between ten and midnight. Is anyone at their best at those hours? People left jobs behind to work for you! They "failed" your test and were herded out like so much cattle....

You should be held to a higher standard because in fine corporate welfare fashion, my tax dollars are helping pay your salaries with "incentive" programs from our state government. Our instructor lectured me on "freecenterprise," well, in all due respect ... in true capitalism, you ought to damn well provide the capital for your own start-ups and not take handouts from the government. "Free" Enterprise? No, it's only "free" money for corporations who line the pockets of lawmakers who support these kinds of welfare for the rich and powerful. But give \$300 to a mother with 2 kids and no job? No! That's "welfare." AOL should have to account for the fact that you took my tax money to come here, and pay salaries that should insult any worker in this country... These people are the "backbone" of AOL — at \$7 bucks an hour. When your workers at AOL hear the truth of AOL revenues and CEO salary, they too will see the crime you are perpetuating against the workers who are the "backbone" of your company.

In solidarity with those shamefully dismissed on Tuesday, and the realization that your "incentive" program is a sham, I quit. I could not, in good conscience give another hour of my time to further enrich the already wealthy in Virginia while the workers on that floor are given "incentive" pay based on length of call-times, the modern day, high-tech "speed-ups."

What will be done? Expect your employees to hear the truth. I plan to be instrumental in organizing a union at AOL. By law, we will be allowed pickets around the mall, leaflets will be handed out, union information will be posted on bulletin boards ... your workers will hear the truth.

The party for AOL is about to come to a halt. Movies in the break room, popcorn, a fitness room, a "fun" atmosphere, free t-shirts, company picnics — none of this can pay the OG&E bill, or an employee's rent...

In Solidarity With AOL Workers,
Mike Swickey

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Workers storm Aussie parliament

Some 3,000 protesters stormed Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, August 19th to protest the government's proposed budget on the news, concluding a march by more than 25,000 unionists, students and native Australians. When police blocked the way battering rams were used by construction workers to bash in the glass doors and people streamed into the building.

The boss press reacted with fevered denunciations of the "violent" protesters and wild claims of injured police officers. Yet although 45 demonstrators were initially detained by police, only four were formally arrested - two on trespass charges and two on dubious assault charges.

"The most wonderful thing about the rally was the symbolism of a huge crowd literally ripping open the doors to parliament," Graham Carter said. "They are big doors, but one by one they were pried open by the massive crowd until only a band of 200 police stood between us and our 'representatives.' Any implements taken off the crowd were only used to open doors. Apart from a couple of placards thrown in the air, none were used as weapons."

French workers fight cuts

Naval armaments workers at Brest blockaded the port Sept. 10 in an early skirmish of what promises to be an autumn of discontent in France. Unions are digging in against government spending cuts. Civil servants voted for a national strike to protest job cuts, while teachers will march in Paris Sept. 30. Rail workers are also considering strike action, as are workers at Air France and at nationalized banks.

Costa Rica: Victory through solidarity

Transportation workers in Costa Rica forced the state to withdraw its privatization plan, institute a minimum docking fee, and raise salaries through a from August 22 to September 2. The workers in Limon, on Costa Rica's Atlantic coast, united through 57 local unions and community organizations. The accord ending the strike involves 200 resolutions, including expanded health and education programs.

Workers hold German factory

Workers at the Philips-owned iR3 Video Factory in Nuremberg, Germany, have been fighting to save the 586 jobs threatened by Philips decision July 26th to close the plant. On August 21st, workers set up guards at the factory gates to prevent the planned dismantling and transport of the production facilities to Vienna and Hungary. Workers have also set up a tent for meetings at the site, and opened a web page to publicize their struggle: <http://www.gn.apc.org/labournet/ir3/>

Ukrainian miners held

Police arrested a leader of a Ukrainian coal miners' strikes August 9th on charges of organizing road and railway blockades during July strikes over unpaid wages. Mikhail Krylov, leader of the Donetsk strike committee, was seized by security agents from a train in Kharkiv, near Ukraine's border with Russia. Two other unionists were also arrested. Krylov helped lead a strike by Ukrainian coal miners demanding some \$500 million in overdue wages. The three-week protest ended July 18 when the government promised to pay some of the back wages.

Songs of Struggle

David Rovics: "Make It So." Cassette \$8 CD \$12 (plus \$1 shipping), PO Box 995, Jamaica Plain MA 02130-0009.

Social change can be fun, FW David Rovics insists, and he sets out to prove it in his performances and on this, his second recording. "Make It So" features 18 songs, ranging from originals to labor classics by Woody Guthrie, Ralph Chaplin and Utah Phillips. These are songs of struggle (Vigilante Man, In the Heat of the Summer, Talkin' Union, Only Our Rivers Run Free), but also of whimsy (Big Rock Candy Mountain, Whiskey-Drinkin' Mama, and the title cut - which asks how the Star Trek universe came to be), well sung and quite listenable.

Some radical musicians wield their guitars like weapons, clubbing you over the head with politically correct slogans. FW Rovics prefers to tell stories and raise questions about things too often taken for granted. These are polished performances, but still have the personal feel of live performances. Only a few of the songs are explicitly about labor, but I like them anyway. I've listened to this tape several times since I picked it up at a Utah Phillips benefit FW Rovics sang at

DNA Rag

DNA Rag, seventeen original and traditional songs performed by Cultural Workers & Artists Caucus (CWAC) Detroit chapter, Finland Station, and Anne Feeney. Includes three songs about the Detroit Newspaper Agency. Order cassettes from: Teamsters Local 2040, 2741 Trumbull, Detroit MI 48216 phone 313/961-4774. Prices: \$10 (people), \$25 (scabs), \$one-quarter billion (DNA management). Add \$2 for postage. All proceeds go to the striking unions.

and I expect I'll be listening for a while to come.

FW Rovics is also available for concerts or to present his workshop on Cultural Activism: Music as a force for social change. He's yet to sign with a major label, so you can reach him at the same address where you can get his tape: PO Box 995, Jamaica Plain MA 02130.

Reviews

Mark Ross: Look for Me in Butte. Cassette \$10, CD \$15, Smokestack, PO Box 233, Butte MT 59703.

Butte, Montana was once known as the richest hill on earth because of its great copper veins; today the played-out mines are closed and the town is surrounded by toxic slag heaps. In this album, FW Mark Ross recalls Butte's glory days - but with a twist. These are songs and stories not about the plutocrats, but about the workers who built Butte and fought for some measure of dignity and comfort in their lives.

You'll find songs here about the Butte newsboys' strike, miners strikes, life in the mines, and the struggles between the IWW and AFL miners' unions. You'll also find non-Butte classics like T-Bone Slim's "The Popular Wobbly," Utah Phillips' "Goodbye Joe Hill" and such classic miners' songs as "My Sweetheart's a Mule in the Mines."

FW Ross' lively performances help recall the spirit of those long-ago struggles, and their continuity with contemporary struggles. Butte still suffers from robber barons, but now the plutocrats are picking at the corpse of workers' lives and dreams without any pretense of creating jobs.

JB

Flea Radio Berkeley: From Swapmeet to Demo!

Only a few years ago "pirate radio" was just a dream for many organizers and activists; a method of electronic civil disobedience in which DJs would have to constantly be on the move, fearing the almighty Federal Communications Commission. Those days are now almost over, however, as micro-powered radio stations emerge worldwide at a rate that cannot be controlled. Micro-powered radio has become bold as well as mobile and is becoming an important form of alternative media. Recently, 87.9FM Flea Radio Berkeley, one of the latest micro-powered radio stations in the San Francisco Bay Area, began broadcasting every week live from the Berkeley Ashby Flea Market in broad daylight as well as broadcasting live at public events and demonstrations.

Flea Radio Berkeley, an offspring of its larger sister station 104.1FM Free Radio Berkeley, is an unlicensed, commercial-free, volunteer-run micro-powered radio station which does more than just broadcast news. Unlike most micro stations, Flea Radio Berkeley broadcasts outdoors, face-to-face with consumers and merchants at the Flea Market and at public events. Community members can witness the accessibility and feasibility of micro-powered radio in action. As the public comes more and more into direct contact with stations like Flea Radio Berkeley the fear formerly imposed by the FCC becomes less and less threatening.

About a year and a half ago Free Radio Berkeley began challenging the FCC monopoly over the radio air waves. Eager to put micro-powered radio to rest the FCC attempted a \$20,000 fine against Free Radio Berkeley's founder, Stephen Dunifer. However, battling the FCC on the grounds of free speech Free Radio Berkeley continues to prevail to this day, broadcasting 24 hours a day, seven days a week with 40 watts of power and over 100 volunteers. During the last year and a half of this court case Free



Radio Flea Berkeley - Broadcasting workers' struggles live and uncensored....

Radio Berkeley has grown stronger and better organized while dozens of new micro-powered radio stations have emerged across the nation.

As more Flea Market consumers have become more aware of the potential and relative safety of micro-powered radio, a greater number of community members are also becoming involved. 87.9 Flea Radio Berkeley has been especially effective in reaching everyday working people that may not otherwise be aware of local micro-powered radio stations. Instead of reaching "converted" audiences only, Flea Radio Berkeley has been able to reach and educate everyone who walks through the Ashby Flea Market.

One of the things which Flea Radio Berkeley has promoted weekly has been workers' organization and the IWW. Many Flea Radio DJ's are wobblers. Alongside an assortment of literature about micro-powered radio has been information about the One Big Union. Leaflets have been picked up by swap meet shoppers and the IWW has been talked about over the airwaves. As a result new workers have signed up in the Industrial Workers of the World. The affect, then, is that people are becoming informed about the micro-powered radio revolution as well as joining the IWW in the workers'

fight for syndicalism.

While dozens of new listeners are now becoming aware of the IWW as well as tuning into micro-powered radio, or supporting it fundamentally, there is also an increasing number of people wanting to voice themselves over the airwaves. "There is no better way to express the truth to your community," said one Flea Market shopper, "than to speak to them directly through unlicensed radio." Other Flea Market shoppers have sung songs, poems, and volunteered to help out with micro-powered radio station projects.

Flea Radio Berkeley and micro-powered radio has also been expanding its horizons by broadcasting live and on-the-spot at public events as an alternative to corporate media news coverage. For example, at a recent demonstration against the exploitation of prison workers by the Unicom corporation in San Francisco, in which the IWW, H.E.R.E. and other unions attended, the Flea Radio Berkeley 87.9 transmitter was set up in a van across the street and broadcast the news live to commuters in their passing cars. As the demonstration proceeded, signs were held up that read "tune to 87.9." Anyone driving by could then tune in to 87.9 and hear exactly what the demonstration was about instead of trying to figure it out by reading a few protest signs.

More recently, at the People's Park Hemp Day festival, the 87.9 Flea Radio transmitter again became mobile and was able to broadcast live coverage of the music, speeches and events all day long. Neighbors as well as commuters could hear the event all day long just by tuning into 87.9. The Flea Radio Berkeley transmitter is beginning to provide a real and accessible alternative to activists' coverage of events. No more lies, no more half-truths, no more corporate bias in the broadcasting; mobile micro-powered radio is becoming a reality.

The coverage of various events, as well

as the interaction with community members made possible by mobile micro-powered radio is not over. Flea Radio Berkeley will continue to broadcast live at various places. Soon, for example, the 87.9 transmitter should also be covering live news at the Lafayette Park picket lines at the Lafayette Park Hotel, where over 15% of the work force has been fired for trying to organize a union. The IWW has been directly involved for a year and a half in supporting the Lafayette Hotel workers, in which wobs have been arrested several times. The Flea Radio Berkeley transmitter will hopefully let Lafayette residents know that the workers, H.E.R.E., and the IWW are not going to stand for union busting.

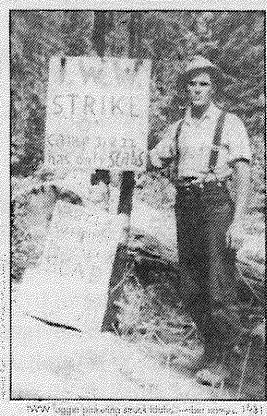
The wide usage of micro-powered radio today, as well as its ability to now appear in public and interact directly with the community, is building support and appreciation for micro-powered radio as well as helping build labor solidarity. There are fewer and fewer people today who are even surprised that micro-powered radio stations, like Flea Radio Berkeley, can now broadcast in broad daylight without FCC approval. The dream of activists taking back the air waves for the good of the community and the working class is now finally coming to fruition. It is no longer impossible to broadcast through micro-powered radio; today it is a very real and effective way of creating alternative media within our communities and among our fellow workers. Flea Radio Berkeley is no longer restricted to the Flea market, and with the help of other micro-powered radio stations in the area the working class and the micro-powered radio revolutions continues to grow.

— Jason Justice, X344085

For information on how you can start your own micro-powered radio station contact: Free Radio Berkeley, 1442 A Walnut St. #406, Berkeley CA 94709 Tel: 510/464-3041 e-mail: frbspd@crl.com

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A New Union Vision

The Industrial Transportation Project (PO Box 5464, Tacoma WA 98415-0464) has issued a 17-page pamphlet under this title by long-time Wob Arthur J. Miller, with an afterword by FW Paul Harris noting that the IWW is "the only organization ... actually controlled by and for the workers." *A New Union Vision* draws a sharp distinction between the IWW and the business unions, noting that the labor movement has been crippled by undemocratic, scabby organizations dependent upon the bosses' government and its laws.

FW Miller calls for industrial organization, One Big Union solidarity, and effective international solidarity. Unions need to struggle against sexism, racism and Eurocentrism if we hope to escape the divisions that have afflicted us for too many years. Unions cannot address only the workplace—the environment and the health of our communities are also working-class issues.

"A new union vision is about people acting in their real self-interest. The self-interest of the employing class is to increase their wealth at the expense of the earth and of working people... Whenever working people scab on each other or compete for wages, they only increase the owners' wealth while decreasing their own. Only working people can act in their own interest. The employers will not. The government, controlled by the wealthy, will not. Politicians will not, for they seek to control the power of the many for their own personal gain. The union bosses will not, because they, like the politicians, act only in self-interest. If all these can work only for selfish gain with the approval of society, why then are working people (who are the majority) denied the right to do the same?"

"The self-interest of working people is a society that is based upon the well-being of all, not for the sole benefit of a few.... If you are tired of working for the benefit of the wealthy few, then think about joining the IWW and start to work for those who really matter to you."

One Big Union. by IWW.

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

The General Strike.

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

Labor Law for the Rank & Filer.

by Staughton Lynd.

Revised and updated, this classic self-help manual is subtitled: "building solidarity while staying clear of the law." \$7

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

Rebel Voices.

Songs of the IWW sung by IU 630 Wobs. Tape \$10.

We Have Fed You All for 1,000 Years.

Utah Phillips sings Wobbly songs. Tape \$10.

IWW Buttons

Fire Your Boss! \$1.

Black Cat/Direct Action, \$1.

IWW Globe circled by motto: "Labor is Entitled to All it Creates." Black & Red, \$1.50.

Labor History

The IWW: Its First 70 Years. Fred Thompson & Pat Murfin, \$14.95

The Centralia Tragedy of 1919: Elmer Smith and the Wobblies by Tom Copeland. \$17.50.

The Great Bisbee Deportation of July 12, 1917

compiled by Rob Hanson. \$2.50

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

Memoirs of a Wobbly.

by Henry McGuckin.

A rambling Wobbly organizer of the 1910s tells how they hoboed, organized and lived. Free speech fights and "fanning the flames of discontent." \$5

Rebel Girl, the autobiography of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. \$9.95.

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

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

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 Rock Epic, Western Miners and the Industrial Revolution, 1860-1910 by Mark Wyman, \$13.

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

Rise and Repression of Radical Labor. by Daniel Fusfeld.

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

Sacco and Vanzetti, The Anarchist Background. by Paul Avrich. hardcover, 265 pages, \$15.

Haymarket Scrapbook. ed. Dave Roediger & Franklin Rosemont. \$15

Beyond the Martyrs, A Social History of Chicago's Anarchists, 1870-1900. by Bruce C. Nelson.

A social history of Chicago's anarchists & socialists of the period. \$10.

Miners & Medicine - West Virginia Memories. Claude Frazier

An intimate recounting of medical problems and daily life in the coalfields in the early part of the century. Hardcover, \$10

Workers and Dissent in the Redwood Empire. Daniel Cornford

Turn-of-the-century radicalism among Northern California lumberworkers. \$12

Seven Red Sundays. Ramón Sender

A highly readable political novel about a revolutionary strike in Spain. Cast of communists, anarchists and syndicalists. \$7

The Revolution Within The Revolution, Workers' Control in Rural Portugal. by Nancy Barneo.

Compelling account of a resurgent, revolutionary agrarian movement during "The Revolution of the Carnations" and its af-

termath, \$15.

Emma Goldman in Exile, From the Russian Revolution to the Spanish Civil War by Alice Wexler, \$14.

Year One of the Russian Revolution by Victor Serge, \$12.

The Union League Movement in the Deep South by Michael Fitzgerald, \$12.

Plain Folk in the New South: Social Change and Cultural Persistence, 1880-1915 by I.A. Newby, \$10.

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

Autobiography of Mother Jones

Foreword by M. LeSeur, Intro. by Clarence Darrow, Tribute by Debs, Afterword by Fred Thompson. \$15

A Generation of Boomers, The Patterns of Railroad Labor Conflict in 19th Century America. Shelton Stromquist, \$10

Let Us Now Praise Famous Men by Edward Agee & Walker Evans.

Text and photos of 1930s workers. \$9.

The Kid From Hoboken, An Autobiography. Bill Bailey, \$15.

A People Betrayed - November 1918: A German Revolution by Alfred Döblin. \$8.00.

The Movement and the Sixties, Protest in America from Greensboro to Wounded Knee. Terry Anderson. \$15

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.

Clearance Sale

The Road to Rebellion, Class Formation and Kansas Populism, 1865-1900 by Scott McNall, pub'd \$49.95, now \$10.

Power! by MacShane, Plaut & Ward. Black workers' fight to improve everyday life and transform South Africa. \$8, now \$4

The Yale Strike of 1984-85 now \$4

A Year in the Life of a Factory \$5

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, now \$5

Break-Ins, Death Threats and the FBI, The Covert War Against the Central America Movement, list \$14, now \$6.

The Cointelpro Papers, list \$16, now \$7

Work Hazards and Industrial Conflict, was \$10, now \$6

Available from IWW Branches

T-SHIRTS

Wobbly Globe, (S, M only), Join the OBU (L, XL only), Sabo-Cat, General Strike (S, M, L, XL) \$12 each, 100% cotton. State size & 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 on Red, L or XL. \$14 + \$3 s/h. P&L Printing, 2298 Clay Dr., Denver CO 80211

Voltaire de Cleve On Marriage \$2.50. **Objectives of Anarcho-Syndicalism** by Rudolf Rocker. \$1. **Women & Imprisonment in the U.S.** \$2.50. Ask for catalogue. Philadelphia GMB, 4722 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia PA 19143

OUTSIDE U.S.

Canadian Songbook \$5. **36th Edition Little Red Songbook** \$10. c/o J. Chang, 137 Roncesvalles #208, Toronto ONT M6R 2L2

British Isles - Songbook (36th Edition) £4 post-paid; a selection of IWW literature is available from IWW, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB. **Black IWW t-shirts,** red globe logo £5 plus post and packing from Oxford IWW

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Poema por El Dia de la Raza

Muchos siglos antes los Chinos
came to these shores
And saw that they were not
the first people that came here.
For many Moons they sailed along the Pacific Coast
Taking notes for their history books,
swapping semillas, cuentos y palabras
Before sailing back to China.
Some centuries later some Scandinavians
came across the other Ocean,
Real rough batos who were accustomed
to coming on pretty tough
But when they found that those whom
they called the Skraelings
Could be every bit as rough, they sailed back
To their fjords and flaxen-haired rucas.
It has been rumored that some Celts
also sailed over
and must have liked what they saw
Because it has been further rumored that they
stayed around and became
Light-skinned Indians because it is rumored
That they never bothered to go back to Wales.
All of the early navigators knew, be they
güero Vikings, prieto Polynesians
o quien sabe quien,
That when Mountains disappear beneath one horizon
or rise up from another horizon,
This Earth of ours cannot be flat;
So never mind what the school teachers
try to tell you,
Este cabrón,
Cristobal Colón,
Cristóforo Colombo,
Christopher Columbus,

Whatever your particular ethnocentric bias
chooses to call him,
He did not think of anything new.

Si el Rey y la Reina de España really believed
This Earth of ours was as flat as a tortilla,
They wouldn't have given old Chris
any second thoughts,
Pero con sus corazones de ladrones
they recognized in this fregón
Immense possibilities of empire
or they would have never
Invested any of their parasitic wealth
in his grandiose idea.

Pero aquel Cristobal, his reputation as a
sea captain was so notorious that
The only way he would have any crew at all
Was for their majesties to man his three ships
with "volunteers" from the
Spanish prisons and the invasion
was soon under way.

Since that day that old Chris landed on these shores
and thought he was meeting the sons of Krishna,
Some sinvergüenza with a badly-misplaced
sense of humor
Has designated for posterity
as "El Dia de la Raza,"
Pero guachale, even Raza cannot remember
when Raza first came to these shores
And even if some of us have become mezclados con
Español, Portugués, Africano, Francés o Anglo Sajón,
one thing we know fo' shu'
La Raza did not begin in 1492!

Their historians refer to us as primitive, backward
and historically unprogressive,
Pero nuestro maiz, papas, hitomates, calabazas, tabaco,

chocolate, camotes, vanilla, chiles y cacahuates,
Saved their so-called "Old Word" from certain
starvation and probably revolution;
Helped them to feed their hungry armies and navies
so they could be progressive enough
to colonize the World.

Yes, it can be said that we backward and
historically unprogressive descamisados
Have done our part towards bringing into being
capitalism and the "modern age,"
Though we would much prefer to be
remembered for jamacas, toboggons y elotes.

Pero para nosotros, "El Dia de la Raza"
todavía no lo llegue;
It is still somewhere in the future.
In spite of cannon balls, gatling guns, bullets,
missionaries, rot-gut whiskey,
typhoid and smallpox-infested blankets,
scalpel-happy abortionists and the
bad arithmetic of the census takers,
We are still around and we intend to stick around
for quite a while longer
and for a damn good reason;
You see, we were practicing ecology and
the classless society for
thousands of years before
Our "civilizers" even had words for these things!

¡Itzachilatlan aik ixpolihuitz!

— Carlos A. Cortez

Muchos siglos antes los Chinos — many centuries before the
Chinese
semillas, cuentos y palabras — seeds, stories and words
rucas — girls (gals)
güero — blond
prieto — dark
o quien sabe quien — or who knows who
sinvergüenza — shameless
ladrones — thieves

Does capitalism make you ill?

The Aug. 8 *Times* of London reports that it does. The popular assumption that East Germans would become healthier after the heavily polluted former communist state was cleaned up has been dashed by researchers in Erfurt and Hamburg. There has been a rapid increase in asthma, hay fever, respiratory diseases and serious allergies. Some cancers — especially those of the breast and colon — have increased in the east, as have a range of stress-related psychological disorders such as anorexia and clinical depression.

After the Berlin Wall came down, western researchers took blood samples from young children and recorded the strength of their lungs. Despite dirtier water, polluted air and soil that was often poisoned by heavy fertilisers, east German children were more robust than their western counterparts: Now, four years later, the Research Centre for Environment and Health has found that childhood allergies have risen by between 20 and 50 percent.

Temporary workers center organized

As many as 25 percent of U.S. workers now belong to the 'contingent' workforce. In Boston a coalition of labor, community, immigrants' rights and social justice organizations has begun a campaign to reach out to this rapidly expanding and predominantly non-union group. The Temporary Employees Meeting Place (TEMP) Center will combine service and advocacy for temp workers with the aim of union organizing. The *TEMPOrganizer* newsletter is available from TEMP!, c/o UAW Local 2324, 650 Beacon Street, Boston MA 02215.

Migrant workers challenge global capital

More than 100 delegates representing migrant workers' organisations, migrant support groups, unions, women's groups, human rights organizations and religious bodies met in South Korea August 28 to September 1 under the theme "Migrant Workers Challenging Global Structures." Excerpts from their declaration follow:

World domination and control by advanced capitalist interests through structural adjustment, liberalisation and deregulation programmes of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Trade Organisation, abetted by the collusion of governments, have resulted in poverty, unemployment and underemployment, unequal distribution of wealth within and among nations, collapse of agriculture, and the absence of peace and security in countries within the region.

Advocates of globalization argue that it hastens the transfer of skills and technology and enhances productivity and efficiency. The reality is, globalization reinforces the control of advanced capitalists interests on the less developed countries, leading to the continued marginalization, if not disintegration, of economic and socio-cultural systems in many countries in the South.

Globalization requires the removal of trade and investment barriers to facilitate the movement of capital, investments, goods and labor across national borders. At the same time, advanced capitalist countries like the U.S. and Japan adopt protectionist policies...

Globalization is leading to profit-driven economies that thrive on cheap and docile labour, especially of women, and societies that stress consumerism and competition. In turn, these have resulted in the erosion of human values, commodification of people

(especially migrant workers), disintegration of societies, families and communities, racism, xenophobia, unsustainable lifestyles, and the degradation of the environment.

Demand for cheap labour has led to subcontracting mechanisms, adoption of "trainee" schemes and increasing feminization of migrant labour. This translates into absence of accountability of companies especially transnational corporations (TNCs), unjust wage structures, absence of economic and social security, and violence against women and migrants. The migrant workers, uprooted from their families and communities, have to work under hostile, abusive and exploitative situations, and are generally denied their right to organise and unionise...

Migrant workers, whether documented or undocumented, have rights as workers and as human beings... The relentless drive

of the capitalists to pursue globalization, and the governments' abdication of their responsibility to the people, make our tasks even greater. We boldly face this challenge.

Therefore:

- We advocate cooperation among peoples and social systems which are empowering, people-oriented, and which promote sustainable life and holistic, integral human values.

- We reject the existing model of development promoted by the IMF, WB, GATT/WTO and TNCs.

- We reject APEC [Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation] and similar free trade and investment mechanisms or agreements.

- We hold governments accountable in providing decent employment for the people, and responsible for abetting the forces of globalization...

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*