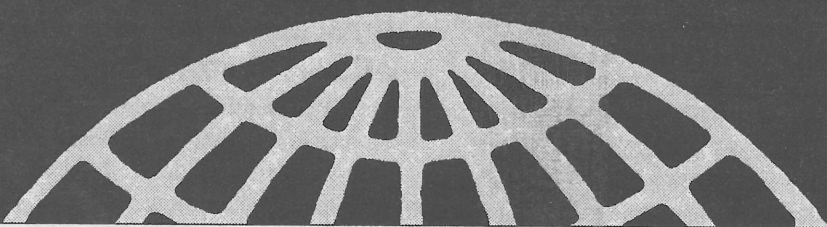


Industrial Worker



★ ORGANIZATION ★ EDUCATION ★ EMANCIPATION ★

January/February 2001

#1640 Vol. 99 No. 1

\$1.00 / 75 p

One million layoffs in 2001

BY BRIAN OLIVER SHEPPARD

During the two months after the September 11 attacks, U.S. employers laid off 800,000 workers. This was the most dramatic spike in unemployment in at least 20 years. With the unemployment rate standing officially at almost 6% as of this writing, it is unclear when layoffs will abate.

The heaviest layoffs came after even conservative economists admitted that America has been in a recession – defined as two back-to-back quarters of economic contraction – since March 2001 (some say it has been recessionary much longer). According to *Forbes Magazine*, December's lay-off tally was just a few hundred shy of the one million mark. By the time this issue goes to press it will have surpassed even that.

These months of some of the heaviest layoffs in recorded U.S. history end a year that was fraught with other disturbing news for U.S. workers.

The dot.com sector – which employed a growing number of highly skilled and young workers – burst its bubble. E-commerce companies were being hyped as vital to a “New Economy” that as high a figure as the U.S. president said could possibly “end unemployment as we know it.” (Clinton) In August 2000, the International Labor Organization told us that U.S. workers were putting in more hours per week than any workforce in the industrialized world – and that this trend was growing, running counter to other countries' trends. The Bureau of Labor Statistics told us that an average of 16 workers die each day in on-the-job accidents, one of the highest figures for any industrialized country. Congress killed OSHA ergonomics regulations. And polls revealed that a staggering 80 percent of workers thought they had freedom of speech and other basic civil liberties on the job, when in fact they don't. Many workers have been fired in the wake of Sept. 11 for voicing anti-war opinions at work.

These layoffs come after workers put in one of the most productive decades in U.S. history. The '90s saw workers producing historically high corporate profits – profits that largely went to fatten the bank accounts of company owners and not front-line (or even middle-line) workers. If the minimum wage tracked worker productivity, some economists estimate, it would be at least \$14 per hour now – more than the estimated living wage of \$10 per hour. United for a Fair Economy noted that if workers' pay had risen proportionate to CEO pay in the '90s that the average production worker would be making over \$100,000 a year instead of the present \$23,000 per year. Instead, workers now look to suffer further wage stagnation – if not outright decline – even as the cost of living continues to rise.

continued on page 5



Lessons from the Ontario Common Front campaign

Hitting the bosses where it hurts, in their wallets, requires building a rank-and-file movement 5



Bike, same-day couriers go IWW

Portland couriers line up with IU 540 for fair treatment 3

Greed upon the oceans: Flag Of Convenience ships

BY ARTHUR J. MILLER, IWW SHIP BUILDERS INDUSTRIAL UNION 320

Steel-constructed nightmares sailing the oceans of the world. Death ships, the birth child of the “new global economy.” Oil spills, sinking rust buckets, crews forced to work long hours at low wages (when they are paid at all), death and injury at sea, and sometimes abandoned without food or water – are we talking about the modern world here? Yes we are! The nightmare is called “Flag Of Convenience” (FOC) ships, a growing form of greed upon the oceans that few people outside of the maritime industry know about.

Though FOC ships have been around for a while, in the new wave of global capitalist expansionism their numbers have greatly increased. Like the global capitalist onslaught of exploitation, the environment, human rights, organized labor and common dignity have been cast aside by the greed of a few worthless parasites upon the seas as well. The once proud maritime fleets of the world are becoming an object of shame. The maritime industry and the health of the oceans are being run aground upon the shallow waters of industrial greed.

I first became aware of FOC ships while working ship repair. These were the ships we had to work on that all of us would have rather not ever boarded. These rust buckets were not maintained, the only work done on them was what had to be done out of urgent necessity.

I have worked on FOC ships of all kinds: tankers, general cargo ships, bulk carriers and cruise ships, to name a few. I have seen first hand the terrible conditions these ships are really in and I have talked to many crew members and heard their stories that seem like tales from a different era.

When I found that few outside of the maritime industry knew little about FOC ships, that is when I decided to do some research on them. Though I was able to find some information in the newspapers, the

bulk of the information I found came from the International Transport Workers Federation. My first exposure to ITF came when the ITF ship *Global Mariner* came to Tacoma. The *Global Mariner* is a floating exhibition on FOC ships and the plight of their crews.

A “Flag Of Convenience” ship is a ship where the nationality of the owner is different from the country in which the ship is registered. Countries that offer registration of ships owned by foreign interests are considered to have what is called an “open register.” Foreign-owned ships dominate the flags of “open register” countries.

The modern origin of open registries can be traced back to the 1920s, when the United Fruit Company created the Honduran open registry to ensure the cheap and reliable transport of its bananas. The Panamanian open registry came about soon after that because U.S.-flagged passenger ships wanted to serve liquor during Prohibition. The Liberian open register came about during the “Cold War” because the U.S. wanted a fleet of “neutral” ships to haul its cargo, mostly oil.

Sometimes it is hard to trace down the real owners of a FOC ship. Often the ship owners' address will only be a Post Office Box. From there you must follow a series of front companies, often in different countries, before you end up finding the real owners.

Many large American shipping lines, like American President Lines, are leaving U.S. flags and are becoming FOC ships. In 1998 there were 28 open register countries of FOC ships and 19,270 vessels over 100 gross tons, which comes to 22.5% of the world's fleet, that year saw an 8.5% increase in FOC ships.

Of the top six fleets of gross tonnage in 1998, five of them are open registers for FOC ships; Panama (6,188 vessels), Liberia (1,697), Bahamas (1,221), Cyprus (1,650) and Malta (1,378). The U.S. fleet ranks 11th

continued on page 6

Portland Wobs picket union-busting grocer

BY BILL BRADLEY

Workers at The Daily Grind and Nature's Northwest – two natural grocers in Portland, Oregon – have formed a natural foods workers organizing committee. Nature's workers anticipate victory in a union election slated for Jan. 11, while Daily Grind workers have filed for union recognition.

Daily Grind workers organized with the IWW in order to look out for each other, confront daily disrespect, and address longstanding problems at the store. However, the Store Manager was quick to threaten that workers would be fired and parts of or the entire store would be closed if necessary to prevent unionization. These threats and other actions stand in clear violation of the National Labor Relations Act and any sort of common decency.

Fortunately, the union is already here. The workers and their allies were not looking for a fight. They had intended an entirely positive campaign to improve the long-neglected natural food store. Nevertheless we have been forced into a fight to defend the democratic right to organize a union of our own choice and construction.

Days after learning that workers had filed for an NLRB election with overwhelming

support, owner Wes Perkins showed up on New Years Eve and announced that the Deli, where the drive was known to have begun, would be closed immediately.

Workers on shift offered to walk out immediately, but instead the new IWW members met and decided to launch a boycott to keep everyone their jobs and get the laid-off workers reinstated.

Perkins was alarmed to discover a picket/boycott at the next open of business, 9 a.m. New Years Day, that appeared to be about 90-95 percent effective in terms of turning customers away, mostly after customers signed a Pledge of Support form and offered other support.

We made new friends as cafe workers and neighbors brought us coffee, money and snacks in the driving thirty-five degree rain. Workers inside were very solid in support, with one notable exception, and willing to talk to anyone who asked what was happening. The owner was seen repeating the threat “I will close this business down before I deal with a union,” and he was informed that he could hardly have more clearly violated the NLRA. As the day wore on, though, and the picket line grew, and the police came and

continued on page 3

Readers' Soapbox 2 Dockers Refuse War Cargo 4 Class War & AFL 5 Labor Fights New Red Squad 7 Farewell, Fellow Workers 8 Resistance 12

Industrial Worker
PO Box 13476
Philadelphia, PA 19101

ISSN 0019-8870

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Periodicals Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
and additional
mailing offices

Subscribers: The number (top line) reflects the last issue due on your subscription

Challenge business unionism

In general I am pleased to see more articles about workplace organization in the IW. Some of what you publish is drawn from the traditional business/trade union perspective, and I think this is fine, since if the IWW is to grow as a workplace organizing force it must be able to speak the language of union organization as it currently exists and recruit two-carders.

On the other hand, I think that when you publish these articles, like for instance the one in the November issue about "right to work" and Taft-Hartley, I think you should include commentary on what the corresponding IWW point of view would be, so that people coming from the trade union perspective can be educated about the differences. So, for instance, it could have been pointed out that the IWW does not seek dues check-off, but makes dues collection an ongoing dynamic of solidarity, not the static safety of contracts or of special government protection beyond what is provided in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

These are big differences, and it is vital that the IWW keep challenging the traditional labor movement/business that developed as a response to New Deal and Cold War politics to reconsider them as union membership continues to drop and the workplace continues to change.

Benjamin Crocker, X342043

A good collection of stories

En route from North Carolina to Philadelphia to work with Quakers for peace, I read the latest IW front to back. What a good collection of stories! I have felt isolated, having recently moved from the Kansas City area to rural NC, but I used the IWW directory to contact the IWW rep. in my state. I was wearing my "No Yo Quiero Taco Bell" t-shirt - recently acquired at the SOA demonstration at Ft. Benning, GA - as I

read Mike Hargis's coverage of the solidarity action in Chicago. There are farmworkers in North Carolina boycotting Mt. Holly olives as a part of this effort. Having worked for the United Farm Workers for several years when I was younger, it feels good - well, great - to be involved in a farmworkers' boycott again...

Perhaps the most challenging article was the one about Edison. My husband works for Edison, as I did last year for a month, so I've read quite a bit about them - but nothing as supportive to my uneasy feelings as your coverage. As they have schools in many states, I hope you will continue to provide this important perspective.

Once I took minutes for one of the IWW board meetings (in Lawrence), and was made privy to a discussion about newspaper graphics - or lack thereof. I guess I should mention, then, that I think as reader that there is freshness and variety of graphics in this issue.

I hope it isn't unusual to receive a letter such as this one - full of thanks and praise for the hard work of the IWW board and the newspaper crew. I really appreciate the efforts of all of you.

Barbara Luetke-Stahlman

Need more tales of solidarity

I realized that my subscription ran out four issues ago, but that I've been getting IWs anyway. So here is \$4 for the issues I got for free, plus \$15 to keep 'em coming for another year.

I like the IW's "new" emphasis on reporting worldwide labor news, although I miss the more personal stories of solidarity and struggle which used to be the IW's mainstay a couple of years ago. What I would really like to see would be a balance between the

two. Maybe fewer historical articles would help to achieve this? It's not that I don't think that history is important, but it may be hard for many people to see why something that happened in the 1920s is news.

Well, anyway, thanks for helping to keep the message of solidarity alive. The profound truth is that our lives have meaning only when we are living and fighting for our brothers and sisters, and not just for ourselves. "All for one, and one for all!"

In Solidarity,
David Palmer, Chicago

Pipeline troubles

West Virginia and Virginia are having trouble with Dominion Energy. They already service Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia, and are trying to get to non-union North Carolina to sell cheap West Virginia natural gas to German and Japanese-owned auto plants.

They propose to build a 260-mile pipeline through our back yards, corn fields, forests, rivers, etc., and pay almost nothing and provide no gas until they get to North Carolina. I would like to hear from people in the region who could help draw attention to this problem.

Jack Frazier, Peterstown WV

May Day Greeting Ads

It is traditional to run May Day greeting ads in our May issue. May Day ads must be received by April 4. You can send camera-ready ads (please check in for spec.s) or we can make them up from your copy. \$10 for one column inch, \$25 for three, \$70 for 1/16 page (4" by 2 col.s), \$120 for a quarter page. Extra copies also available.

British, Australian IWW newspapers

The British Regional Organising Committee has released a new *Bread & Roses* (copies £2 overseas), which contains articles on efforts to organize retail workers, struggles against education "reform," a dispute against privatization in Hackney, and the perils of labor-management cooperation.

The new issue of the Australian ROC's *Direct Action* features a history of industrial unionism in South Africa, conditions in fruit picking, first-person accounts of the JeffBoat dispute, poetry, unemployment, and sexual harassment. (copies AUS\$5, overseas)

IWW members elect new officers for 2002 term

IWW members have re-elected General Secretary-Treasurer Alexis Buss in a referendum vote, and decided to hold the union's 2002 General Assembly in Ottawa, Canada.

Elected to the 2002 General Executive Board were Bill Bradley, Joshua Freeze, Mike Hargis, John Hollingsworth, Patrick McGuire, Hazel Roehrig, and Aaron Rothenburg. Bruce Mark Nevin would have been elected, but withdrew his candidacy. Alternate members are Robert Rush and Robert Dalton.

In a close race, Liam Flynn, Peter Moore and Fiona Taylor were elected to the International Solidarity Commission. Eric Chester will be first alternate. Mark Damron will be General Defense Committee secretary.

Referenda to require proposals for consideration at General Assembly to be submitted at least 60 days in advance (to permit discussion in branches), to permit branches to credential their own delegates, and to reunite municipal workers with state and federal employees in IU 650 were also approved.

**IWW directory****Australia**

IWW Regional Organising Committee PO Box 1013, Collingwood 3066. roc@iww.org.au www.iww.org.au

Melbourne GMB: PO Box 145, Moreland VIC 3058. melbourne@iww.org.au

New Zealand

PO Box 5407, Dunedin, Aotearoa (New Zealand). iwwgmbdunedin@e3.co.nz

British Isles

IWW Regional Organising Committee PO Box 4414, Poole BH15 3YL, info@iww.org.uk. Membership application enquiries, phone Ray on 01202-257556.

London IWW: 0709-2016650.

Pioneer Cooperative Retail Society Job Branch & General Distribution Workers IU 660 c/o Regional Organising Committee.

Swindon Region GMB & Research Councils IU 620: Kevin Brandstatter, del., 9 Omdurman St., Swindon SN2 1HA. 01793-610707.

Yorkshire IWW: YorksIWW@hotmail.com, 0771-5517094.

Canada

Alberta
Edmonton GMB: PO Box 75175, T6E 6K1. iww-edm@iww.ca http://edmonton.iww.ca

British Columbia
Vancouver IWW: PO Box 4755, Stn. Terminal, V6B 4A4. 604-682-3269 x8493

Victoria GMB: PO Box 8283, V8W 3R9. 250-360-9803 vicwob@hotmail.com

Manitoba

Winnipeg GMB: IWW, c/o WORC, PO Box 1, R3C 2G1.

Ontario

Ottawa-Outaouais GMB: Peter Timusk, Sec., 701-151 Parkdale Ave., K1Y 4V8. email: ptimusksympatico.ca French-language del: Mathieu Brûlé parti_hardcore@yahoo.com

Toronto GMB: PO Box 108 Stn P, M5R 2S8. toronto.gmb@iww.ca

Germany

IWW c/o Barrikade, Bismarckstrasse 41a, D-47 443 Moers. Daniel Zimmerman, del., syndikat-a@fau.org

Ireland

PO Box 178, Cork. iww@ireland.com

United States**Arizona**

Phoenix GMB: c/o Aaron, 1309 S Farmer Ln, Tempe 85281. aaron@iww.org 480-303-9580.

California

Los Angeles GMB: PO Box 207, San Pedro 90733-0207. 310-831-6023

Mendocino County: Bill Meyers, del. PO Box 1581, Gualala 95445.

Monterey: Ray Brown, del. 1231 4th St, 93940. 831-333-9803.

San Francisco Bay Area GMB: PO Box 11412, Berkeley 94712. 415-863-WOBS. Meetings 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7 p.m. (Call for location)

Curbside and Buyback IU 670 Recycling Shops: Bruce Valde, del., 510-652-9462.

San Jose: Adam Welch, del. pager: 408-795-9672 email: adam_freedom@yahoo.com

Santa Barbara GMB: PO Box 23008, 93121. John Baranski, del., sbgmb@yahoo.com

Colorado

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

District of Columbia

Washington: PO Box 1187, 20013.

Georgia

Atlanta: 673 Wylie St., 30316.

Hawai'i

Honolulu: PO Box 11928, 96828. Mike Long, del., 808-396-1078 mlong@hawaii.edu

Illinois

Chicago GMB: PO Box 465 Ave., Evanston 60204. del: michaelhargis@netscape.net

Indiana

Bloomington: Phil Leflar, 202 N. Walnut St, 47404. philipaff@yahoo.com

Kansas

Lawrence GMB: PO Box 176, 66044. 785-830-0120 breezels@ku.edu

Kentucky

Louisville: Ben Fletcher GMB, P. O. Box 1313, 40201.

Louisiana

New Orleans GMB: c/o Jeffrey Brite, 2513 Carondelet St., 70130. jbrite@acadiacom.net

Maine

Norumbega GMB: PO Box 3343, Lewiston 04243. Jim Ellsworth, del., 207-626-5388. jimells@mint.net

Maryland

Baltimore: 1621 Fleet St., 21231. bltgmb@iww.org

Massachusetts

Boston Area GMB & Education Workers IU 620 Branch: PO Box 391724, Cambridge 02139. Steve Kellerman, del., 617-469-5162.

Michigan

Detroit GMB: 6135 Regular, 48209. 810-321-7154.

Grand Rapids GMB: PO Box 6629, 49516.

Minnesota

Duluth GMB: c/o Laverne Capan, 1522 N 8th Ave E, 55805-1115.

Minneapolis/St Paul GMB: 1708 E 26th St, 55404. Dels. Sam Adams 612-724-9158, Andy Gifford, 870-9168, Don Kurth 869-4139.

Missouri

St Louis GMB: P.O. Box 11551, 63105 Del. Richard Burke, 314-849-3530. rburkemo@earthlink.net

Montana

Butte: Dennis Georg, construction IU 330 del. 406-494-5836 dengeo@montana.com

New York

NYC GMB: PO Box 7430, JAF Station, New York City 10116, iww-nyc@bari.iww.org

Rochester: Ric Garren, del, 716-385-6681.

Upstate NY GMB: PO Box 74, Altamont 12009. 518-861-5627. Rochelle Semel, del, 291 Bristol Rd, Hartwick 13348. 607-293-6489.

North Carolina

New Bern: Bruce Arnold, del., 1550 Trent Blvd #Q-4, 28560.

Ohio

Cincinnati: Mark Damron, del PO Box 42233, 45242.

Toledo GMB: PO Box 20128, 43610 419-242-0563, UEIToledo@accesstoledo.com

Oregon

Ashland: Forest Workers IU 120, Lomakatsi Restoration Treeplanters, PO Box 3084, 97520.

Lane County GMB: PO Box 371, Eugene 97401. iwwlu@efn.org 541-343-7828.

Portland GMB: PO Box 15005, 97293-5005. pdx@iww.org 503-796-3474.

Restaurant Workers IU 640 Organizing Committee: PO Box 15005, 97293-5005. 503-231-5488.

Public Service IU 650 Branch: c/o Red & Black Cafe, 2138 SE Division, Portland 97202. billbradleyiww@hotmail.com 503-236-6948.

Pennsylvania

Lancaster GMB: PO Box 796, 17608

Philadelphia GMB: PO Box 42777, 19101. phillyiww@iww.org 215-763-1274

Paper Crane Press IU 450 Job Shop, papercranepress@erols.com, 610-358-9496.

Pittsburgh: Kenneth Miller, del, PO Box 99416, 15213. pgh_iww_iu450@yahoo.com 412-231-2085.

Rhode Island

Providence GMB: PO Box 5795, 02903. 401-861-9864.

South Carolina

Harbinger Publications IU 450 Job Shop: PO Box 8325, Columbia 29202. Brett Bursey, del., 803-808-3384, network@scpronet.com

Texas

Austin GMB: PO Box 650011 78765. 512-467-7360 delgin@io.com

Utah

Salt Lake City GMB: PO Box 520835, 84152-0835. slcgmb@iww.org 801-485-1969.

Vermont

Montpelier: Bob Heald, del, PO Box 1285, 05601. 802-229-1719.

Virginia

Harrisonburg: Mike Slaton, del., 645 Kyle St. 22801.

Washington

Industrial Transportation Project: Arthur J Miller, PO Box 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464.

Olympia GMB: PO Box 2775, 98507. 360-956-3713. olywobs@hotmail.com

Seattle Industrial District Council: 5215 Ballard NW, 98107. 206-706-6250. bp172@scn.org

Wisconsin

Madison GMB: P.O. Box 2442, 53703-2442.

IU 450 Lakeside Press Job Shop: 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703. 608-255-1800.

Railroad Workers IU 520: Baltimore Red, del., PO Box 3010, Madison 53704. baltimored@hotmai.com 773-255-5412..

Education Workers IU 620 Job Shop: UW Greens Industrial Shop, 31 University Square, Madison 53715. 608-262-9036.

Milwaukee: IWW, PO Box 07632, 53207.

Industrial Worker

The Voice of Revolutionary Industrial Unionism

Official newspaper of the Industrial Workers of the World

Post Office Box 13476 Philadelphia, PA 19101 USA 215/763-1274 • ghq@iww.org

General Secretary-Treasurer: Alexis Buss

General Executive Board:

Bill Bradley, Joshua Freeze, Mike Hargis, John Hollingsworth, Patrick McGuire, Hazel Roehrig, Aaron Rothenburger

Editor: Jon Bekken

11 Bexley Road #2 Roslindale MA 02131 USA jbekken@bari.iww.org

ISSN 0019-8870 Periodicals postage paid Philadelphia, PA and other mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to: Industrial Worker, POB 13476, Phila. PA 19101 USA

Individual Subscriptions: \$15

Library Subs: \$20/year

(Member sub included in dues)

Published ten times per year printed by Teamsters union labor



Articles not so designated do not reflect the official position of the IWW. Contributions welcome.

Press Date: January 7, 2002

IWW organizing Milwaukee

An IWW group organized in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Labor Day is starting to make its presence felt on area picket lines. Local Wobs joined picket lines at Milwaukee Forge, where machinists have been on strike since Oct. 14 while members of the steelworkers union serve the bosses as union scabs.

Wobs also joined ILA picket lines at the Port of Milwaukee Oct. 11 and 12, while non-union workers imported from out of state unloaded a cargo of cement ash.

Madison Wobs speak against gender violence on the job

IWW member Marya Sosulski represented the Madison General Membership Branch Dec. 8 on a panel discussing violence against women, focusing on the dangers faced by women activists in the workplace.

Madison Wobs also helped organize a protest at a speech by right-wing demagogue David Horowitz Dec. 11, have marched against the current war, and got a brief mention in the travel section of the Nov. 25 St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The branch continues to bring out its new monthly newsletter, *Prairie Fire*. The December issue reports on the organizing in Milwaukee, discusses a member's fight for the right to free speech in cyberspace, reminisces about FW Utah Phillips' recent appearance, and discusses the role of cooperatives.

Protests planned for NYC World Economic Forum Jan. 31 - Feb. 4

The World Economic Forum, an annual gathering of government finance officials and corporate CEOs, has been driven from Davos, Switzerland, by massive protests. Instead, relying upon the post-Sept. 11 repressive climate, they will be meeting in New York City at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Opponents of the capitalist globalization protest are organizing a fitting welcome throughout the January 31 to February 4 confab. Details can be found at the "Abolish the Bank" website at <http://www.abolishthebank.org>.

Daily Grind

continued from page 1

went repeating that we had every right to be there, the owner finally responded to repeated offers to negotiate.

By 3 p.m., a representative was negotiating, by 5 p.m. we appeared to have a tentative settlement, or at least enough progress to stop picketing. The owner agreed in principle to lease the space at an agreeable rate (as a percentage of business, with a below market minimum), details began to be negotiated, and a plan should be put forward this week as negotiations continue. Employees are already getting offers of help with start up capital for a worker coop – long a dream of deli workers. Some grocery employees, whose NLRB recognition hearing is on Jan. 8th, expressed almost giddy surprise at how quick and overwhelming and effective the response had been.

It is too early to declare victory, but people are feeling mighty encouraged and proud. The owner could try to cheat us, but now he knows how nearly complete our support in the community really is. The sense of worker power is very palpable today.

Organizer Training Starting a campaign in your workplace

Saturday, Feb 9th 10am - 6:00pm
Progressive Action Center
1443 Gorsuch Ave, Baltimore
E-mail (preferred): iww@mobtown.org
Phone: 410-563-2008

Portland couriers go with IWW

BY PETE LITTLE

A dozen workers from Transerv Systems in Portland, Oregon, took a few minutes from their workday Dec. 10 to pay a visit to management and make a few requests. Workers asked that a company-wide meeting be set up to discuss a list of grievances involving, among other things, disclosure of how employees were getting paid and job security. Management refused, stating that the issues listed only related to bike messengers and would be discussed only with them.

At this point the workers returned to the streets, filing for an election with the National Labor Relations Board over lunch. This is the third organizing campaign in the same-day service industry involving Portland's bike messengers in ten years. The first two involved the International Longshoreman and Warehouse workers Union, and failed for a multitude of reasons. Some of the reasons included over-reliance on the NLRB and its elections, and a failure to truly organize industrially, beyond just bike messengers or messengers and drivers.

Both previous campaigns were highly oriented around Transerv, a company infamous for its enthusiasm in the "race to the bottom," in wages, rates and conditions that the ultra-competitive courier industry is famed for.

The current campaign at Transerv began germinating about a year ago, when frustrated workers had conversations with representatives from the Teamsters and the ILWU separately. After a brief discussion, it became clear the Teamsters were not the union for couriers, and more discussions developed with the ILWU, who had organized messengers in San Francisco with some level of success.

Workers were also introduced to a different type of union, with a different approach, and began discussing the benefits of democratic, direct action-oriented industrial



unionism. After a time, the benefits and value of organizing with the IWW became apparent, and workers began to join up.

After a year of developing contacts throughout the industry, strategizing and talking with other workers throughout Transerv, workers felt it was time to move. Since demands have been presented, management has balked, lied, and tried to claim that they cannot negotiate because of the impending election. The workers at Transerv have stated they welcome any improvements and negotiations – and need them – before and after the election. Since management's anti-union strategy appears to be fashioning a bargaining unit that is structured against the union, workers have stated they are a union now and want management to recognize and negotiate with them, regardless of the election results.

Dec. 18th was the first payday since the announcement of the union campaign, and although management has stated their refusal to even discuss demands, many workers' paychecks reflected real changes. One of the key demands by the drivers and bikers alike is a commission report with paychecks, showing work done and amount paid off of each package delivered. Many believed that if management was held accountable by

itemizing how they paid workers, wages would increase. Despite management's refusal to supply reports, many bikers and drivers found themselves with record-breaking paychecks – up to two dollars an hour more than they had made at any point working at Transerv. Currently, workers are working towards solidifying these gains for the entire workforce, including office staff, and gaining recognition of the organization needed to defend them.

Fund-raising is currently underway for strike and hardship funds, which can be sent to: IU 540 Fund, c/o Red and Black Cafe, 2138 SE Division St, Portland OR 97202. IU 540 can be contacted at 503-231-5488 or emailed at IU540@IWWPDX.org.

Restaurant workers line up with IU 640

Members of the IWW's newest Industrial Union Branch continue organizing workers in the restaurant industry in Portland, Oregon. In two months we have been approached by workers in a dozen workplaces for help.

We continue to encounter appalling conditions in restaurants. One worker who is talking with us has been working nine-plus hour shifts without a food or even a bathroom break. We also investigated another bar which had had no hot water for nearly a month making workers (and undoubtedly customers) 'mysteriously' ill.

Reports on the Godfather's Pizza campaign in a previous *IW* contained an inadvertent factual error. The owner of the franchise did not close the restaurant due to our organizing. It turns out the building which housed the pizzeria is a prime location for new urban renewal efforts by the city and the property's owner, and is slated for demolition in the near future.

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 working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

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

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

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

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

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

Join the IWW Today

The IWW is a union for all workers, a union dedicated to organizing on the job, in our industries and in our communities both to win better conditions today and to build a world without bosses, a world in which production and distribution are organized by workers ourselves to meet the needs of the entire population, not merely a handful of exploiters.

We are the Industrial Workers of the World because we organize industrially – that is to say, we organize all workers on the job into one union, rather than dividing workers by trade, so that we can pool our strength to fight the bosses together.

Since the IWW was founded in 1905, we have recognized the need to build a truly international union movement in order to confront the global power of the bosses and in order to strengthen workers' ability to stand in solidarity with our fellow workers no matter what part of the globe they happen to live on.

We are a union open to all workers, whether or not the IWW happens to have representation rights in your workplace. We organize the worker, not the job, recognizing that unionism is not about government certification or employer recognition but about workers coming together to address our common concerns. Sometimes this means striking or signing a contract. Sometimes it means refusing to work with an unsafe machine or following the bosses' orders so literally that nothing gets done. Sometimes it means agitating around particular issues or grievances in a specific workplace, or across an industry.

Because the IWW is a democratic, member-run union, decisions about what issues to address and what tactics to pursue are made by the workers directly involved.

TO JOIN: Mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and your first month's dues to: IWW, Post Office Box 13476, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

Initiation is the same as one month's dues. Our dues are calculated according to your income. If your monthly income is under \$1,000, dues are \$6 a month. If your monthly income is between \$1,000 - \$2,000, dues are \$12 a month. If your monthly income is over \$2,000 a month, dues are \$18 a month.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Occupation: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Membership includes a subscription to the *Industrial Worker*.



Japanese dockers refuse to handle war cargo

BY STEVE ARGUE

200 Japanese dockworkers at Sasebo Port have been refusing to load armaments for the U.S.-led war against Afghanistan. Their action also includes a daily one-hour shutdown of the port demanding an end to Japanese involvement in the war on Afghanistan and opposing Japan's new "anti-terror laws" that curtail civil liberties.

The Japanese government's role in the so-called war on terror has included sending aircraft, naval vessels and 1,600 personnel to the Indian Ocean as back-up for the terror bombing of Afghanistan. While not directly participating in combat, the Japanese role is to lend support to the war.

Japan's constitution forbids sending troops into foreign combat. That constitution was enacted under the dictates of the United States after the Japanese government's defeat in World War II. Today the government is moving toward overturning that clause. The resistance in the Japanese working class to Japan moving into the world military arena remains strong after enduring Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and after having seen brutal Japanese imperialist war policies.

While Japan has not played a direct mili-

tary role since 1945, it is a powerful imperialist country in an economic sense. Today the Japanese ruling class wants to couple its ability to bully and exploit third world countries economically with the ability to bully them militarily just as the United States does. Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visit to a memorial for Japanese militarism, the Yasukuni Shrine, coupled with new official textbooks that cover up the crimes of Japanese imperialism and moves to overturn Japan's pacifist constitution are important warnings about the direction the Japanese ruling class is moving.

A factor in the anti-war sentiment at Sasebo is their location midway between Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The U.S. atomic bombing of those cities killed hundreds of thousands of civilians. After the first bomb was dropped President Truman addressed the nation saying, "The world will note that the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, a military base." Neither city was a military target, but the American people were lied to then just as we are lied to today.

Despite the lies of the U.S. government, we now know through European and other foreign mainstream media that over 3,500

civilians have died in the U.S. bombing of Afghanistan. These Afghani civilians had nothing to do with September 11th.

This civilian death count was tabulated by Prof. Marc Harold of the University of New Hampshire, who compiled the information from the foreign press. More civilians have died in the bombing since.

The dockworkers of Sasebo know that the targeting of civilians is never justified. The horrors experienced by the people in Nagasaki and Hiroshima were partially meant to attain an immediate unconditional surrender from the Japanese government in order to avoid an invasion and for the U.S. to stop the Soviet Union from gaining a role in post-war Japan. Whether one agrees with these goals or not, the atomic incineration of hundreds of thousands of civilians coupled with burns, radiation illness, and birth defects has no justification.

Today the U.S. government wants us to think that the murder of civilians on Sept. 11th justifies the death and destruction the U.S. has carried out against Afghanistan. Yet long before Sept. 11th the U.S. government has been carrying out terror bombing killing millions in Korea, millions in Vietnam,

well over a million in Iraq through bombing and sanctions, thousands in Panama, and millions through proxy wars including propping up the racist and genocidal government of Israel and helping put the Taliban in power in Afghanistan.

The dockworkers of Sasebo know that the killing of civilians is not justified, and they are taking one of the most profound actions in the world to stop the killing. They are showing, by their small example, how the workers of the world have the potential to stop imperialist war. That ability lies in the fact that we can stop the shipment and production of war armaments.

The example of the Sasebo workers continues to be very relevant. The so-called war on terror, the Bush Administration tells us, is not over. While the U.S. government has not yet finished their objectives in Afghanistan, they are looking towards carrying out wars in Somalia, Iraq, Sudan, North Korea, Cuba, and Libya. In addition the U.S. is heavily involved in giving billions of dollars of military support to the Colombian death squad government, and giving even more support to the racist government of Israel against the Palestinian people.

Return to the roots: After the OCF Fall campaign

BY JEFF SHANTZ

The Ontario Common Front campaign of economic disruption was initiated almost one year ago with a proposal by the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty to develop a serious, broad-based resistance to the policies of the provincial Tory government. The OCF eventually brought together over 80 community groups, unions, students, First Nations and artists in a coalition unseen in Ontario since the Days of Action during the Tories' first term.

Recognizing the failings of symbolic protests, the fall campaign set out to create a real threat to Tory rule through tactics of economic disruption which would make it too costly for the Tories to continue carrying out their agenda. The corporate backers of the neoliberal regime would be targeted with the intention of raising the costs of supporting the Conservatives.

Common Front actions

The fall campaign kicked off Oct. 16 when more than 3,000 people took part in snake marches which disrupted the heart of Toronto's financial district for much of the morning. Participants managed to confound hundreds of riot police. So frustrated were they that Toronto's Chief of Police, who had promised that protesters would never reach the financial district, reportedly screamed at other command officers, "There's nothing we can do to stop this from happening."

The marches, which managed to shut down several buildings housing corporate Tory backers, were a testament to demonstrators' creativity and discipline. The action was supported by a vehicle caravan on the province's main highway which tied up commercial traffic leading to Toronto for several hours and created real problems for just-in-time production at several plants located outside the city.

These actions reflected the OCF's emphasis on actions which bring a very real cost to the government and its corporate sponsors rather than the tired routines of symbolic protests, banner waving and grievance filings which attempt to shame people who have no shame and care nothing about the needs of our class.

The OCF attempts to disrupt "business as usual" and attach a cost to harmful corporate policies as a means to stop implementation of those policies and as a way to draw people into the movement who are tired of pointless, ineffective "protests." Workers and poor people have neither time nor energy to waste on efforts that do not have at least some

real results. The O16 actions provided a glimpse of the type of efforts that might threaten the neoliberal forces in Ontario.

Several smaller actions followed the "Toronto model" in cities including Guelph, Hamilton, Sudbury and Ottawa. Among the most promising developments has been the growth of a high school flying squad network with groups forming throughout the province. The high school flying squads organized a walkout of several hundred students on Oct. 15 and played crucial parts in actions in Hamilton and Sudbury.

While the campaign did not live up to its heady goals — largely as a result of the massive retreat or active interference of much of the organized labour bureaucracy, especially the Canadian Auto Workers, and in part because of the changed political climate after Sept. 11, it is clear that the OCF has sparked a renewal of serious resistance to neoliberal capitalism in Ontario. Two months after the actions a few lessons can be drawn from the campaign.

The bankruptcy of mainstream labour

The OCF's major shortcoming was the near absence of organized labour. This resulted largely from CAW leadership's decision to withdraw support from the campaign in June, following a mock eviction of the Finance Minister from his constituency office by OCAP, students, members of CAW and CUPE flying squads, and several Wobblies. CAW National President Buzz Hargrove was so upset by the action that he met with the Labour Minister — who months before introduced legislation gutting the Employment Standards Act and extending the maximum legal workweek from 44 to 62 hours — and agreed to withdraw support from OCAP.

So desperate was Hargrove to prove to his corporate masters that he could do their bidding that he not only cut off OCAP's largest source of funding, he also clamped down on the CAW flying squads which were only beginning to grow. Previously rank-and-file

groupings, Hargrove brought all flying squads under control of the National by requiring prior approval before any action. Hargrove was so fearful of these potentially militant formations that he tried to prohibit use of CAW shirts, hats and banners at actions not sanctioned by the National. CAW leadership cynically used the eviction as an excuse to clamp down on a rank-and-file movement which it saw as a threat to its authority. The strangling of the flying squads may be one of the sharpest blows rank-and-file activists have suffered recently, and will deeply hurt fightback efforts in Ontario.

The CAW leadership's disgusting behaviour effectively derailed actions in industrial centres like Windsor where activists had planned to blockade the Ambassador Bridge, the main US-Canada node in the NAFTA superhighway. Stopping traffic for even a short time would have cost the bosses millions of dollars because of the reliance on just-in-time production in factories on both sides of the border.

This possibility was by no means lost on Hargrove, who let it slip in a moment of rage during a meeting with representatives of OCAP allies when he screamed: "Do you know what this campaign could lead to? In Windsor they're talking about shutting down production at our plants." Hargrove did everything in his power to ensure the bosses that their plants would not be affected.

There were other, less dramatic, instances which showed the futility of trying to appeal to union leaders or focus mobilization efforts on the bureaucracies. A prime example involved the efforts of CUPE 3903 to gain the CUPE Ontario Division's commitment to the campaign. 3903 delegates worked hard to win a vote on a resolution committing CUPE Ontario to a general strike of at least one day before the end of 2001. After the convention, Division President Sid Ryan promised that there would be at least five workplace actions against the Tories' proposed cuts to health and safety legislation. By New Year's Day, there had been not a single

workplace action and the "at least one-day general strike" was yet another embarrassing reminder of promises unkept.

Clearly energy spent trying to gain leadership support or pass resolutions is better spent in other ways. Those efforts need to be put into renewing and broadening connections between rank-and-file members. That is the direction OCAP decided on at its annual general meeting in December. OCAP is starting a campaign of "plant gate" discussions with rank-and-file workers. This will offer an opportunity to speak directly with workers about the Common Front and specific campaigns so that they do not have to rely on leadership interpretations of events.

Broadening involvement in the OCF is crucial. The only way to do it which encourages grassroots participation, autonomy, and self-determination is through direct engagement beyond any of the hierarchies and authorities which seek to regulate our actions.

Return To The Roots

Perhaps the most significant lesson is the great need for local community work along the lines that OCAP has long been doing in Toronto neighbourhoods. OCAP has rededicated itself to doing that work with renewed vigour. In the face of racist clamouring for war and tighter borders, OCAP is stepping up its efforts to support immigrants and refugees against racial and class discrimination and for a decent and just life.

The Common Front campaign made it clear that much groundwork needs to be done just to stop or push back the everyday impacts of government policies. In order to build stronger movements and more militant struggles, people first have to experience some victories, no matter how small they might seem. One of the most encouraging developments has been the creation of fightback coalitions and OCAP-style direct action casework groups in several communities. These provide resources for poor people which did not exist prior to the campaign. Eventually they may form a necessary pole of attraction for activists seeking to move beyond the staged reformism of the unions.

Wobblies played a key part in forming one such group at York University. In November, OCAP opened its third Toronto office, jointly staffed by OCAP and the newly formed CUPE 3903 Anti-Poverty Working Group. The working group is ready to assist people experiencing problems with collection agents, landlords, bosses and police or anyone having difficulties with welfare or other government bureaucracies.



AFL regrets boss war on workers

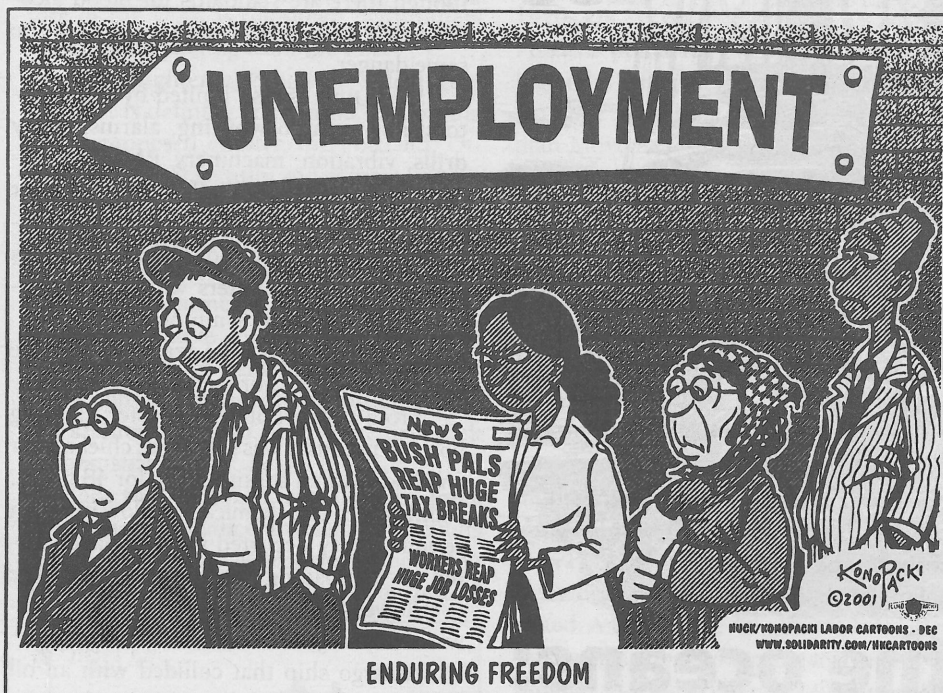
Delegates to the AFL-CIO's Dec. 3-6 convention in Las Vegas begged employers to abandon their war on labor. "This is a time for shared sacrifice," the AFL resolution pleaded, "not for using the crisis to benefit the few while ignoring the workers whose lives and jobs are on the line."

However, in the face of this attack, delegates resolved to continue the same policies that led them to this crisis, re-electing the AFL-CIO officers, sending hundreds of emails to legislators begging them to abandon their anti-labor policies, and spending even more union funds to elect Democrats to office.

Delegates also reaffirmed their "commitment" to organizing, though privately AFL staffers concede that only a handful of the Federation's 66 affiliated unions have implemented past resolutions. Even AFL officials acknowledge that union membership now includes just 13.5 percent of U.S. workers — others say the actual figure is closer to 12 percent.

Delegates did not discuss the withdrawal of the Carpenters union, which AFL officials are reportedly trying to lure back into the Federation by forgiving some \$5 million in unpaid back dues; the failure of the AFL's political efforts despite expending tens of millions of dollars in the last elections; the reasons why union membership continues to fall; or the Federation's \$5 - \$7 million annual deficits, though delegates did vote to more from meeting every other year to meeting every four years, perhaps in recognition that their meetings have been reduced to empty rituals.

Meanwhile, more than 500 union hard



hats were at ground zero in New York digging out from destruction, just as they have been doing around the clock since Sept. 11. Immediately after the planes hit, construction workers around the city dropped their tools and raced to the scene.

So many workers were at the site that construction jobs around the city were unable to function, and construction unions took out newspaper ads pleading with their members to return to work.

However, union workers have been rewarded by being thrown out of their jobs. "It's a national disgrace the way workers have been treated," AFL-CIO President John Sweeney told the *Los Angeles Times*. "We supported the president and his administra-

tion in the war on terrorism from the very first day."

"I really think that we're in two wars: the war on terrorism and the war against workers," Sweeney added. "It's insulting that business leaders and people in government do not want to take care of workers. ... It's very clear that we have an anti-worker administration in Washington. It didn't just start on Sept. 11."

But as long as the labor movement relies on politicians and employers "to take care of workers," further attacks against workers are inevitable. It's time that the AFL recognize that we're in a class war, and decides whether it is willing to take steps to enable workers to defend themselves.

Taking to the streets against local and global bosses

BY JEFF SHANTZ

The weekend of November 15-18 was a busy one in the Canadian capital as a result of meetings of the G20, World Bank and IMF being shifted to Ottawa to avoid massive demonstrations which were feared in their originally scheduled locations in India and the US. It's a sign of the successes of the movement against global capital that more and more meetings have to be moved to authoritarian regimes like Qatar (WTO) or to isolated locations like Kananaskis.

A weekend of demonstrations kicked off on November 15 as over 30 people took part in the final action of the Ontario Common Front's (OCF) fall campaign. The modest action, a mass squeegee/panhandling organized by the Ottawa Coalition Against the Tories, reminded people of the harm done by the provincial "Safe Streets Act" which criminalizes poverty by making it illegal for poor people to squeegee or panhandle to sustain themselves. Several people tool to the streets in defiance of the unconstitutional legislation and squeegeed at an intersection where squeegeers used to work. Three people were given tickets which OCAT will fight as part of its ongoing anti-poverty work.

On November 16, OCAT, Montreal's CLAC (anti-capitalist convergence, which helped organize Quebec City demos) and Toronto's Black Toutha revised the snake march tactic of O16 in a spirited trek through Ottawa's downtown involving almost 500 people. After a series of tense standoffs with police near the sealed off conference zone marchers made their way to a commercial centre where a McDonald's was renovated and an anti-choice poster was given a fitting end. Later cops used tear gas against other protesters who were holding a vigil.

By far the biggest actions of the weekend took place on Saturday, November 17 as three marches converged on the downtown conference zone to demonstrate against the latest meetings of global business elites in which corporate plans against the poor,

workers and nature were being hatched. In keeping with the undemocratic character of the meetings the story of the weekend was largely about the cops and their extreme attacks on civil liberties.

Armed with shotguns, tear gas and even automatic rifles, the cops regularly attacked protestors. Most shocking was the indiscriminate use of vicious cop dogs which severely injured several people. I saw the aftermath of one such attack: a young man bleeding profusely from a leg bitten right to the bone.

The importance of the weekends' actions was the spirit of courage, commitment and militance shown by thousands in the face of threats by the state in the wake of September 11. The OCF campaign and the G20 protests have shown that resistance is not going to back down. Anti-capitalist activists have faced new challenges since September 11, the greatest being to keep some momentum while showing discipline and reaching out to broader communities.

The November actions brought together resistance against the locally harmful policies of globalizing capital and the agents of global capital that demand those policies. The OCF campaign against the provincial government and its policies of privatization, deregulation and criminalization of poverty offered an important chance to make the connections between global decision-makers and the local implementation of policies directed at attacking workers to aid capital. Together the actions emphasized that capitalist globalization is not something which happens at big summits but rather involves local practices and policies which can and must be contested every day.

30 injured in Bangla strike

Dozens of workers were injured and more than 50 arrested during a half-day general strike called in Bangladesh Nov. 15 to protest against proposed gas exports to India and the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan.

Purdy's Chocolates strike broken

BY GORDON FLETT

105 members of the Communications, Energy & Paperworkers Union of Canada, Local 2000, employed at the Purdy's Chocolates factory in Vancouver, B.C., were decertified by the B.C. Labour Relations Board and their strike declared over due to irregularities in the original cards submitted for certification in 1997. Specifically, four scabs said they hadn't signed union cards, and the union was unable to prove that they did.

The strike started on April 30, 2001, and ended Oct. 15. The union immediately applied for recertification and an LRB-supervised vote has been conducted on the employer's premises. The vote, however, is still sealed as the company has been dragging things out as much as they could. A decision to count the vote is still being awaited by the workers, who are under severe attack by their rabidly anti-union employer now that it's gotten them back to work inside the Kingdom of Purdy's without a union.

Two workers fired during the strike, Maria Silvestre and Sam Craft, are still awaiting reinstatement hearing dates at the LRB. Sam and Maria continue to staff the former strike office, where they are now staying for free courtesy of the B.C. Carpenters Union.

As one former striker said "They may have won the battle, but they're not going to win the war!" so the members request that people don't buy Purdy's Chocolates.

The company's e-mail is chokit@purdys.com. Messages of support can be sent via the Vancouver & District Labour Council and IWW Vancouver strike support committees at gflett1@shaw.ca.

Attention Wal-Mart shoppers

Workers at Sam's Club 6382 (Las Vegas) were forced by managers to remove American flag stickers from their name badges Sept. 17 because the stickers were provided by a union. Managers previously seized pens the UFCW provided after Sam's began charging workers for the pens they use in their work.

1 million layoffs...

continued from page 1

The U.S. government doesn't look eager to help out, either. The "Economic Stimulus Bill" that is bouncing about in Congress has been met with foot-dragging little seen in recent history. Some politicians want to use this opportunity to hand out even more subsidies and tax breaks to industry chieftains. Some want to give payments to unemployed workers, but want these funds to come from food and education programs for underprivileged children (SCHIP). As of this writing workers are seeing little direct relief; they are left twisting in the wind while Congress takes months to decide which corporation will get the next bailout.

One of the more perverse features of this system has always been that workforce productivity rarely pays off except in the form of layoffs. When workers are as productive as they were throughout the last decade, they flood markets with goods and services, creating an abundance that in any rational system would mean plenty of goods for all. However, in our system, abundance is a bad thing: markets become glutted with products and so prices fall, and when prices fall companies have to make cutbacks to compensate for the losses this entails. This translates into layoffs. In our system, being productive means in effect one digs one's own grave. (This is, of course, contrary to the capitalist ideology that good, hard work is always rewarded with personal gain.)

The layoffs experienced now reflect not only the U.S. workforce's amazing productivity over the last decade, but also capitalists' unwillingness to make investments since Sept. 11, as witnessed by the sharp decline in stock prices.

Dick Cheney and others have repeatedly told Americans to act patriotically by carrying out their "normal economic activity." In other words — spend, spend, spend, to help out the economy. Some suggested this was a means of fighting terrorism akin to dropping bombs on Osama bin Laden (CBS Marketwatch CEO Larry Kramer). The halt in investment and job creation indicates that capitalists are unwilling to spend, and in fact are pulling every dollar out of the market that they can.

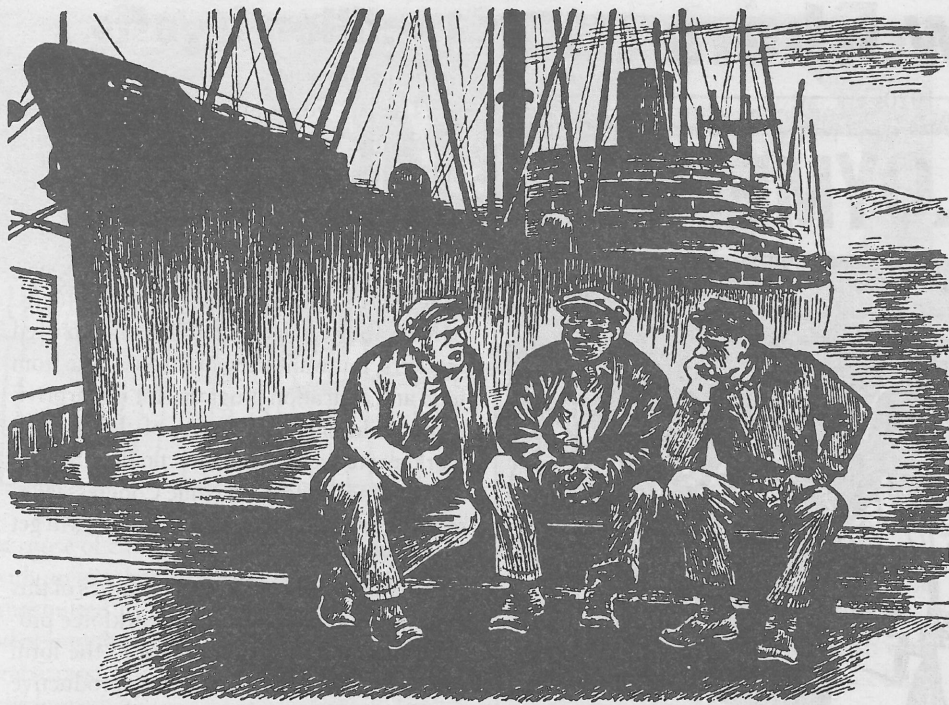
However, what if workers did the equivalent, and withdrew their contribution to the economic process out of the market? What if workers just stopped working, in other words? Can there be any doubt that there would be severe repression, with the National Guard and other armed forces called in, as has been done when workers strike en masse and refuse to work under undesirable conditions? When capitalists yank money out of stocks, close shop doors, and lay off hundreds of thousands of workers, they suffer no recrimination; in fact, they are rewarded with bailout packages in Congress. If workers closed their shop doors, so to speak, what would happen?

AFSCME members picket AFL convention for democracy

Rank-and-file members of AFSCME Local 3299, who work at the University of California, picketed the AFL-CIO Convention Dec. 3 to demand union democracy. When AFSCME won legal recognition after a long campaign, it replaced campus-based locals with a statewide council which workers have found unresponsive to their demands. UC clerical workers earlier withdrew from AFSCME, forming an independent union.

AFSCME members say the situation has worsened since state legislation authorized agency shop campaigns, eliminating the union's need to appeal to workers for dues support. When local officers resisted, AFSCME placed their local in a trusteeship.

Is the Industrial Worker available in your bookstore? Why not take a bundle?



Greed upon the oceans: Flag Of Convenience ships

continued from page 1

in gross tonnage. The top six fastest-growing fleets, in percentage of gross tonnage, includes four other open registers: Cayman Islands, Cambodia, Belize, and Antigua/Barbuda. This comes to 51.3% of the world's gross tonnage carried on FOC ships.

Each year the numbers keep growing at an alarming rate. The reason for this is that there is greater profit in sailing FOC ships. Reasons for this include: easy entry to and exit from open registers; low or no taxes levied on shipping; lax health, safety, environmental and ship maintenance regulations, with no effective enforcement mechanisms; ability to hire ship crews from the most economically depressed nations, avoiding unions; and in some cases allowing shipowners to avoid responsibility for such things as environmental damage (FOC ships make up two-thirds of all ocean pollution case cited by the U.S. Coast Guard), shipping accidents, and payment of ship crew's wages.

Lost at sea

Of the top 20 flags of lost vessels at sea in 1998, the top five were open registered, 10 out of 20 were also open registered; 53 of 74 ships lost were FOC ships.

The ITF says that at least 2,200 seafarers die each year at sea, and that crews on FOC ships are more than twice as likely to get killed on the job. The families of seafarers who die on FOC ships usually do not receive a penny in compensation from the shipowners.

The Coast Guard in Lake Charles found 32 major deficiencies on two small Belizean freighters — the Velda and the Marwil — alone in the same month. Those two ships were issued pollution prevention and vessel safety certifications by the International Shipping Bureau of Miami, even though there were wasted cargo-hold frames on the Marwil and holes in the Velda's superstructure. The Coast Guard believes that many FOC ships are being certified without inspections and that they are just being sold without ever having even seen the ships.

In just one year FOC ships registered in Malta had 207 detained ships for general safety problems including inadequate life-saving and fire-fighting equipment, radio and navigation systems, crew accommodations, and for excessive pollution.

The consequences of ships maintained so poorly are seen in the papers all the time with accidents and oil spills. One accident that got worldwide publicity happened on the Mississippi River down in New Orleans.

On Dec. 15, 1996, the Liberian FOC ship 70,000-ton freighter Bright Field lost power and much of its ability to steer, ramming into a busy shopping mall on the New Orleans riverfront, gouging up 200 feet of steel and concrete. There were 116 people who were injured. Because of the actions of the crew

and the river pilot the ship just missed, by 70 feet, a floating casino packet with people. They did that by dropping the anchor; had they not been able to do that hundreds of people would have been killed.

Ironically, when I lived down in New Orleans another Liberian FOC ship lost steering and plowed into the New Orleans waterfront on its way up river. After it was repaired and loaded up river, on its way back down river it again lost steering and collided with a sternwheeler (I worked on the repair crew after that).

The M/V Jahan (Belize FOC registered) was reported sunk in the South Atlantic Ocean in good weather, and all 28 crew members were reported lost. A distress call reported "uncontrollable flooding" and said the mostly Bangladeshi crew would be forced to abandon ship. The distress call was not a general call but rather was a normal telex sent to the shipowners. Australian Marine Rescue, the South African Air Force and three bulk carriers searched for the ship and found nothing. Later the ship resurfaced in Tema, Ghana, displaying a different name. It seems that the ship had a lien on it and sought to fake its own sinking.

In 1998 the top 20 flags the ITF Actions Unit handled crew complaints from included 11 open registers accounting for 1,197 out of 1,597 complaints. These complaints included: abandonment of seafarers, substandard living conditions, substandard ships, victimization, unfair dismissals, medical treatment, overtime and delayed wages.

Wages paid to seafarers is a major reason for FOC ships; for example, the estimated monthly cost of a 24-member European crew (officers and unlicensed seafarers) is \$80,100, a Chinese crew \$21,900. 18% of FOC crews get paid less than \$500 a month. 68% are paid less than \$1,200 a month and 6% of all FOC crews are owed back wages. On most FOC ships stowaways (often escaping political repression) are used as slave labor and do not receive any wages.

The following is one good example of the conditions of FOC ships. The Coast Guard detained the Greek-owned FOC bulk carrier the Fontini after they found no working pump for fighting fires, lifeboat space for only 26 of the 40 men aboard, and the crew complained of kidney and lower back pains from having to drink foul water.

Ships are complex workplaces and the level of alertness is very important. For it has been shown that human factors were a critical part in at least 80% of shipping accidents. With the general reduction in the size of ship crews, the increased number of hours they work, and the increased length of tours away from home (many more than a year) fatigue has become a dangerous factor.

Researchers have found that long hours worked are similar to the effect of blood-alcohol levels higher than those allowed in the

operation of any vehicles. But on FOC ships there are no standards for hours worked, though there are standards for blood alcohol levels even though they both pose the same danger.

Sleep time is also limited by other factors: noise, cargo working, alarms, safety drills, vibration, machinery, PA announcements, call-outs while off-watch and poor weather. The working patterns of many seafarers run against the body's natural rhythms and leave many seafarers with almost permanent 'jet lag'-type symptoms.

The following are two examples of where fatigue was the major factor in accidents:

From a report of a shipmaster; "During port operations, I was serving as chief officer and had worked continuously for 48 hours. I contributed to a chemical overflow in which serious injury occurred by not concentrating on the loading operation. Acrylonitrile overflowed and covered two men when I hot-washed an adjacent tank."

A cargo ship that collided with an oil tanker after the officer keeping watch — who had obtained only 2.5 hours sleep in the preceding 33 hours — fell asleep.

Floating rust buckets

Many FOC ships are nothing more than rust buckets that are run as cheaply as possible. That means little maintenance of the ships. When these ships are detained for the purpose of repairs, pollution responsibility and different forms of liability, it has become a common practice of the FOC shipowners to abandon ships. This leaves the ship's crew stranded in a foreign port, many times without food, drinking water, medicine, heat and owed wages, often for many months on end.

In 1998 the ITF handled 66 cases (down from 78 cases the year before) of abandonment of seafarers. The ITF recorded 199 cases of different ships where their crews were abandoned. Of the cases reported to the ITF most were FOC ships. In 1998 this amounted to 371 seafarers abandoned by FOC ships in 1998. The worst-offending open registers were Malta, Panama, St. Vincent, Cyprus and Honduras. The two worst non-open register flags were Singapore and Pakistan.

The following are some examples of abandoned FOC ships in 1999:

The FOC Maltese-flagged M/V Verona was left stranded in the port of Hamburg, Germany, after it was detained for technical deficiencies. The Polish and Filipino crew was left without food or water, and the Swedish owners had not paid the crew for over five months.

The crew of the M/V Terpsichore (Maltese FOC flag) were abandoned in the Port of Mongla, Bangladesh, without food, clean drinking water and electricity. Because of the appalling conditions crew members were in

poor health and there was an outbreak of hepatitis. Because the crew had not been paid in 10 months they were forced to sell their belongings to buy food.

Abandoned at sea

The crew of the Queen of Vevey (Panamanian FOC flag), made up of Russian and Ukrainian seafarers, was abandoned at anchorage at Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands in unsanitary conditions. The ship was deemed unseaworthy. The crew remained unpaid and a local Seamen's Mission was supplying them with food and water. The ship was sold and changed its name to the Maimad and reflagged to the FOC St. Vincent register.

The Burmese crew of the Brahm (Maltese FOC flag) was abandoned off the coast of Lagos, Nigeria, for almost six months. They were forced to cook and clean with river water and became stricken with tropical diseases. Several crew members became so ill that they had to be transported to a hospital. The crew also had not been paid.

The Ukrainian crew of the Alcor (Maltese FOC flag) was abandoned in the St. Lawrence River off of Quebec City, Canada, after it ran aground. The reason it ran around was that it suffered a rudder breakdown. The vessel had a vertical crack in the hull running from deck to water level. The crew had not been paid in months.

The Sri Lankan, Ukrainian and Romanian crew of the Elijeanne (Panamanian FOC flag) were abandoned in Port Au Prince, Haiti. The crew was forced to sleep in alleyways and on hatch covers. The vessel was infested with mosquitoes that led to an outbreak of malaria. The crew also had not been paid.

The crew of the M/V Endurance (Belizean FOC flag) was abandoned in the Port of Maputo, Mozambique. The captain left the ship without food, water or fuel for electricity. The crew had not been paid wages in months.

The mixed nationality crew from Central America and Asia of the M/V Ocean Wave (Panamanian FOC flag) were abandoned in Mongla, Bangladesh, after the ship went aground. Because of serious structural deficiencies and the likelihood of the ship breaking up, the crew left the ship and were placed in custody by Bangladesh authorities. There they waited for their wages.

The Pakistani crew of the Normar Pride (Panamanian FOC flag) was abandoned in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, without food, water or their wages.

The crews of the sister ships oil tankers Luigi S and Zagara were abandoned after another sister ship the Erika (all three are Maltese FOC flagged) broke up and sank in the Bay Biscay, polluting the Brittany beaches with heavy fuel oil. The crew of the Luigi S

A floating block of cement...

The CSL Yarra arriving in Adelaide as the *Industrial Worker* went to press Jan. 8, the cargo ship's machinery hold transformed into a waist-high 1,000-ton block of cement the captain called Mount Yarra. Cement dust that had accumulated over a two-year period was soaked by water from an on-board fire hydrant.

The ship is owned by the Australian division of Canada Steamship Lines. CSL was quick to claim sabotage, noting that the incident occurred amidst a dispute over company plans to sell the ship to subsidiary CSL Asia, register it in the Bahamas, fire the Australian crew, and replace them with Ukrainian seafarers at wages the MUA said amounted to a "fish head and bowl of rice a day."

The Maritime Union of Australia has angrily rejected suggestions that its members might have sabotaged the ship by turning on the hydrant deliberately. "Someone may or may not have turned it (the fire hose) on or off," MUA South Australian secretary Rick Newlyn said, noting that such incidents were hardly unprecedented.

A 1992 Australian government report labeled such operations as "ships of shame" because of the exploitation of crews and the unsafe conditions such ships typically operate under. (See article on "Flag of Convenience" ships.)

The ultimate owner of CSL (Canada Steamship Lines) is Canadian Treasurer Paul Martin, who is expected to become the country's next prime minister. CSL bought the ship in 1999 from the ANL, formerly owned by the Australian government.

Portland unions limit new Red Squad power

BY 345757

Since the fall of the USSR, the U.S. ruling class has been searching for a new enemy to use to manipulate the population away from real issues. With the rise of a powerful, broad-based anti-“free trade” movement an enemy was even more needed. A broadly defined terrorism has become that enemy and the attacks of Sept. 11 gave the FBI an opportunity to once again spy upon and undermine working-class movements.

Key to this new repressive power is the formation of “Joint Terrorism Task Forces.” A JTTF is nominally a coalition of local police departments and the FBI formed to share information and plot joint strategy against political and special interest violence. In reality, the JTTF model is another step towards federalizing local police agencies. The struc-

ture of the JTTF is top-down, with orders and funding coming from the FBI.

More frightening is how the federal government is defining “terrorism.” According to the proposed charter, the Portland, Oregon, JTTF will identify and convict participants in “right wing and left-wing” violence. However, FBI representatives have publicly defined terrorism to include interfering with interstate commerce. At hearings, FBI spokesmen have invoked the infamous Hobbs Act as one benchmark of terrorism. The Hobbs Act, nominally an antiracketeering statute, has also been used to attack unions, strikes, etc.

Like any major U.S. city, Portland has a long history of police attacks upon unions and left-wing political groupings. Specific to our union, old-timers told this author of

1920s era IWWs being hauled away by the Portland police only to be later found floating in the Willamette River. In 1972 the chief of police named the IWW and American Indian Movement as being the most dangerous organizations in town.

In the last 10 years the Portland Police Department (PPD) have been caught in several embarrassing scandals. Police were caught spying on a wide range of ‘dangerous’ organizations such as Oregon Peaceworks, an overtly pacifist and legalistic organization. During this time PPD also infiltrated protest groups, such as BEIRUIT, to the point of informants attending meetings of only five people held at radical communal homes. Overt surveillance ended with the PPD caught holding files on a number of individuals who had never been even arrested. A local judge ruled such surveillance was against Oregon state law and the city was ordered to purge its files of non-criminal individuals on a regular basis.

The local union movement became aware of PJTTF and PPD investigation of and interference in legal union activity in 1999. Powell’s Books, the largest bookstore in the U.S. and a Portland cultural institution, unionized with the ILWU that year. During contract negotiations, workers at the main store were forced to walk out several times by management intransigence. During these walkouts, PPD officers openly videotaped strikers and even motorists honking in support.

The most notorious case of police interference in union activity was a planned Carpenters picket in the suburb of Beaverton. A non-union contractor using primarily immigrant workers was to be picketed supporting the workers’ right to organize. Announce-

ments of the picket had circulated in labor circles and had been posted on the calendar of events of the Cross Borders Labor Organizing Committee web page. When UBC members and supporters arrived to picket they found the worksite shut down. It turned out the PJTTF had called the contractor to warn of the picket and he had decided to close for a day rather than subject his workers to the sirens of unionism.

The PJTTF’s blatant interference with union activity almost ended the Task Force. An organizer for a nurse’s union, Bob Marshall, started a committee of unionists to organize resistance to the PJTTF. Over the course of last summer, over 18 local unions passed resolutions asking the Portland City Council to not renew its participation in the Task Force.

But this was all before September 11th. Given the new national “security” conditions, few expected to stop the PJTTF proposal. Portland unionists and community activists did testify against the proposal and won several important changes before it was passed. Most important of these was a commitment by the PPD not to spy on groups and individuals who are not breaking the law. This final promise has come back to haunt the city. One of U.S. Attorney General Ashcroft’s more outrageous assaults on civil liberties has been to interview at random over 5,000 young men from the Mid-East, asking help from local police departments. Because of its promises not to spy on law-abiding residents, the PPD had to refuse participation in the interview project. Since Portland stood up and said no to racially based random investigations, several other cities in Oregon and elsewhere in the U.S. have refused to participate.



was abandoned in Montenegro, and the crew of the Zagara was abandoned in Sicily. The crews had not been paid in over a year. The abandonment came about because the ship-owners wanting to cut their assists and avoid responsibility for the costs of the pollution of the Erika.

The crew of the Karteria (Maltese FOC flag) was abandoned in the Port of Antwerp, Azores, after a horrific explosion that left two dead and another with a broken back with 30% burns. That crew member was left in a hospital that would not treat him until the ITF intervened. The rest of the crew was abandoned with an unstable cargo that continued to emit explosive quantities of hydrogen gas.

The Pakistani crew of the Delta Pride (Maltese FOC flag) was abandoned off the coast of South Padre Island, Texas, for over 10 months. The ship had its papers and the seafarers’ passports confiscated after the owner skipped out on debts by going bankrupt. The SOS calls from the crew were ignored and they ran out of fuel, including power for lights and cooking. They had to save rainwater, for they had run out of fresh water, and they had to fish in order to eat. The crew became malnourished and sick from having to drink dirty water.

Eighty-six percent of the personal injury and loss of life claims handled by ITF in 1998 were from FOC ships.

Job sharks and their prey

Most seafarers on FOC ships are recruited by shipping agents (job sharks) and are forced to sign over their first month’s wages to these employment agents. If any of them express any grievance or speak of unions they become blacklisted from future employment at sea.

Having worked on FOC cruise ships I have often wondered if those well-off passengers have any understanding of the reality of these ships. The passengers see an American-owned cruise ship company and falsely believe that U.S. maritime laws protect them. But if the ship is registered in an open register country, then it is the standards

of that country that the ship follows. When some type of accident happens the liability that ship faces is found in the country of register and not the country of ownership.

Cruising for trouble

Two open registers account for 52.5% of passenger capacity: Liberia ((28.5%) and Panama (24%). Other open registers have the bulk of the rest of the passengers, with only two non-FOC flags included in the top 8.

Kathie Lee Gifford became very upset when the public found out that her clothing line was produced in sweatshops. She shed her crocodile tears and pretended to try to make amends. At the same time she promoted floating sweatshops in her “If you could see me now...” Carnival Cruise Line commercials that fail to point out that those ships are all FOC registered (Bahamas, Panama and Liberia). Carnival Cruise Lines is the Kathie Lee Fashions of the maritime industry.

The following are some examples of some of the troubles FOC cruise ships have run into:

The FOC Bahamian registered Starward ran aground while drifting offshore awaiting to arrive in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. It suffered damage to the propellers and spilled hydraulic oil into the sea. The ship ran aground at the base of a 150-foot cliff. How could they have not have seen it? Because the bridge watch depended solely upon their global positioning system (GPS).

The Canard-owned (FOC) Royal Viking Sun ran aground on a coral reef off of Egypt and was seized to pay for damages. A few months before that the Canard-owned (FOC) Saga fjord was destroyed by fire in the Philippines.

The Panamanian (FOC registered) Royal Majesty ran aground 10 miles off Nantucket Island because the bridge watch had the ship on autopilot guided by a GPS that had failed.

Royal Caribbean Cruises, the world’s second largest cruise line and FOC registered, pleaded guilty to routinely dumping oil and hazardous chemicals from nine of its ships in U.S. waters. The company admitted it had

dumped toxic solvents in New York Harbor; had dumped oil and toxic chemicals in Miami, the Virgin Islands, Los Angeles and the Inside Passage in Alaska; and had repeatedly lied to the Coast Guard. This guilty plea came just one month after the company had been found guilty of other dumping charges and had promised to stop polluting, and two years after pleading guilty in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Miami to obstruction of justice, a fleet-wide conspiracy to dump oil and lying to the Coast Guard. After all of this the company issued a press statement saying all the dumping was just a “mistake.”

The FOC-registered cruise ship Discovery had a major engine room fire while returning to Port Everglades, Fl. Though there was never an alarm sounded, the passengers found themselves enveloped in smoke. Engine room workers had reported a fuel-line leak to their supervisor hours before the fire but they did not have it repaired. The leak got so bad that they had to use large buckets to catch the streams of oil. Guatemalan crew members who told the truth about the leak were fired.

Another Discovery Cruise Line ship caught fire off Freeport, Texas, only six days after failing a Coast Guard fire drill. Again the fire was the result of a fuel line leak that had been reported and not repaired and again those crew members that spoke the truth were fired.

The Scandinavian Star (Bahamian FOC) catches on fire 60 miles north of Cancun, Mexico, and sustained \$3.5 million in damages. The NTSB’s report criticized the firefighting equipment, engine-room maintenance and said that a lack of common language among the crew hindered their ability to communicate with each other and the passengers in the emergency situation. Two years later the same ship caught on fire in the North Sea, flames and toxic fumes killed 158 people – 99 people died in their cabins. Escape routes were hard to follow and some corridors led to deadends. In two such deadends 20 bodies were found.

The Carnival-owned Celebration (Liberian FOC ship) 733-foot cruise ship

rammed the Capitan San Luis, a 352-foot Cuban bulk carrier off the coast of Cuba. It sliced the Cuban ship in two, killing three crew members and injuring 13. The “accident” happened in good visibility and the cruise ship had the most modern, automatic radar system, but no one was monitoring the radar. A federal judge in Miami quashed the investigation after deciding that the NTSB had no authority over the foreign-registered ship. Later, when the same ship caught on fire near San Salvador Island in the Bahamas, the cause was mechanical failure.

The Golden Princess (Bahamian FOC ship) caught on fire bounded for Vancouver, B.C., from San Francisco. The ship had to be towed to Victoria, B.C.

The Universe Explorer (Panamanian FOC ship), en route from Juneau to Glacier Bay, Alaska caught on fire. Five crew members died and 76 passengers were injured.

The 30,000-ton Sun Vista caught fire in the main engine room and sunk off the coast of Malaysia. It was two hours after the fire broke out that the first distress signal was sounded. All power went out and the emergency lights never came on. Smoke flowed through the air-conditioning vents into cabins and passageways. The passengers and crew were all covered with soot as left the ship in 18 lifeboats and 4 rafts. As they watched the ship sink below the waters they sung the theme song from the 1998 movie “Titanic.”

The Carnival Cruise Lines ship Ecstasy caught fire shortly after leaving the Port of Miami, generating huge clouds of dark smoke. 60 people were injured, most by smoke inhalation. The fire was contained to the aft section of the ship as the crew closed firedoors to keep it from spreading. Had the ship been on the high seas, rather than just two miles out of port, the situation would have been far worse. Many passengers smelled smoke long before any alarm was sounded. The owners at a press conference tried to put the blame on two welders, but the facts came out that they had not yet begun to work when the fire started. This was

continued on page 10



Operation Acoustic Kitty was a brainstorm cooked up by a CIA functionary for the purpose of eavesdropping on conversations. A cat was implanted with batteries and wires, with an antenna surgically placed in its tail so any eavesdropped conversations could be transmitted to CIA headquarters. You can imagine how much of our withholding taxes went into this scheme, which would make the most far-out science fiction buff blush with embarrassment. The project took five years in its development, but the first electronic kitty was immediately run over by a taxicab. I believe if somebody inserted a radio transmitter up my derriere, I might well be inclined to get run over by the most available conveyance as well.

The CIA need not secretly eavesdrop on yours truly. I can easily tell them to their face what a bunch of equine posteriors they are. There's no telling what those who do no productive work will come up with, having nothing better to do with the wealth that is produced by the rest of us.

When statistics reveal that Freedomland has upwards of two million prisoners, the largest prison population in the "civilized" world, it is refreshing to hear about places like Kaalit Nunaat, better known to Western chauvinists as Greenland. There, it is reported, is one of the most inmate-friendly prison systems. All inmates have outside paying jobs and can enjoy such recreational pursuits as shopping, fishing and game hunting (under the supervision of guards, of course). The recidivism rate is no greater than any other prison system. Court sessions are amazingly brief as miscreants freely confess to their infractions.

This is not surprising, when taking into consideration that the overwhelming population of Greenland is Eskimo, who have long practiced and still practice true communalism. In the Inuit language that has as many as a dozen words for snow or water, there are no words for liar or thief. They are also people who utilize 100 percent of their environment. Those of us "civilized" creatures who have permitted ourselves to be saddled with an economic system where somebody else utilizes our environment for their own purposes have a lot to learn from our brothers in the frozen north.

What's more, the Eskimos have no CIA!

Federal judge Royce Lamberth has for years been trying to get an accounting from the Department of the Interior for upwards of ten million bucks in grazing, mining, logging and oil drilling fees paid out to trust funds to the original inhabitants of Freedomland. Hundreds of thousands of records have been accumulating and a substantial number have been destroyed or are considered inaccurate. Two years ago the department said some records could not be accessed as said records were stored in decrepit rooms where the accumulated rat feces made them hazardous. That's four-legged rats, not two-legged ones.

The department finally finished a report for Lamberth, but department officials refused to sign it because they doubted its veracity. *Mira quien habla!*

Your scribe has been penning these lines with heavy heart as Fellow Worker wife, who had been my boon companion for thirty-five years, succumbed to liver cancer this past November. It was a rich and rewarding thirty-five years that can never be duplicated. She never took out a Red Card, partly to assert her independence from me, but she was a true Rebel Girl. As a child in her native Greece she had lived through two invasions and one liberation, and she had experienced wartime poverty first-hand.

However, she always had her sense of humor. When she was diagnosed with liver cancer February of last year, she said to me, "You do the drinking, but I get the liver trouble!"

When we were in Sweden some thirty years ago as guests of the syndicalist union there, it was about the time Bo Widerberg had put the finishing touches to his film on Joe Hill. We were invited to the Swedish Film Institute for the premiere of the film. In the part of the film where Joe improvises "The Preacher and the Slave" to the Salvation Army band across the street and the crowd comes over to listen to him, he flashes his Wobbly button, saying, "This is where I belong." Fellow Worker wife startled the staid Swedish audience with her enthusiastic applause.

Another time we were watching a parade down one of the main streets. I had found a fire hydrant right at the curb, which afforded me a comfortable vantage point, when what do I see but the senator of the district coming down our side of the street pressing the flesh. Usually, under such a situation, I just walk away in order to avoid being touched by a politician. Not wanting to lose my choice seat, I proceeded to roll a Bull Durham as he got dangerously close. I felt his hand on my knee as I was rolling my smoke and lighting it. It was then that Fellow Worker wife came to my rescue, saying, "You're wasting your time with him. He's an anarchist, and I am the *real* anarchist!" Looking rather sheepish, said polly walked away. Another time, when we were marching in an anti-war parade, we were not unsurprisingly accompanied by some of the boys in blue, some of them on horseback hovering close to the marchers. One of the mounties had his steed intimidatingly close to Fellow Worker wife, who just looked at the horse. The cop smiled at her, and she told him, "I love your horse, but I don't love you."

There are ladies of many descriptions...

— C.C. Redcloud

Millions of U.S. workers can not afford decent homes

A new report by the National Housing Conference reports that the average janitor earns enough to rent a one-bedroom apartment in only six of the U.S.'s 60 largest cities. Retail clerks can afford the apartment in only three cities. As a result, many workers are forced to double up, to cut back on food and other necessities to pay rent, or to live on the streets.

FW Ed Boehner (1913-2001)

BY BOB HELMS

A few years ago, as I was talking with a Philadelphia radical friend of an earlier generation, he mentioned an old Wobbly who was getting very old, but was still alive in the city. He'd been in the union since the 1930s, he said. I became interested in getting in touch, especially because there was the earlier case in which we got a letter from a Wob named "Captain" Frank Darling. I spoke to him on the phone, but was so busy that he passed away before ever meeting him. This time I didn't want to miss the chance to meet an old soldier.

After some reminding, my friend scoured through his old letters and passed Ed Boehner's (pronounced "BANE-er") number on to me, and I gave the man a ring. We chatted for a little while and arranged for a few Wobs to drop by.

"Come any time! I'm always here," he said.

Ed was in his mid-eighties, and because of a few operations he'd had and general frailness, he seldom left his small 10th floor apartment up in the Germantown section. I and a few other Philly Wobs drove up to see him a short time later, and at last I knocked on his door.

"What's the password?" asked a mischievous voice.

"Ed, it's us, from the IWW," I replied.

"What's the password?" he repeated.

I thought for a moment and said, in a serious tone, "The working class and the employing class have nothing in common."

"OK, you can come in," and the door was opened by a smiling man of slight build, who graciously seated and fed us, and then told us some great stories. He was from a well-to-do family, but became the "black sheep" because of his concern for the conditions of working people. As a young man he'd walked away from a glamorous education and headed west, never to spend a single day in the boss class as long as he lived.

As the reader can see, we got to meet Ed, but unfortunately the cassette tape we made didn't record properly, and so the interview is lost. And he declined to be videotaped, saying that it would make him seem too important in the hindsight of history. On the other hand, he was in a big hurry to sign up again and pay his dues!

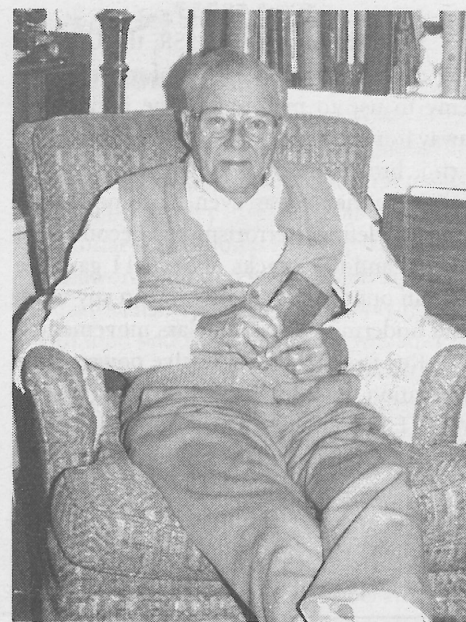
I returned three or four times, each time bringing along a different mix of union folks. Once, when all of us were men, Ed told us a story he'd already told the time before, but with one saucy detail included that he had thought was too risqué for the ears of our lady GST.

On that same occasion, Ed brought out a pamphlet he co-wrote with FW Ray Stark for the Seattle Joint Branches: *You've asked the questions we're proud to answer about THE IWW*. In a half-hour that none of us will soon forget, Ed read the entire 8-page pamphlet to us aloud, just as a father to his sons. One passage envisions "a world which will be just and secure for all men; a world in which there will be no hungry children."

For over twenty years Ed was a dual-carder, proudly carrying his IWW credentials in a workplace covered by another union. That other union remembers him fondly in the book *Them and Us: Struggles of a Rank-and-File Union* by Matles & Higgins (1974):

"A younger member of the Wobbly movement, Ed Boehner, arrived at the turbine and Local 107... Before the war, Boehner had been a harvest stiff along the west coast, which was still IWW breeding ground. Boehner enlisted in the organization. Later he located in Seattle, [and later still] rode the rods to Chicago, where he dropped into IWW Headquarters. When he mentioned that he might be heading for Philadelphia, he was told to look up a Johnny Schaefer at the Westinghouse South Philadelphia Turbine Works."

Schaefer, the book says, was fond of telling the story of how Ed looked him up after



he'd taken a horrible job in a box factory. He resisted trying for a job at Westinghouse because the conditions where he was working were so bad the other workers needed him. Finally he made the change in 1950 and joined UE (United Electrical, Radio, & Machine Workers of America). The book says Ed had a picket-duty card that was punched out completely, showing perfect attendance during both the 1955-56 lockout and the tough 1970-71 strike.

Ed remembered bygone fellow workers such as Sam Dolgoff (a/k/a Sam Weiner), Jim "Pricey" Price, and especially John Schaefer, who used to come to union events carrying the legendary Ben Fletcher's cane. He gave us back a piece of local history when he told us of an IWW storefront office that once existed in the '50s at 4th & Green Streets, very close to the present GHQ. At the request of Fred Thompson, who was GST at the time, Ed devoted a lot of time to staffing the place, but it closed after a few years for lack of public response. Around 1970, when most of his generation had passed on and activity had dropped very low, the union lost touch with Ed. He was tickled to learn that our General Headquarters had somehow followed him to Philly.

The only section of this eulogy that I regret to tell is this last part. We had talked about filling up the car and visiting Ed again, as it was always a great pleasure to do so. A few months had passed since we'd seen him, and I received a letter, which was not so easy to read, but it went as follows:

"Dear Fellow Worker

I regret I could not contact you sooner. It happens that I have been holed up in four hospitals these past months and am now in a healing institution. ... It is my wish to be current with my dues and wish you would let me know.

As you can surmise from my penmanship I have an uncooperative hand. Overall my physical condition is a complete mess... I'll never walk again but rely on a wheelchair.

Enough of these particulars. I still yearn for the day when we shall be all.

Yours, Ed Boehner

[PS] The last issue of the IWW News was very satisfying."

I called Ed at the hospice. Ed was glad to hear from me, but he was not quite the same Ed I had last spoken to. He sounded sad and dreamy, without the down-to-earth bravery I had known in his voice. We talked for about ten minutes, I promised to visit, and we said good-bye. I passed the word to other local Wobs that we needed to go out to see Ed, but when I called to say I was coming, it was too late. Ed died, at 88 years of age, on November 6, 2001.

I speak for the Philadelphia IWW and the whole union when I say "thanks" for giving so much to the cause, and for keeping the fire burning here in our city when so few would help do it. Those of us who were lucky enough to meet you before you left us could not help but love you. You were the finest Wobbly around.

Philadelphia, Dec. 31, 2001

IN MEMORIAM

Gloria Pasin

Life-time activist for social and worker rights, she will be missed by people all over the world.

1947-2001

Union unfriendly computer systems

Union Friendly Systems Inc., a computer firm which built a profitable niche writing software packages and building computers for local unions, is now laying off union workers and providing buyers with computers made by nonunion workers, according to an article in the Dec. 12 Metro Times.

At first Union Friendly, which had about 55 employees at the time, was slapping the union label on nonunion machines, something workers learned about only when they were called in for technical support. The company has now abandoned that practice, but has also shut down its assembly line, and now provides only non-union computers.

Union Friendly has also attacked the remaining members of UAW Local 889, unilaterally cancelling their health insurance in violation of the union contract and laying-off union officers when they filed grievances.

The problems began after the company was sold in October 2000 to an Internet service firm called Bignet. However, Bignet management proved fiscally inept, failing to pay utility bills, healthcare premiums, or to forward dues payments to the union. A new owner with a history of working with unions took over in July 2001, but soon began contracting-out technical support work.

In September workers discovered that the assembly and testing of computers being produced for a joint UAW-Chrysler program had also been subcontracted. Then the sales force was laid-off, given one hour to clear out their desks. Even after this long string of betrayals, local AFL-CIO officials were offering to work with Union Friendly to help the firm promote itself on web pages promoting union-built products.

On Sept. 26, the company cancelled paid lunch breaks and warned that if the union continued filing grievances more cutbacks were in store.

When secretaries struck the UAW-Chrysler program Nov. 27, Union Friendly demanded that the surviving union members cross picket lines to ship out the computers which had been assembled and prepared by non-union subcontractors. They refused, so managers did the dirty work themselves.

Borders violates workers' rights

A federal appeals court has upheld a NLRB ruling that Borders bookstores has been violating workers' Weingarten rights by refusing to allow them to bring representatives to prediscipline interviews.

The Weingarten rule establishes that all workers - including those not represented by a union - have the right to be represented by a colleague at any meeting with their employer that they reasonably believe might result in disciplinary action. Borders has been routinely violating this right.

Borders was the target of an international IWW boycott campaign after firing one worker for union activity and threatening others with reprisals.

ACORN workers seek dignity, wages

Workers at ACORN's St. Petersburg, Florida, office have petitioned for IWW union recognition after growing frustration with ACORN's autocratic management and intolerable working conditions. ACORN initially responded by suspending workers, but returned them to work after a day and paid them for the missed time.

The Florida filing followed a Dec. 3 filing by Public Service Workers Industrial Union 650 Portland for an NLRB election to represent workers at the Portland ACORN office. The office's five workers turned to the IWW for representation for help with unpaid wages and other problems.

Portland ACORN Head Organizer Andrew Ginsberg informed workers the next day that they were all being laid off, but promised to pay back wages, and agreed to a reinstatement date and terms of an NLRB election. Ginsberg told workers the lay-offs were necessary because the organization was in a deep financial crisis.

Dec. 4 was also a difficult day for IU 650 workers employed at Salvation Army Greenhouse, who learned that they will be laid off after the Army decided to close its Greenhouse program shortly after workers there won union recognition. The workers have been invited to reapply to work for Janus Youth Programs, which will be at least temporarily awarded the County contract that funds the Assessment Center and 24-hour drop-in for homeless youth. Janus says it will recognize IWW IU 650 only if more than half of the positions under the contract are again filled by workers represented by the IWW when they worked for the Salvation Army.

Also on Dec. 4th the National Labor Relations Board heard Unfair Labor Practice charges regarding Dallas ACORN's firing of workers for union activity. ACORN's defense was that its managers were fiscally incompetent. Workers were not fired due to their desire to unionize, ACORN claimed; rather they were let go due to management's poor budgeting skills.

Three workers were fired after they expressed interest in the union; and one was abandoned in Portland, Oregon, where she had been transferred for training.

The firings were part of a national pattern of union-busting that also saw workers fired and forced on strike in Philadelphia and Seattle after they attempted to organize to address longstanding grievances.

New Jersey teachers capitulate in face of jailings

Middletown, New Jersey, teachers and secretaries abandoned a nine-day strike Dec. 8 after more than 225 union members were thrown in jail for refusing to obey a back-to-work order. Judges had been calling in the more than 1,000 strikers in alphabetical order and jailing those who refused to scab.

Only a handful of strikers capitulated to the judicial terrorism, but after a week of seeing more members jailed each day while school board officials refused to negotiate, union officials threw in the towel.

"These people had to get out of jail," said Middletown Township Education Association President Diane Swaim. "These people did not deserve to be in jail even though it was what the Board of Education wanted."

Shortly after the union agreed to call off the strike, school board officials refused to sign a state-appointed mediator's recommendation which would have forced deep concessions on the teachers, saying the cuts did not go far enough.

Phoenix Wobs acquitted

Ten marchers arrested during a May Day march last year on charges of obstructing traffic, including FW Terry Hughes, were acquitted last month after police testimony was shredded by defense attorneys who demonstrated that it was the police, not the marchers, who obstructed traffic.

Labor, Bush's war, and the Democratic Party

BY STEVE ARGUE

In a recent speech in Billings, Montana, Bill Clinton argued that Americans have a patriotic duty to "shout down" critics of U.S. government actions: "When you hear somebody doing it, you ought to stand up and double up your fist and stick it in the sky and shout them down."

This should come as no surprise from a president whose first act in office was the bombing of Iraq and who later bombed Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Sudan.

While war is bad for workers, Clinton and Gore were just as bad on direct union issues as well. As a railroad conductor and a member of the UTU I struck for 47 days against the Soo Line/Canadian Pacific Railroad under Clinton. That strike was ended by orders from Bill Clinton to return to work. With a union leadership too timid to challenge the president we went back to work and were given a contract that eliminated jobs and made our jobs more dangerous.

In fact, while Clinton and Gore got a lot of support from the labor movement, they gave us nothing but anti-worker policies in return. The UTU was no exception. After Clinton's attacks on UTU workers the UTU leadership gave an early endorsement to Clinton in the next election. This betrayal of the membership included giving our hard earned dues to the anti-worker Democrats.

Authorization for Bush's war on the world, with current target being Afghanistan, was passed by both the Democrats and Republicans with only one dissenting vote. The one objection to the war came from Democrat Barbara Lee. The Democrats, as usual, continue to be one of the twin parties of war.

Today AFL-CIO President John Sweeney endorses Bush's war while a number of local unions have passed resolutions saying they oppose the war. A very significant resolution was passed by the Oakland teachers union saying they are not only against the war, but are also going to hold a teach-in against it.

Politically, however, we must address the problem of the Democrats. They aren't with labor and they are for war. More meaningful labor resolutions on the war would point out these facts and call for an end to political and financial support by the unions to the Democrats and Republicans.

Instead of supporting Democrats the unions should be supporting the workers with better strike funds when we go out on strike. The labor movement doesn't need to

keep shooting itself in the foot by supporting our strike-breaking pro-war enemies.

Bush blocks United mechanics' strike

BY BRIAN OLIVER SHEPPARD

On December 20, President George Bush blocked a possible strike by United Airlines mechanics, creating a Presidential Emergency Board that automatically delays any official workers' strike action for up to 60 days. White House spokesman Ari Fleischer - appearing at a press conference yet again in place of the vocabulary-challenged leader of the free world - said this amounts to establishing a "cooling off" period.

The board will take up to 30 days to decide upon a solution. Then both the union and the company have another 30 days to consider the resolution. This effectively blocks any industrial action through the holiday season, which was the intended goal: "The president is concerned about the economy, particularly after September 11, and the effect that airline strikes would have on the economy, on the ability of the public to travel at this time," Fleischer said.

This marks the fourth time the government has intervened into labor disputes in the airline industry in 2001. Some have noted the irony in these government interventions on behalf of corporations, coming as they did from an administration that sold itself to the public as being opposed to government intervention in the marketplace.

15,000 United mechanics, represented by the International Association of Machinists, have promised to strike in 60 days if their needs aren't met. Workers have not gotten a pay raise since 1994. Ninety-nine percent of union members voted in favor of the strike.

Far from offering pay hikes to compensate workers for years of concessions, United is demanding further pay cuts, calling on the machinists to make "sacrifices" to return the company to profitability. While the IAM has indicated a willingness to make some concessions, it has been fighting off an independent union whose rapid growth has been fueled by dissatisfaction with IAM contracts at other airlines.

United is one of the recipients of the \$15 billion dollar airline industry bailout package from congress, but has laid off 20,000 workers since September 11.

WHICH PAPER DO YOU SUPPORT?



Subscribe Today to the Industrial Worker

Subscriptions are \$15 per year.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Send to: Industrial Worker Distribution, PO Box 13476, Philadelphia, PA 19101

FAREWELL
FELLOW WORKER

Marianna
Cortez

A Rebel Her
Whole Life Long

Chicago General Membership Branch

Greed upon the oceans



continued from page 7

not the first major fire aboard this ship, an electrical fire broke out in the engine room forcing the shut down of one of its engines as it was returning to Miami on an earlier voyage.

The cruise ship industry is working to repeal the U.S. Passenger Services Act that prevents foreign-flagged ships from carrying passengers between U.S. ports. Repeal of this law would mean that an industry that pays no taxes in the U.S., has underpaid workers from other countries, gets around health, safety and environmental laws and are floating union-busters would then be able to sail from U.S. ports to other U.S. ports. The main backer of the repeal campaign is Sen. Strom Thurmond.

Injury to one affects us all

In the real world we do not live in isolation unaffected by what happens to others and what happens to the environment. In the real world all things are connected. When the basic human rights of some are threatened, then the basic human rights of all are threatened. How far the forces of greed are willing to go for the accumulation of their wealth is a direct indication of how great a threat they are to all of us. The new wave of global corporate expansionism and domination affects every one of us no matter where we live.

When the environment is damaged, that damage does not stop and recognize political borders. The waters of the oceans flow pass the imaginary lines in the waters declaring national boundaries. The health of our world's oceans is directly tied into the environmental health of our planet.

Each of us is directly tied into FOC ships because we consume the goods that are transported upon those ships. That gives

Pollies: Let 'em use credit cards

BY JIM ELLSWORTH

Sen. Collins: "If Workers Don't Have Bread, Let'em Use Credit Cards"

Officers of the Greater Bangor Central Labor Council met recently with a representative of U.S. Senator Susan Collins. They wanted to know what Collins was proposing to do to help workers keep their medical coverage. In November she helped kill a bill that included \$31 billion for unemployment and health care benefits.

COBRA is a program of worker-paid health insurance for laid-off workers at exorbitant rates. Collins proposes a tax credit equal to 50 percent of the COBRA payments. How this would help workers with no income and therefore no tax liability is not clear. What is clear is that unemployed workers have no cash to pay premiums of up to \$800 per month.

The Senator's representative was asked how workers could make monthly payments. The staffer replied with a straight face that workers could put it on their credit cards.

After the meeting Collins back pedaled slightly by suggesting the IRS might be able to send the tax credit refunds before April. She continues to ignore the fact that even the few workers who qualify for COBRA can't afford the premiums. Like most politicians in Washington, she does not acknowledge how few workers actually qualify for COBRA and unemployment benefits and that workers can not survive on the minuscule checks.

each of us a responsibility for what is going on, and it gives each of us a source of power to do something about it. We should not just boycott FOC ships and state that all ships should sail the flag of the "better" countries, because the seafarers upon those ships have a right to work as much as any seafarer of any country.

What is needed

is a declaration of the rights of all seafarers that includes the rights of all to a clean and safe environment. That declaration should be the basis of the unionization of all seafarers.

Those shipowners who do not abide to that declaration should have their ships boycotted along with the goods transported upon them. That means as workers we do not handle boycotted ships; they would not be loaded or unloaded, they would not be serviced or repaired. The goods from these ships would not be handled in anyway by working people, in transportation or in any production use of those goods. As consumers we would not consume any products by companies that use FOC ships to transport their cargo.

There is also a need for a massive public campaign to educate the public about FOC ships. Those who live in port towns should make it known that FOC ships are not welcomed in their port. While at the same time make it clear that they are also there to support the seafarers who are victimized by those ships.

The employers recognize no limitations on what they see as their right to exploit all that is exploitable. They are organized internationally in their own interests and they control most all governments. We, the working people of the world, must come to understand that we must also organize in our own self-interests on an international level and stand in universal solidarity with each other. This is the only way we will ever be able to turn the tide away from the exploitation of all to the well-being of all.

California's "labor" governor vetoes workers comp rise

After spending \$7 million to elect Gray Davis governor of California, ending years of Republican administrations, unions are outraged by his vetoes of three consecutive bills that would have increased workers' compensation benefits in the state. Now unions are taking their case to the voters.

The initiative would raise maximum temporary weekly disability benefits from the present \$490 to \$651 or the state average weekly wage, whichever is greater. Permanent partial disability benefits would rise from \$230 a week to at least \$434. Even the revised levels would leave many injured workers unable to pay their rent or feed their families.

While Davis claims to support increased benefits, he has vetoed legislation to do so because it did not include "reforms" that would enable employers to force injured workers back to work prematurely and give company doctors a role in determining workers' eligibility for benefits. He also said employers could not afford to better compensate workers for on-the-job injuries.

Republicans appointed by former Gov. Pete Wilson retain top positions at Cal-OSHA. State workers are locked in another round of bitter contract talks.

The situation is so bad that some unions are considering backing Davis' Republican opponent in the next election, including the Carpenters, which backed Davis with more than \$1 million in 1998.

Argentine gov't toppled by strikes, IMF riots

Argentina went through four presidents in as many weeks, as workers responded to years of International Monetary Fund-imposed austerity programs with food riots and then a general strike which shut down the entire country.

For years, the IMF has called for cutting wages and trimming public expenditure on pensions and basic social services as a condition for further loans. With the blessing of the IMF, the country has been systematically looted by transnational investors and their local allies.

In an attempt to preserve this state of affairs, Argentina was put under effective martial law. Public gatherings were outlawed, soldiers patrolled the streets, and people were told that there was no alternative to ever-deepening misery.

However, Argentinian workers refused to accept this future.

The battle raged throughout December. Tens of thousands stormed the Presidential Palace and other government buildings; stores were looted as starving workers seized the necessities of life; and offices, factories and public transport were closed Dec. 13 by a general strike. Workers have seized several bankrupt factories to prevent the equipment from being sold. Unemployed workers blocked roads across the country. Dozens of workers were killed across the country, as police and soldiers tried to bolster the teetering regime by force of arms.

"This situation is one of total collapse,"

said Claudio Lozano, director of the Institute for Economic Studies of the Argentine Workers Confederation and a vocal critic of the free-market economic program that reached its pinnacle in Argentina.

No country in Latin America has privatized so many utilities formerly run by the government, opened borders wider to free trade and deregulated the economy as rapidly or as deeply as Argentina.

Argentina was heralded in the halls of financial power like the International Monetary Fund, and international lenders poured billions into the country, snapping up Argentine bonds.

However, the policies hit workers hard and touched off a recession in 1998 which successive governments have attacked with increasingly harsh austerity programs. Salaries have been slashed, many workers have been paid in IOUs, and an estimated one in four workers have lost their jobs. The result is starving workers, and a growing recognition that it is simply impossible to pay Argentina's \$132 billion foreign debt.

Eyewitness reports stress the spontaneous character of the events, with the major union federations discredited by their ties to political parties. "In my neighborhood, yesterday, we all got together after the President's speech," one teacher told a reporter. "No one organized it... People were looting supermarkets because they are hungry ... and [the president] called them subversives and terrorists."

Upstate NY Wobs in free speech fight in anti-sweatshop drive

BY SOURDOUGH SLIM

The Upstate New York General Membership Branch staged a "Black Friday" informational picket at the Latham Farms Wal-Mart ("Where America's Sweatshops") Nov. 23 in an attempt to alert consumers to the abuses of global capital's ever-expanding reach and to continue to defy the megacorporation's efforts to restrict free speech and arrest our union's anti-sweatshop activities.

The action was largely successful in the sense that the IWW and other local activists were able to continue the picket without interference from the police for all but the last 10 to 15 minutes of the time scheduled for the demonstration. "We were able to hand out a couple of hundred flyers, our *Black Cat Moan* anti-sweatshop newsletter, and managed to maintain a presence for a good enough period. We also argued pretty strenuously with the cops, even though we knew we'd have to leave eventually," FW Greg Giorgio said.

While local Wobs did not submit to arrest in previous actions at this location, they continue to challenge the store's right to claim private property rights. There is a selective policy in force whereby Wal-Mart management can accept or refuse "solicitations" at will. While Cub Scouts, veterans' groups and other outfits usually get permission, Wal-Mart refuses even to answer enquiries from other groups to use "their" sidewalk. And Wal-Mart's right to claim ownership of the space is questionable. After all, in today's "malled" shopping culture, what more public a space is there than the sidewalk in front of a "big box" store? Add in the selective access, and it looks like, well, a free speech fight. The IWW here is doing some legal research on the matter. Stay tuned.

The anti-sweatshop committee was unhappy with local response from the activist community, which claims to be supporting this cause. Several labor and social justice groups did not attend the picket even though they had said they would, leaving the IWW and a few supporters out in the cold. "Our



Community supporter Michael Brennan at Latham Farms Wal-Mart Nov. 23, as part of the IWW's anti-sweatshop action.

basic strategy was to provide enough bodies to discourage the police from using arrests as an option to deal with the so-called 'problem,'" FW Giorgio explained. After months of letters, faxes and flyers to local groups, solidarity was almost nonexistent on the issue. The anti-sweatshop committee of the IWW is rethinking future protest and picketing strategies.

Wobblies have also been busy leading local antiwar demonstrations and have begun work to form a larger regional peace network. They're also looking to follow up on Portland's lead with possible Salvation Army organizing, and a Taco Bell boycott support action is planned as well.

Refuses to be fired

A North Cyprus high school teacher refused to accept administrators' decision to fire her in retaliation for her views. Instead, Nilgrun Orhon arrived at work Dec. 11 with several union activists to meet her history class. Police were on hand, but did not interfere given the large number of students and fellow teachers present. However, police beat the general secretary of the teachers union afterward, sending him to hospital. Classes were cancelled after students intervened to protect the teachers from police.

BOOKS FOR REBEL WORKERS

Celebrate Black History Month

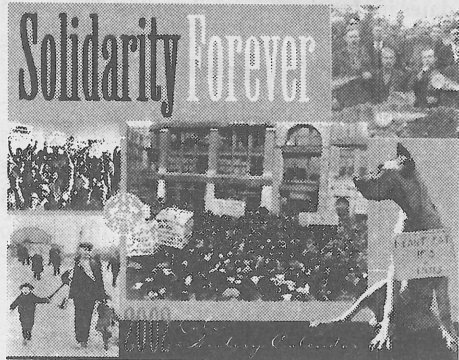
Black Labor and the American Legal System by Herbert Hill
An important book documenting the ways in which employers and the legal system have collaborated to exclude black workers from well-paid jobs, and often from any work at all. In addition to examining the evolution of the law, chapters offer in-depth examinations of the ways unions have shamefully collaborated with employers in the construction, maritime, railroad, auto and other industries to preserve segregated workplaces. A classic work by a veteran activist in the civil rights and labor movements. **PAPERBACK \$10.00**

Race in America: The Struggle for Equality Herbert Hill & James Jones, editors
An important collection combining first-person accounts with scholarly analysis of the Civil Rights Movement. Contributors reflect on 35 years of struggle since the Brown vs. Board of Education decision, examine the sometimes difficult interaction between black workers and AFL-CIO unions, and address the continuing reality of racism in its historical and economic context. **PAPERBACK \$10.00**

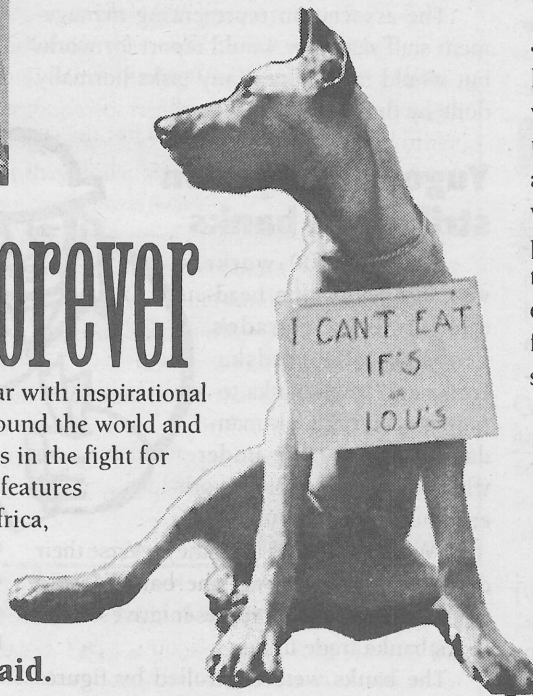


A Hubert Harrison Reader Edited with intro & notes by Jeffrey B. Perry
Hubert Harrison (1883-1927) was a brilliant writer, orator, educator, critic, and radical political activist and he is one of the most important, yet neglected figures of early twentieth-century America. The historian Joel A. Rogers, in *World's Great Men of Color*, described him as "the foremost Afro-American intellect of his time" and the leader with the sanest program. A. Philip Randolph referred to him as "the father of Harlem Radicalism." Harrison was drawn toward the policies and practices of the militant and egalitarian IWW, whom he considered to be practitioners of true unionism. He argued for direct action and point-of-production organizing and praised the work of the integrated IWW-affiliated Brotherhood of Timber Workers in Louisiana. Besides being an excellent collection of nearly forgotten writings by Harrison, the overall work poses interesting questions on the concepts of multi-cultural unionism, political action, and "Race First" organizations. **PAPERBACK 473 PAGES \$25.00**

Calendars: Get them while they last



The IWW's 2002 Labor History Calendar



Solidarity Forever

The IWW's revolutionary labor calendar with inspirational photographs of workers' struggles from around the world and hundreds of notes marking important dates in the fight for industrial freedom. This year the calendar features photos from the US, Canada, UK, South Africa, Mexico and more.

\$10.00 each, post paid.
\$5.50 each for 5 or more to the same address, post-paid.

IWW Buttons: \$1 each colorful 1.5" pins
4-Hour Day • Fighting Union • Fire Your Boss • Stop Exploiting Student Workers • The Longer the Picket Line, the Shorter the Strike • Capitalism Cannot Be Reformed • Don't Mourn, Organize • Direct Action Gets the Goods • No More Sweatshops • Labor is Entitled to All It Creates

IWW Bumperstickers: \$1.50 each
Stylish red & black vinyl stickers: "Solidarity Forever" or "Don't Mourn, Organize"

IWW Baseball Cap
A beautiful black cap with red under the visor. Embroidered logo in white and red, red eyelets, and "Solidarity Forever" embroidered on the back of the cap. Union made & embroidered, one size fits all. **\$16.00**



Global Workers Organizing

Sweatshop Warriors: Immigrant Women Workers Take on the Global Factory by Miriam Ching Yoon Louie
Sweatshop Warriors highlights the voices of the pioneers of the growing anti-sweatshop movement: immigrant women workers. In this up-close and personal look at these extraordinary organizers, Miriam Ching Yoon Louie records the voices of these working-class heroines sounding the charges for the anti-WTO legions. **256pp \$18.00**

Made in Indonesia by Dan La Botz
A dynamic new labor movement emerged in Indonesia in the 1990s, helping to bring down the brutal Suharto dictatorship in 1998. Through rare personal interviews with the activists who are leading the rebirth of struggle for democratic rights in the world's fourth-largest country, La Botz draws valuable lessons for workers in the United States seeking to build international labor solidarity. **256pp \$18.00**

Union Democracy

Democracy Is Power: Rebuilding Unions from the Bottom Up by Mike Parker & Martha Gruelle.
This book offers practical ideas of how the rank and file can run unions. Major discussion of Teamsters for a Democratic Union experiences in this area. **254pp \$17.00**

Labor History

Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology
Compiled and edited by Joyce L. Kornbluh
Culled from Wobbly periodicals from the movement's founding in 1905 to the present, *Rebel Voices* presents pamphlets, stories, songs, poems, courtroom testimony, skits, cartoons and illustrations that bring the story of the "minutemen of industrial unionism" to life in native accents. - *Detroit Labor News* **\$24.00**

The Great Bisbee Deportation by Rob E. Hanson
Wobblies so worried the authorities of Bisbee, Arizona, that the state ran them out of town. This comprehensive account brings the events of the day alive. **\$2.00**

Solidarity Forever by Stewart Bird, Dan Georgakis, and Deborah Shaffer
Oral histories of IWW members. **\$13.00**

Strike! by Jeremy Brecher
A classic text - a history of American workers' struggle from a working-class viewpoint, arguing that class upsurges are based in everyday life and rank-and-file initiative. While this edition is somewhat less optimistic than the original, it still provides rich detail of workers' rebellions throughout American history, and abundant evidence for the proposition that workers are fully capable of making our own history, should we set our minds to the task. **\$22.00**

IWW Literature

Little Red Songbook 36th Edition
103 labor songs to fan the flames of discontent from around the world, with music. Includes songs by Joe Hill, Billy Bragg, Anne Feeney, Utah Phillips, and more. **\$10.00**

One Big Union
An introduction to the structure, methods and goals of the Industrial Workers of the World. **\$2.00**

The General Strike by Ralph Chaplin
The classic text - a call for organization. **\$2.00**

Organizing Help

A Troublemaker's Handbook: How to Fight Back Where You Work and Win! by Dan La Botz.
An encyclopedic work on worker initiative and organizing on the job. Shows that sitdown strikes still aren't dead and immigrant workers can be organized. **262pp \$17.00**

The New Rank and File by Staughton and Alice Lynd
With this inspiring collection of interviews with working class organizers from many facets of the international labor movement, the Lynds demonstrate the type of grassroots approach that we need if we are to build the strength to win against a global, wealthy and well-armed foe. Directed at two groups - rank-and-file workers and young people entering the labor movement - this book directly takes on the ideology of business unionism and offers hope and ideas for democratic, solidarity unionism. **262pp \$16.00**

Cool Stuff

Solidarity of Labour t-shirts
Walter Crane design, specify size. **\$12**

Strobing Bike Lights
Two-inch red reflectors printed with the IWW's logo. Clips onto the belt or pocket. **\$4.50**

Music for Rebel Workers Compact Discs
Anne Feeney: Have You Been to Jail for Justice? 16 fightin' songs **\$15**

Don't Mourn - Organize!
14 songs by and about Joe Hill, labor martyr. Includes performances by Billy Bragg, Utah Phillips, Pete Seeger, Hazel Dickens, and Paul Robeson **\$17**

Bucky Halker: Don't Want Your Millions
Includes little-known songs such as "New Made Graves of Centralia" & "Death of Mother Jones." Also features Wob classics "Rebel Girl" & "Dump the Bosses" and spoken word by Studs Turkel. **\$15**

Ani DiFranco & Utah Phillips
Fellow Workers: A musical stage set by Ani & friends on which Utah tells stories of the American workers' plight and their struggle for rights as the nation developed. **\$17**

The Past Didn't Go Anywhere: Ani remixes Utah's stories from live recordings, a terrific marriage of electronic, beat-driven music and folk-telling traditions. **\$17**

Order Form

Mail to: IWW Literature, P.O. Box 42777, Philadelphia, PA 19101

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

***Shipping/Handling**
In the U.S., please add \$2.00 for first item and 50¢ for each additional item
Canada: Add \$3.00 for the first item 50¢ for each additional item
Overseas: Add \$4.00 for the first item \$1.00 for each additional item

Sub-Total: _____

Shipping*: _____

Donation IWW Organizing Fund: _____

Total Enclosed us Funds Only: _____

Workers resist bosses the whole world 'round

China cracking down on workers

As labor struggles sweep across China, authorities are cracking down – especially on those who help workers organize and publicize their struggles. A freelance journalist was arrested Dec. 22 in the eastern city of Dafeng for reporting on a strike by workers at the Huai Nan textile factory protesting wage cuts that slashed monthly earnings by more than half – to 300 Yuan (US\$36).

A doctor at a military hospital in northern China was arrested Dec. 21 for helping workers laid off from a state-owned factory. Military officials first seized Cai Guangye's computer Dec. 11, returning ten days later to take him into custody, according to China Labor Watch.

Cai had long been concerned about the plight of factory workers and farmers and had actively supported workers at several state-owned factories in Jilin province who were laid off and forced to accept inadequate severance packages.

He had participated in workers' protest and was once detained by Jilin city police for taking pictures of workers protesting.

He had also written several essays advocating for workers' rights on the chatroom of a website for the main Chinese central government newspaper, the People's Daily.

In November and December, there were several workers' protests where protestors surrounded the city government building, shouting slogans like "Set up an independent workers' group" and "We want to eat."

The number of protesters ranged from several dozen to several hundred people.

China's jobless rate is expected to jump from 3.1 percent, or about 5.95 million registered unemployed, last year to 5 percent within the next five years. Those figures are considered gross underestimates by most observers.

China's southern boomtown of Shenzhen shut down the practice of a lawyer renowned for defending and housing victims of work-related accidents in December. Zhou Litai's legal battles have drawn attention to the plight of China's overworked and underpaid workers and dangerous factory conditions.

"I have been helping all these workers sue the local government for compensation, especially the labour bureau and social security bureau. Obviously, they're not very happy about this," said Zhou.

Local authorities informed Zhou that he was "illegally practising law" and ordered him to cease operations immediately.

Zhou, once a factory worker himself, has handled more than 600 worker compensation cases in the manufacturing hotbed of Shenzhen – many of which pitted him against district government departments.

His clients, many of whom have lost limbs, often take up residence in his family's rented house in Shenzhen. More than 30 migrant workers injured in work place accidents were living at the house while awaiting results of cases in December.

Around 47,000 people died in 350,000 industrial and transportation accidents in the first half of 2001 in China, according to state media.

Trade unions call for global strikes

The 30th congress of the International Metalworkers Federation, meeting in Australia in November, passed a resolution calling on unions to engage in sympathy strikes across borders. However, rather than engage in such actions directly, relying upon their own strength, the IMF has decided to campaign to amend national labor laws to guarantee the right to take sympathy strike action across borders.



Colombian unionist assassinated

The president of the Cartagena branch of the oil workers union USO was kidnapped Nov. 30 while traveling to the union office. On Dec. 3 the paramilitary death squad AUC admitted to holding Aury Sara Marrugo, who they said they had condemned to death for "extortion and terrorism." His body was found two days later, along with that of his bodyguard. Two other USO members were killed earlier in the year by death squads.

Following a month in prison, five other leading members of the Union Sindical Ubero (USO) were put under house arrest in late November. They were arrested Oct. 16, on the eve of a strike organized by the USO to protest the government policy of terror against the unions.

The last year has seen a dramatic increase in violence against unions from all sectors in Colombia.

The central Colombian trade union CUT had already recorded the assassination of 129 trade unionists by mid November, giving Colombia the dubious privilege of being the most dangerous in the world for union members. Last year in its annual report, the ICFTU recorded 153 assassinations of trade unionists in Colombia, out of a worldwide total of 209.

USO and other unions officials routinely receive death threats, and are regularly followed by armed men on motorcycles and in unmarked vans. The union has demanded protection for its officers, and is calling upon to government to arrest not only those responsible for carrying out the assassinations, but also those who bankroll them and command the AUC and other death squads.

Labor film blocked

An Australian mining company successfully blocked the Dec. 6 screening of a film scheduled to be shown as part of a human rights festival in Suva, Fiji. The film, "Na Ma'e Na Ma'e - We Stand Until We Die," funded by the New South Wales Labor Council, is highly critical of Emperor Goldmines.

Na Ma'e Na Ma'e was the first film produced in the Fijian language. Emperor Goldmines, which earlier persuaded the government to ban the film from Fiji television, threatened the cinema with legal action if it went ahead with the showing.

The title is the Fijian version of the Maori haka war cry. The movie details the struggles by more than 600 goldmine workers in the early 1990s to establish a union and struggle for basic conditions and wages. The ensuing strike is still the longest in the Pacific.

Strikes sweep Indonesia

Since Indonesia's government gave provincial governments the power to set minimum wages, a wave of labor disputes has been sweeping the country. In Jakarta many employers are refusing to pay the new minimum wage of nearly \$60 a month, prompting workers to strike.

Other firms are laying off workers, saying that the export-dominated economy can not sustain such wages. The textile industry has threatened to lay off 100,000 of its 1.2 million workers if wages increase.

Meanwhile, workers are tired of "paying for the mistakes of the rich," according to Warsito, a worker and union leader at an appliance factory. Warsito's reasons for recruiting colleagues into his union, FNPBI, include employers' reluctance to permanently hire its contract workers, low wage incentives (Warsito earns only 3 cents more a month than newly hired workers) and filthy working conditions. Members meet once a week, and expect a difficult struggle. "It is hard to avoid violence when you are provoked," he says.

FNPBI chief Dita Sari is more accommodating. "We are willing to bargain, but only if the companies agree to an audit of their finances," she says. That's a demand that few businesses are willing to accept.

Instead, employers are turning to heavy-handed tactics, threatening mass lay-offs and plant closings. Mochtar Pakpahan, chief of SBSI, arguably Indonesia's largest union with nearly 2 million members, is unnerved. "The

India: bank workers strike against transfers

More than 600,000 bank workers across India struck Jan. 5 for 24 hours to protest a decision to forcibly transfer 24 Standard Chartered bank workers to other branches after they rejected a "voluntary" severance scheme. Many of the transferred workers' tasks would be turned over to temporary employees.

The association representing management staff said they would report for work, but would not perform any tasks normally done by the strikers.

Yugoslav sit-down strike hits banks

Nearly 1,000 workers were occupying the headquarters of Belgrade's Beobanka, Beogradska Banka and Investbanka to protest a World Bank-mandated restructuring under which thousands of bank workers would lose their jobs.

"We will stay here until they reverse their decision to shut down the banks," said Gordana Djukelic, a representative of the Investbanka trade union.

The banks were controlled by figures from the former regime, and have been unable to attract the foreign take-over partner the World Bank demanded.

Dying for profit in Australia

Thirty-one workers were killed and 3,711 seriously injured last year on work sites across the Australian province of Victoria, according to official statistics.

The numbers do not include workers who will die of long-term exposure to toxic substances, or cumulative injuries that have yet to be diagnosed.

More than 10 people a day suffered workplace injuries during 2001, most of which were entirely avoidable.

Korean workers reject austerity

A wave of strikes is sweeping South Korea, as workers turn to quickie strikes to protest austerity policies that leave workers increasingly vulnerable.

National Health Insurance workers struck 235 offices in early December to protest moves toward privatization, while some 4,700 workers at Doosan Heavy Industries & Construction downed tools to protest restructuring plans.

Some 10,000 taxi drivers in Seoul protested Dec. 12, demanding introduction of a salary system.

Unionists at six state-run utilities, including the railroad and gas systems, announced they would strike if the government proceeded with plans to introduce legislation to privatize those sectors.

At Hyundai Motor, workers surprised management Nov. 29 with a four-hour strike at its Ulsan II plant, which manufactures the highly profitable Santa Fe sports utility vehicle. Hyundai recently announced record net profits, and has rejected union proposals to distribute a third of the profits to workers. Management has offered 5 percent.

A second strike hit several Hyundai plants Dec. 6, and unions have threatened to escalate the quickie strikes.

Hundreds of unionized teachers took leaves of absence in mid-November to organize protests in Seoul against government initiatives to permit private high schools, restructure curricula to track more students into vocational training, and undermine union rights.

UK unions quitting Labour Party

England's GMB union has decided to abandon 100 years of support for the Labour Party, instead backing independent candidates in this year's local elections. The union is furious at the governing party's ongoing policy of privatizing public services.

While several smaller unions had previously withdrawn support from Labour, this is the first time in the party's history that one of the country's largest unions has taken such a decision. The GMB gave £4 million to Labour last year.

Construction workers lose ground

Construction work has become increasingly temporary and insecure worldwide as jobs are outsourced to subcontractors, according to a new report by the International Labour Organisation. The report was issued ahead of talks between 23 governments, employers groups and trade unions to discuss ways of ensuring that temporary workers and those employed by subcontractors enjoy the same rights and social protection as permanent construction workers.

The ILO report noted that many bosses do not pay into social security funds on behalf of temporary workers, effectively denying them health care, holiday pay, compensation for injuries, and retirement benefits.

In Europe, the trend is most apparent in Spain and in Britain, where surveys of building sites have found as many as five tiers of subcontracting in the labour chain.

Coal strike hits privatization

More than 600,000 coal miners struck against state-run Coal India Ltd and its subsidiaries Dec. 3-5 to protest government moves to privatise coal mines.

