



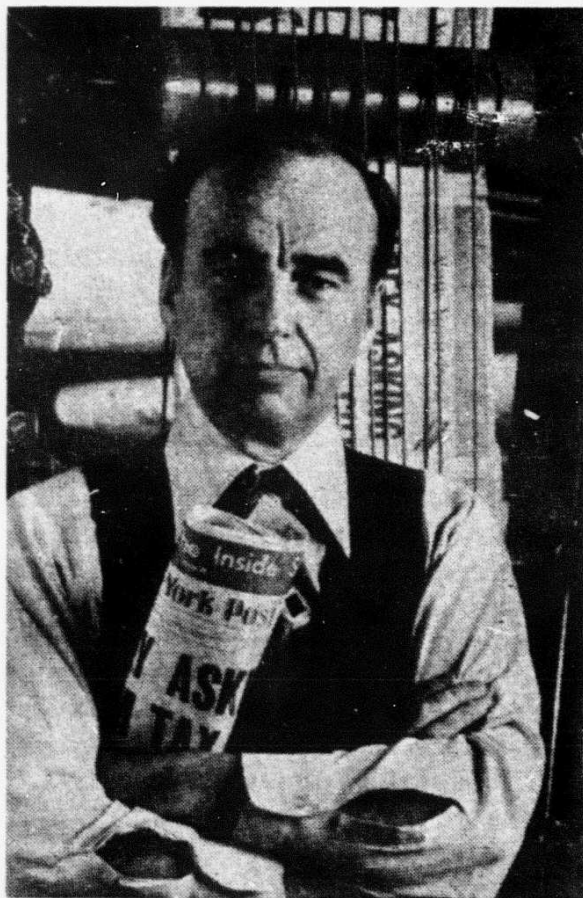
**Why 51
Construction
Workers were
Plunged to
their Deaths**
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Workers' Power

THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

ISSUE # 253

MAY 6, 1978



MURDOCH

At the N.Y. Post,
a union-smasher
with a world
of experience

MEET THE MAN who's trying to break the newspaper unions at the New York Post.

MEET THE MAN who wants the right to fire every Newspaper Guild member who is "incompatible with my concept publishing concept."

MEET THE MAN who loves to load his own scab delivery trucks when his newspaper goes on strike.

MEET THE MAN who used deliberate falsifying of news, manufactured scandals and outright lies to overthrow a popular, elected government.

MEET RUPERT MURDOCH, the publishing magnate from Australia who's buying up papers in the U.S.

Find out who he is, where he came from, how much power he has and where he got it. Reporters for the Australian socialist paper, **THE BATTLER**, have prepared a feature report for **Workers' Power** on Murdoch and his methods.

It's a good way to find out the kind of enemy that workers at the New York Post are up against. It's also a striking lesson in what the "free press" under capitalism is all about. □

see pages 6-7

N.Y. COPS TRIED TO KILL ARRESTED ATTICA BROTHER

Jomo Eric Thompson, a former Attica Brother, faces murder charges in the deaths of two policemen in Brooklyn, New York.

Another Attica Brother, Dalou Asahi (Mariano Gonzalez) was killed in the April 2 shooting incident. New York State prosecutors, not content with accusing Jomo of murdering the police officers, Cerullo and Masone, have also charged him with killing Dalou!

This is a convenient way for the police to avoid accounting for how Dalou really died. They have not yet produced any satisfactory account of the shootout, and it is not clear how it began or who was actually present at the scene.

ATTEMPTED MURDER

What is clear, according to Jomo's lawyer Bob Bloom, is that two policemen who arrested Jomo eight blocks from the shooting tried to kill him.

Bloom told **Workers' Power**: "Jomo was arrested eight or ten blocks from where the shooting

occurred. He had been shot, lost a lot of blood and as a result his car crashed.

"His injuries from the accident were minor. People on the street tried to help him, and firemen were treating him before the police and ambulance arrived.

"Two cops tried to kill him in the ambulance on the way to the hospital. He suffered broken bones in his face and head, right below the eye socket."

Even after emergency surgery, Jomo is still bothered by recurring double vision.

Jomo was taken first to Cumberland Hospital, then to Kings

County. Emergency room records from Cumberland now seem to be missing.

"Everyone on the street says Jomo had no facial injuries from the accident. The cops' story is that he tried to grab their gun in the ambulance," Bloom said.

"James Denny, the cop who makes this claim, has had at least five reported incidents of brutality and racism, including calling people "Nigger." That police precinct has a reputation for behaving badly toward the community."

Bloom says a letter will be written to the Governor calling for a special prosecutor to investigate



Jomo

the beating of Jomo. In order to protect police officer Denny as a witness against Jomo, the District Attorney has gotten assault indictments against Jomo for what happened in the ambulance.

Jomo has pleaded not guilty and vigorously denied committing any crime whatever. □

Dan Posen

BUILDING DISASTER

Productivity vs. safety is industry issue, workers say

by Elissa Clarke

FIFTY-ONE construction workers plunged to their deaths in a tangle of steel, concrete, wood and rope on April 27 in Willow Island, West Virginia.

Rescue workers were unable to identify their friends as they frantically dug the mangled bodies out of ten feet of rubble.

One workman said, "I could see people falling through the air and everything falling. It sounded like a train roaring by. Then all I could see was heads busted up, legs out of socket, arms scattered around. "It was just a mangled up, God-forsaken mess. I'll see that scene for the rest of my life."

The disaster raises a lot of questions about productivity versus safety in this industry.

As workers, 170 feet off the ground, were pouring the 29th ring of concrete on top of the partially completed tower, the 28th ring began to give way and the scaffolding bolted to it pulled loose.

Observers described the collapse as looking like a giant peep of orange falling off the top.

MEN HAD COMPLAINED

Phil Keeling, a construction worker from West Virginia and a member of IBEW Local 466, commented to Workers' Power: "It sounds to me like a cooling tower this big, to be pouring five feet of concrete a day if pretty damn fast."

"A dozen men complained that the pour hadn't set up enough."

Although the "experts" have not determined the cause of the disaster, most workers on the site are telling the press that the concrete was "green" or wet.

"The damn concrete was gray Thursday," said Darrell Bailey who was working on the site.

"They shouldn't have moved that scaffolding up. I guess they wanted production and that's what they got."

Pouring concrete too rapidly is a notorious cause of construction disasters.

"What is common throughout the construction industry," Phil Keeling told Workers' Power, "is the rush."

Surviving relatives comfort each other after construction disaster killed 51 W Va. Workers. Below is tower where scaffold fell—above, its completed twin.



"They make a deal—the contractors, the real estate people, the people who are going to move in. They promise to be done by a certain date."

"The contractor is penalized vast sums of money for every day that they're late."

"You get incredible, incredible rush jobs. That's when they really start cutting corners."

RELAX WORK RULES

Over the past couple of years, the Building and Construction Trades (AFL-CIO) have been willing to relax work rules and sign no-strike agreements in exchange for jobs for union members.

High unemployment, and a growing number of non-union workers (it is estimated that one-third of heavy construction work is non-union) pressure the unions.

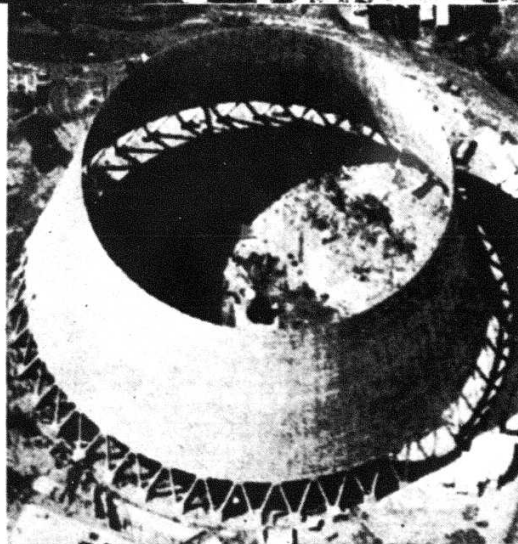
The Building Trades have tried to save jobs by negotiating away working conditions, the right to strike, and even wages.

In 1977, an editorial in the St. Louis AFL-CIO News urged the trades to "back off" and "give our good AFL-CIO contractors the breathing space they need to stay in competition with the scabs."

During the contract rounds, homebuilders settled for \$1.20 increase—less than half of what they got in previous contracts. Carpenters and laborers gave up double-time for overtime and went back to time and a half.

Contractors threatened to use scab labor to force the union to its knees.

When the Daniel International Corp. threatened to use non-union



labor to build a \$1.8 billion nuclear plant, St. Louis locals agreed to ease up on work rules and accept lower wage rates in exchange for an assurance that the contractor would use a unionized workforce.

SUBSTANDARD AGREEMENTS

These so-called "project agreements" (because they are negotiated for a single construction project) often include lax work rules.

For example, on Daniel's nuclear project, the contractor has the right to determine the size of work crews and to assign helpers to the less-skilled jobs that journeymen usually perform.

The question is, when do the substandard project agreements cut costs—and when do they lead to disaster?

How many more families will grieve like those in Willow Island? □

How execs perk up their lives

by Karen Kaye

My grammar school English teachers used to tell us, "use a word three times and it is yours."

By this method I learned such words as "apartment," "insurance," and "privilege."

Today I saw a new word in the newspaper, "perquisites."

After reading the article and finding out what they were I said, "I could use some perquisites. I need perquisites more than the people who get them. I really want perquisites."

Well, the word was mine, but I did not "get what it meant" since I did not get any of the following items for free:

- an apartment
- life insurance
- physical exams
- financial counseling
- a car
- a chauffeur
- membership in luncheon and country clubs
- \$1000 a month in spending money beyond my regular pay.
- installation and maintenance on a security system for my home.

And yet, these are the ingredients of the meaning of the word "perquisites" to the top executives of 80% of America's large businesses, according to a recent survey of 400 major corporations. Only they call them by the fond nickname, "perks."

Yes, people who are paid from around \$80 grand to \$800,000 a year to be presidents and vice-presidents of corporations often get some of these little gifts from their companies for free.

Free to them, anyway. Guess who supports this welfare for the well-off.

ALL YOU CAN STEAL

Thomas M. Clark, \$86,000 a year president of Michigan Rivet is the one who gets an add-on \$1000 a month "for which he need not account to the company," said a company spokesman.

Delta Airlines paid for home security systems for its officers and directors.

Atlantic Richfield Company gave chairman Robert O. Anderson a free apartment in Los Angeles and use of company aircraft to get to and from his other home in New Mexico. His salary is \$427,406.

MCA Inc. lent its \$275,000 president Frank Price \$700,000 to buy and furnish a "personal residence." Interest rate: 4%.

Why do high paid bosses get these extras that most people slave for, save for, pay for, and never even get near?

According to George H. Foote, described in the New York Times as a "compensation specialist," perks "make sure an executive's time is not wasted on inconsequential things like commuting."

They also provide tax advantages for execs in high income brackets, he said.

Perk, perk, perk. Use a word three times and it makes you think of coffee... I think I'll go and get a cup.

Maybe it does work. At Workers' Power, we get free coffee. (But if you want tea, bring your own bag.) □

Workers' Power

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Auto Workers Seek Pension Hikes

BUT DISUNITY MARS REFORM GROUPS' EFFORTS

by Dave McCullough
Vice-President
UAW Local 869

LINDEN, New Jersey, April 25—Over 100 delegates from 59 local unions met at the Second Conference of the Cost of Living on Pensions Committee. This is an increase of ten locals from the first conference held in Flint, Michigan this winter.

The COLA on Pensions Committee is the old "30 and Out Committee," chaired by Hank Oginsky of Buick Local 599 and with a large grassroots base in the giant GM assembly plants in Flint.

The Committee's purpose is to make pension COLA the number one demand in UAW 1979 contract bargaining. Its strategy is to build a grassroots movement aimed at the Bargaining Convention in March, 1979.

FRICIONS

In the past, "30 and Out" worked together with the UAW Short Work Week Committee, chaired by Frank Runnels of Cadillac Local 22 in Detroit. Both demands—short work week and pension COLA—were joined on banners, jackets, insignia and in public statements.

Now a possible split is brewing. Runnels has parlayed his outfit into the All Unions Committee to Shorten the Work Week, a much bigger and flashier organization.

UAW President Doug Fraser addressed its first conference, while the pension COLA conference got only Vice-President Martin Gerber. There was some sentiment that Runnels had abandoned the pension COLA movement and taken the UAW International's stamp of approval with him.

Local 212 delegates John Coyne and Sam Weary moved to divorce the pension COLA demand from short work week. A decision was tabled to the next national conference, which will be at Local 662 in Anderson, Indiana in September.

The trouble began when the Pension COLA Committee defined its aim as making COLA the "Number One bargaining demand." Short work week is still officially "Number Two."

This approach accepts the idea—spread by the top UAW leadership—that the size of each contract pie is known in advance. The only question is how to slice it.

UAW President Fraser uses the figure of 64c as the size of the pension COLA slice, as calculated in 1976 negotiations. That compares with a 10c slice of wage increases in '76.

Pension COLA and short work week are both "must have" demands. A better strategy for rank and file UAW members is to unite all the movements for specific demands into a single force demanding a bigger settlement.

Otherwise, the UAW International will continue playing off one section of autoworkers against another in order to protect the corporations' pocketbooks.

NERVOUS

The Pension COLA Committee leadership—insecure about Runnels' support and the International's approval—has a case of the nervous jitters.

Those jitters resulted in a breakdown in communications with the

locals and a shortage in the treasury. Locals haven't been pressed to formally affiliate and pay the \$100 fee voted at the founding conference. So there has

been little publicity.

At present, the Committee's only activity is to collect petitions signed by local union officers in favor of

making pension COLA the number one demand. This is to be followed by a petition for the rank and file.

The majority of delegates wanted

more action. Despite a meagre treasury, they voted to go ahead and have patches, buttons, bumper strips and other publicity gimmicks made as soon as possible. □

Are Union Gripes Criminal?

IBT Convicts Vlahovic

Is criticizing your local union leadership a crime? In the Teamsters Union, apparently it is.

Jack C. Vlahovic, a Teamsters for a Democratic Union member and rank and file leader in British Columbia's Teamster Local 213 was convicted last week—by the International's Executive Board—of criticizing the local leadership in a Vancouver radio broadcast.

The charges: Vlahovic had accused Senator Ed Lawson of "gross mismanagement of union funds, vindictiveness, and total ineptitude." Lawson is an officer of the Teamster General Executive Board, and a member of Local 213.

On the same radio broadcast, it was reported that the Lawson-dominated Teamster Executive Board had fired some business agents who supported Vlahovic. The board also had apparently operated for several years under local by-laws which it knew to be in violation of the international union constitution.

UNION ELECTIONS

All of Vlahovic's accusations are true, but this didn't phase the General Executive Board. Vlahovic is unpopular with union leadership. He and others had earlier run a slate of candidates for the local Executive Board against Lawson supporters.

They were successful, winning three out of seven positions, including the top offices of President and Secretary-Treasurer. They ran on a platform of improving service to members and encouraging rank and file participation in the affairs of the local. It was a bitterly-contested campaign.

Shortly after the election Lawson and his Executive Board majority disclosed that by-laws passed in 1973 which extended the powers of the Secretary-Treasurer—a position Vlahovic had won—were invalid.

Though Lawson knew during the campaign that the by-laws were invalid, he waited until his supporters lost the two principal offices to tell the membership.

Then Lawson's people fired several business agents who Vlahovic had hired to replace Lawson supporters who were incompetent.

Local finances had been in the red for some time prior to Vlahovic's election. Within two months they were in the black. This gave some credence to Vlahovic's controversial radio broadcast charges.

Besides charging Vlahovic with criticizing the local union leadership on the radio, he was charged and convicted of a dozen other charges, before the Teamsters Regional Joint Council, of which

Lawson is president.

Then Lawson and his people engineered a movement to split the local into two smaller Teamster locals—an attempt to dilute Vlahovic's political base. This is illegal under Canadian law, without a vote of the membership.

RANK AND FILE ANGRY

The Teamster rank and file was outraged at Lawson's trickery. Vlahovic toured the province and received unanimous votes of confidence at every meeting. At some of the same meetings Lawson was given stunning votes of no confidence.

Vlahovic appealed his convictions to the General Executive Board. A hearing, held in Miami

Beach, while throwing out some of the convictions, and reducing fines from \$26,000 to \$1000, upheld the conviction for his exercise of free speech. They also removed him from office as Secretary-Treasurer.

The board justified their decision about the radio broadcast on the grounds that there are no laws in Canada protecting freedom of speech in unions. Had Vlahovic committed the same acts in this country, the board seemed to say, his convictions would have been overturned.

Though there is only one Teamster International constitution, it would appear that it is interpreted according to a double standard, one for Canadians and one for Americans. □



Jack Vlahovic

The next union election in which Vlahovic may run is scheduled for 1982. At this time, he is considering law suits in both the U.S. and Canada to overturn the union's decision. □



DETROITERS WILL KEEP NAZIS OUT, RALLY SAYS

DETROIT—Over two hundred members and supporters of the Detroit Labor-Community-Interfaith Council Against the Nazis celebrated their recent victory over the Nazis this past Sunday afternoon with a rally in Clark Park on Detroit's southwest side.

The anti-Nazi group rallied in the park to reaffirm their determination to pursue the Nazis "wherever they go," after the Nazis' recent eviction from their bookstore-headquarters on Vernor Highway.

A contingent from Skokie, Illinois, where Nazis are planning a public march, participated in the rally.

Spokespeople representing labor, youth, and the Black, Latin, Arab, and Jewish communities spoke about the need to continue the fight against the Nazis, and the need for unity amongst all the different elements in the community, despite their differences on issues other than the Nazis.

Saleh Fawaz, Executive Board member of the Arab Community Center for Social and Economic Services and a Vice Chairperson of the Council, said, "Blacks, whites, Arabs, Jews, young, old—we are all here today—together—to get the Nazis out! And we won't stop till the job is done!"

Rumors abound throughout Detroit as to where the Nazis are reopening their headquarters. Head Nazi Bill Russell recently announced that the Nazis were planning to reopen sometime next month at an undisclosed location in Detroit.

The Detroit Council Against the Nazis intends to make good its promise to "Get the Nazis Out!" regardless of where the next poisonous headquarters is located. □

4 P.W.

NAMIBIA: THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE IS NEAR VICTORY

But U.S. Backs Scheme To Keep South Africa In Control

by Sandy Boyer

The United States and its Western allies are trying to sell a deal to help South Africa keep control of one of the richest countries in Africa.

The country is Namibia—also called South West Africa. It has been occupied by South Africa for the past 60 years. Since 1966, South Africa has been continuing this occupation in defiance of the United Nations.

Namibia has a population of about one million, 90% Black.

Namibia has vast mineral wealth including uranium, diamonds, copper, zinc, lead, and silver. Its diamonds provide most of the profits for DeBeers—the world's largest diamond company.

By 1980 Namibia's uranium could supply 10-15% of the West's energy needs. It also has the fifth largest known deposit of natural gas in the world—still completely untapped.

HIGH STAKES

Obviously the stakes are enormous, both for South Africa and for the Western companies who would like to invest millions to exploit Namibia's wealth.

But the stakes are also enormous for the people of Namibia, who are fighting to control their own country and their own resources. Since 1966, SWAPO (Southwest



Female freedom fighters in Namibia.

African People's Organization) has been waging a guerilla war against the South African occupation.

Today, SWAPO has the support of the vast majority of the people of Namibia. The Western powers themselves know SWAPO would win any remotely fair election.

Now the five Western members of the UN Security Council (the U.S., Britain, France, West Germany, and Canada) have put together a "compromise" plan for Namibian independence.

South Africa accepted the plan. SWAPO rejected it.

This plan would allow South Africa to keep control of Namibia's only deep water port—Walvis Bay. This would give South Africa a strangle-hold over the Namibian economy.

The Western plan calls for free elections leading to independence by the end of 1978. But during the

election period the country would be run by a South African Administrator-General.

"Law and order" would be maintained by the South African police force. Of course, SWAPO would still be free to run in the elections—the same way Republicans are free to run in elections in Cook County.

SWAPO is demanding that the UN run the elections. They want a UN administrator instead of a South African administrator and a UN force instead of the South African police.

DUBIOUS FRIENDS

So far, SWAPO is standing by its rejection of the Western plan. They see Walvis Bay as especially critical.

An "independent" Namibia without Walvis Bay would be totally dependent on South Africa.

But SWAPO is under tremendous pressure to change its stand—and not just from the West. Independent African countries, including Nigeria, Zambia, Tanzania, and probably Angola are trying to force SWAPO to give in.

These countries are hoping for a huge bonanza in aid and trade, not only from the West but from South Africa as well, if the Namibian issue can be settled quietly and to their satisfaction.

SWAPO cannot continue its guerilla war without the arms, money, and bases these countries provide. We don't know whether this aid will be withdrawn if SWAPO doesn't change its stand.

The future of Namibia is still very much undecided. The Namibian people have come very close to defeating their enemy, the South Africans who have occupied their country. Now they have to worry about their friends.

Zimbabwe, Eritrea: Spotlight On Liberation

The so-called interim government of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), made up of white racists and their Black puppet allies, is struggling desperately to stay afloat this week.

The government nearly collapsed when white Prime Minister Ian Smith ordered the firing of newly-appointed Black Justice Minister Brian Hove.

Hove was fired for demanding strong action to integrate the Rhodesian police force, which is white-run. Hove was a strong supporter of Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the most prominent of Smith's Black partners in the internal settlement.

Black outrage over Hove's dismissal forced Muzorewa to claim it was done without consulting him. However, Hove's firing was announced in a statement by the government Executive Council, which includes Muzorewa.

Either Muzorewa approved the firing of Hove—or else it was all done without his knowledge. Either way, Muzorewa, the political lynchpin of Ian Smith's internal settlement, has been exposed for the puppet he really is.

Trying to save his image, Muzorewa issued a tough-sounding threat to resign from the government over Hove's firing. Three days later he retracted the threat.

Instead, the Rhodesian government has issued an invitation to the parties of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, the guerilla movements who are fighting to liberate Zimbabwe from white minority rule, to surrender their weapons and join the Black puppets in Ian Smith's government.

All in all, the Rhodesian internal settlement is becoming one of the best comedy acts on the political stage. However, it doesn't look like its run will be a long one.

Cuban troops are massed to launch a full-scale invasion of Eritrea, reports indicate. The Ethiopian colony has been fighting for independence for a quarter century.

With over 90% of Eritrea liberated from Ethiopian control the military government of Ethiopia has no chance of reconquering it with its own forces.

The government is counting on the aid of Russia and Cuba to recapture Eritrea, for the sake of giving Russian imperialism a strategic foothold on the Red Sea.

But sooner or later, rank and file Cuban soldiers will begin to realize they are being used as cannon fodder against a people fighting for freedom, just as American soldiers found in Vietnam.

That may be a big headache not just for Ethiopia's military rulers—but for Fidel Castro, too.

Chilean Police Plot In '76 Letelier Murder Exposed

by Marilyn Danton

On September 21, 1976, in broad daylight, former Chilean Ambassador and Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier and his assistant Ronni Moffit, a U.S. citizen, were killed in Washington D.C., when a bomb exploded under their car.

A year and a half later, on April 26, 1978, the U.S. government charged a 35-year-old American expatriate with conspiracy in the murder.

The accused conspirator, Michael Vernon Townley who has lived in Chile since 1958, was employed by the Chilean secret police, DINA.

DINA, which is also the Chilean equivalent of the CIA, is directly responsible for the imprisonment, murder, or torture of thousands of Chilean workers and leftists since the coup which overthrew Salvador Allende's democratically elected government four and one half years ago.

PUBLIC PRESSURE

When he was murdered, Letelier was living in the U.S. under

political asylum and was employed by the Institute for Policy Studies, a private research group in Washington D.C.

John Alvis of the Institute for Policy Studies told Workers' Power:

"It seems clear that as early as fall 1977, they [the U.S. government] were on the track of Towaley.

"They were trying to get behind-the-scenes co-operation from the Chilean junta to name the conspirators.

"When this didn't work they went public in February, using publicity over Townley so that international pressure on the junta would facilitate the process.

"The case may lead to the indictment of up to ten people, including some Chileans."

Townley and a Chilean assistant also suspected of conspiracy in the murder of Letelier have traveled in and out of this country under aliases and three passports including U.S., Chilean, and Paraguayan.

According to the New York Times, the FBI had documentary evidence that Townley placed telephone calls to two anti-Castro

Cubans living in New Jersey who are suspected of being involved in the murder.

OSORIO MYSTERY

Five months ago, Chilean diplomat Guillermo Osorio was found dead.

Osorio had signed a request to the U.S. embassy in Santiago that diplomatic visas be granted to the two men who are suspected of setting up the bombing.

According to legal sources in the Chilean capital, Osorio's death certificate gave the cause of death as a heart attack.

His family maintains that he was shot in the head, and that he did not commit suicide as originally reported. A new autopsy was ordered.

As a result, Chilean head butcher and dictator, General Augustin Pinochet has forced the head of DINA, General Juan Manuel Contreras to resign.

The curfew which has been in effect since the coup September, 1973 has been lifted. A general amnesty has been granted for Chileans held for violation of state

of seige laws and 224 political prisoners would have their sentences commuted for exile abroad.

REFORM?

Secret police of many friendly dictatorships are allowed to operate freely in this country. When the Shah of Iran visited the U.S., Iranian students wore masks in their demonstrations against the Iranian dictator because they knew the score.

The Carter administration will be glad to take credit for the cosmetic, token reforms introduced by the Chilean dictatorship. It will point to these to justify American economic and political ties to Chile.

But this doesn't mean that Chilean intelligence services aren't still operating in this country—or helping the CIA monitor the activities of Chilean exiles in Europe.

And no amount of gushing "human rights" rhetoric will restore the lives of Orlando Letelier, Ronni Moffit, or tens of thousands of other victims of the Chilean generals and their backer, the U.S. government.

Killed By International Neglect

NINE-MONTH STRIKE BEATEN AT LATROBE

by Candy Martin

THE 1100 STEEL workers who struck for nine long months against the Timken conglomerate in Latrobe, Pa., voted with their stomachs last Sunday to return to work under terms little different from

those they rejected 1068-1 two and a half months ago.

The company threatened to shut down operations if its offer was not accepted.

It was the latest in a series of company ultimatums since the strike began last August. Timken

set out to break the back of the union, demanding "take-away" changes affecting over 400 working conditions.

The Latrobe workers were striking for parity with the Big Steel basic agreement, which they had always received in the past ("me-

too" contracts). Their strike was part of a pattern of resistance by many "me-too" locals against employers who forced strikes last year by demanding unions give up many previously-won contractual conditions.

In some cases, like Mesta Machine, the strikes were won. But the largest, Pullman Standard, which was settled last month, ended, like Latrobe, in defeat.

Latrobe workers had a strategy to win: including labor solidarity efforts like a march and rally of 2500 trade unionists in March. But their international union, the United Steel Workers of America, and its President, Lloyd McBride, shared none of the membership's understanding of basic union principles, ignoring the striking local's pleas for help.

Workers' Power interviewed William Ehman, Vice-President of United Steel Workers Local 1537 in Latrobe:

"It's a re-written contract," Ehman told us, "a totally different contract. Except for basic [steel sector] wages, most of the items were take-away.

"There's no retroactivity to May 1st, it didn't become effective until May 1st of this year, which means all the people that retired since the strike began lost out on the new pension benefits."

"It's basically the same offer we had in February."

But that offer was rejected 1068-1 in February. Why was it accepted by more than two to one this time around?

"Two and a half more months of the strike," says Ehman. "No relief. People were being blackballed from getting employment up here because they were on strike.

"Nobody voted on the contract. You have to understand that. They voted on their jobs. I don't believe there was one person voted on this contract.

"The company put the ultimatum down. For the fourth time, by the way, that was their fourth final offer. They sent letters out. 'If you reject the company offer, there will be no more jobs at Latrobe Steel.' They learned from before, they didn't take out paid ads this time, they used press releases and the media to get their message out.

"And they used federal mediation—we got a hosing through the federal mediation service as far as I'm concerned. They seemed to be working for the company, they couldn't have been a better agent."

Three of the six members of the local negotiating committee did not sign the contract. Ehman was one of them:

"I would have signed a document guaranteeing 1130 jobs, because that's what the people voted on, 1130 jobs. But I won't sign a...rag.

"I hope when they print it up it's on soft paper.

"That wasn't a contract that I negotiated—I was whipsawed—and I didn't even accept it then, because I didn't believe that their fourth final offer meant any more than their third final offer.

Was it worth going on strike, with a settlement this bad?

"If it brings attention to the fact that we locals that have lag agree-

ments need to get a uniform expiration date then, to me, looking at the broad picture of it, it was worth it.

"Not that I was any crusader out there, but that was our main problem. We didn't have the numbers, what the hell clout do you have?"

"That's the strength of the union, in its numbers, and when you start splitting up the numbers, what the hell clout do you have?"

That was the most important thing about the strike, then?

"The main thing the strike did, is it showed that the die's been cast—unless somebody gets their head out of the sand, we're all going down the tubes sooner or later...

"It was Latrobe Steel today, but Teledyne across the road is going to be tomorrow, unless they got a Santa Claus for a president of that company, or something begins to happen..."

What would it have taken to win the strike?

"Financial support from the International.

"I know there's a lot of people out on strike and we realized that: we weren't asking for anything over and above what other strikers were getting.

"The \$30/week strike benefit, especially after nine months on strike, that's like giving a dried-up person on the desert an eyedropper full of water..."

[The local used the strike pay to maintain strikers' insurance benefits.]

"We asked the International for a general loan; that would have maintained us for another six months.

"But we never even got something saying no. In fact, we sent a letter the week before we went down to Washington for [what turned out to be the final] mediations there.

"It was like a life breath, our last ditch effort. We knew it was coming down near the end. They never responded to that one, or to any of the three letters we sent.

"That was probably one of the biggest things that hurt the strike." □



March 19: USWA President McBride addresses Latrobe Labor Solidarity Rally where he gave a vague promise of financial aid in response to Local 1537's request. But nothing was heard from him after that.

UMW Slashes Support To Dissident District

by Jim Woodward

In the name of saving money, the International Executive Board of the United Mine Workers has cut off subsidies to several UMW districts which are not self-supporting.

Among these is District 19, covering Tennessee and central Kentucky. This area, which includes Harlan County, Ky., is the center of non-union operations which mine the greater part of the area's coal. And the operators are on the offensive. Union mine operators in District 19 employing 180 UMW members are still refusing to sign the master contract most operators signed a month ago.

Some UMW members believe that cutting off the subsidy to District 19 is a reprisal for the district's opposition to the latest coal contract. And some believe that it could hurt union organizing in this key area.

"It puts us in an embarrassing position, you know," says Eddie Sturgill, the district's Executive Board member, "to try to go out to organize a mine and the guys say, well, are we going to get full representation?"

"Our field representatives and our office staff haven't received a check since March. The field representatives are either going to have to work without pay or go back to the mines unless we get enough

money to run the district."

Sturgill also thinks there may be "politics" involved in the Board's decision, noting that District 19 voted against the recently-ratified contract by the largest percentage of any district.

"Myself and the district president did not support this '78 contract," he noted in a phone interview, "and you know, it's just kind of funny—they suddenly without warning just stopped the funds after subsidizing us for years and years."

STEARNS RALLY

The major organizing drive in District 19 is at Blue Diamond Coal Co.'s mine in Stearns, Kentucky. Many of the Stearns miners, who have been on strike for 22 months, felt that the International union has been neglecting them.

One such person is John Cox, a former UMW organizer at Stearns. "They [the International] ain't doing nothing, other than letting them go to hell," Cox told Workers' Power. Over the last year, he said, the International was "more or less tied up in politics—trying to get rid of the ones that was against them."

In early February, UMW President Arnold Miller suddenly moved against Cox and another key Stearns organizer, Lee Potter. Potter was transferred to Denver, and Cox resigned. "It was either

that or they would have found something to fire me on," Cox said.

At that time, one source was quoted as saying: "This may be the final blow. Lee and John made the strike. Nobody can have faith in Miller now."

That was rock bottom at Stearns. Now the International may be softening its attitude. At the end of April, Potter was reassigned to Stearns.

Potter told Workers' Power he did not know why the union's director of organizing had reassigned him, "but I'm glad he did."

Potter said that a rally to support the Stearns strike on April 29 had been attended by 400 people.

These are hopeful signs, but there is much more to be done. The kind of massive publicity and pressure campaign that won the Brookside strike is key, but there are few signs the union leadership is ready to begin such a campaign.

Yet organizing is essential to the future of the United Mine Workers. This year's strike was such a long one because it took the union 110 days to seriously hurt the operators.

The situation will be more serious when the present contract expires in three years unless the union leadership begins to organize aggressively. Right now, there is not much evidence of that happening. □



Bill Ehman

EXTRA! EXTRA!

"Australian Tycoon in U.S. Press Takeover!" the headlines screamed when Rupert Murdoch started buying up newspapers in several American cities.

At the New York Post, union printers and guild members have learned what Murdoch stands for—something more than "foreign" ownership and "sensational" news coverage.

Murdoch runs one of the most out-front, well-organized union-busting and strike-breaking operations in the publishing or any other industry. As the articles you are about to

read show, he is also one of the most successful men in the world at distorting and falsifying the news for his own right-wing political purposes.

Last week, with negotiations at a standstill, Murdoch's New York Post began carrying out its plan to slash its news and commercial staff by one-third.

About 125 people have been asked to "resign" from the paper, with severance pay. Those who refuse are being given new assignments, designed to force them out.

Murdoch wants to get rid of people, out of seniority, on the grounds they

are not compatible with his "publishing concept."

Workers' Power decided to find out exactly what that "publishing concept" is. The people who should know Murdoch the best live in his home country, Australia.

We asked THE BATTLER, the newspaper of the International Socialists of Australia, to tell us about Murdoch's background and how he operates.

PHIL GRIFFITHS and JANET VAUX, reporters for THE BATTLER in Melbourne and Sydney, Australia, prepared this feature for us. □

Rupert Murdoch - Who Is He?

Rupert Murdoch's career started at the age of 22, when he returned home to Adelaide, Australia from three years at Oxford.

His father, Sir Keith Murdoch, had risen to control the giant Herald newspaper publishing group. This group alone accounted for around 30% of the entire media in Australia at the time.

Sir Keith had made his mark as a rabidly anti-communist writer, and later, as a union-hating manager. On one memorable occasion, Melbourne waterside workers occupied his office until he agreed to let them reply to his attacks on their union.

A few years before his death, Sir Keith personally became the owner of two capital city dailies. When he died in 1952, one was sold to pay death duties.

After a bitter fight, Rupert Murdoch was left with the Adelaide News, an ailing afternoon paper in Australia's sleepest capital city.

GUTTER AND GOSSIP

Rupert's first major move was to acquire one of Sydney's two afternoon dailies, the Daily Mirror.



Rupert Murdoch with his wife, Anna, and children in his Manhattan apartment. [Right] Five-year-old Murdoch with his father, Sir Keith. Murdoch has locked horns with the unions throughout his Australian empire. Now he plans the same in the U.S.

along with some suburban and weekly papers.

It was here that he built his flair for gutter journalism and his trade-mark of "beautiful birds" (half-naked women) on page three.

The Daily Mirror and the weekly Truth traded on gossip, personal tragedy and soft-core pornography.

He later added one of Sydney's "quality" daily that has continually declined, and built a strong financial base.

He churned through editors at an incredible pace. They were either sacked or died in their thirties from heart failure. Anyone who either disagreed or didn't produce what he wanted was discarded.

He had also learned the art of union-bashing. But in Australia, the printing unions are strong in the newspapers and he met fierce resistance. He was frequently forced to publish statements from the unions.

In 1968, Murdoch made his first move to Britain. He took over the ailing News of the World, and in 1969 the daily Sun.

He "cut costs"—in other words, slashed staff—revamped the pa-

pers into his own image of smut, sport and sensational populism and their circulations rocketed.

By 1973, he was ready to enter the American market. He took over the San Antonio Express and laid the basis for his raid on New York.

The takeover of the New York Post by Rupert Murdoch is just another step in the career of this megalomaniac turned newspaper publisher.

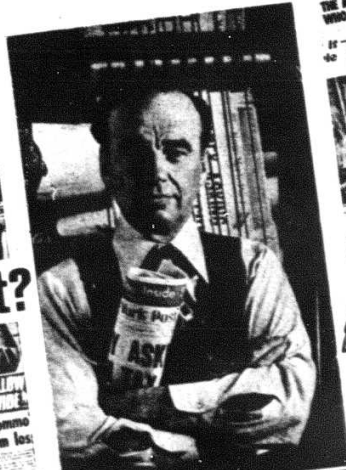
And the tawdry sensationalism, gutter journalism, political manipulation and union busting that are familiar to Australians will now find a new outlet.



And His Work...



Will the Post Be Next?



WORLD

THE BIRDS AND BARS WHO WILL NOT GIVE UP

FURY

£8 DO

DOCTORED

Murdoch was the first use of the Governor almost unknown Cons. elected ALP government. Articles favorable to Murdoch, while attacks and featured. Photos of Gough, the ALP leader, were

One of the worst examples of Murdoch's handling of newspaper in the country carried in unemployment, Murdoch announced a "Australian" announced a risk. This was because the ot

PHASE ONE: 20% FIRED.

STRIKE-BREAKING: HIS BIGGEST PRODUCT

Murdoch's industrial tactics in Australia are geared to an industry that is highly unionized.

Murdoch's company, News Ltd., and John Fairfax Ltd., the other major Australian newspaper company, are always prepared for a strike. In particular, they retain a number of ex-tradesmen in staff positions whose main purpose is to serve as a scab labor force during industrial disputes. The scabs are recruited internally, so that they can take over at short notice. It's not known exactly what inducements the bosses offer them. One militant speculated: "It's probably things like early retirement, job security, and so on. I don't know exactly how the scabs are bought off."

(In New York, of course, Murdoch has already produced a pilot scab edition of the Post.)

20% TO BE FIRED

Automation is the major industrial issue at present. Printers at Fairfax recently lost a long strike over job security with the introduction of visual display terminals (vdt's). Their case will

probably set a precedent for the industry in Australia. News Ltd. has set up an "experimental area," presently being used for "test runs." They recently announced "phase 1" of their planned automation, which involves an over-all 20% staff decrease "not before March 1979."

Under phase 1, the production of two Sunday papers will be computerized. Both Fairfax and Murdoch have benefited from the journalists who scabbed on the Fairfax printers' strike.

This is very different from the recent German strike, where the printers were supported by journalists and won exclusive rights to operate vdt's for the next eight years.

Murdoch is distinguished from other newspaper bosses by his direct personal involvement in strike-breaking, and by his blatant political use of his newspapers.

A worker summed up Murdoch's "respect" for union meetings: "Murdoch is the sort of person who'd like to gate-crash workers' meetings." "He wants to be able to make a direct appeal to the workers. For example, he asked to be

allowed to come in and address a strike-meeting just before the last Federal election. "But he was still hanging around when he was able to be let in, resounding 'no!'"

THE SCABS' SCAB

During a strike Murdoch rolls up his sleeves and helps produce scab papers. He likes doing composition, and sometimes he works in the delivery bay.

He also gets involved in personal confrontation with activists. One militant recalls that, during a lock-out a few years back, he and a mate made their way into the building and presented themselves for work.

"Murdoch didn't leave the incident to be looked after by a subordinate. "He arrested us himself and only leave if instructed by the union, and so he took it on himself to ring the union too."

The same worker continued: "Murdoch really regards the newspapers as his own newspapers. He treats them as a vehicle of his own opinions."



Murdoch has already published a scab edition of the New York Post.

If Murdoch Doesn't Like The Government - He Dissolves It And Elects A New One!

The most important struggle against the Murdoch papers took place in late 1975, when Murdoch ran up against both printers and journalists for his blatant political bias.

With his string of dailies across the country, Murdoch was able to manage and manipulate a campaign against the Australian Labor Party (ALP) unseemingly since the end of the war. Murdoch, like most business people, became disenchanted with the Labor Party government when it failed to attack the working class hard enough during the recession of 1974.

papers based their headlines on the seasonally adjusted figures. The Australian, just to find anti-Labor propaganda, pretended there was a "rise" in unemployment by ignoring the adjustment.

STRIKES

On November 11, 1975, the elected government of Australia

Telegraph also struck, to "protest at the repeated and continuing bias in news stories published in our papers."

The December 1975 journalists' strike finally included 450 journalists in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra.

In Fremantle, Western Australia, waterside workers banned the handling of newsprint for the

The strike won an assurance from Murdoch that editors would report news "fairly and honestly." But it didn't amount to much.

STORIES CUT

Bruce Stannard, a reporter who was covering the ALP election campaign, complained during a journalists' strike meeting that his

stories had been cut. This was leaked back to Stannard's editor. When the strike was over, he was taken off the campaign trail.

Even after Labor was defeated at the polls by the right-wing Liberal/Country Party coalition, Murdoch didn't let up. He continued to

POSTSCRIPT

Phil Griffiths writes: "There have been struggles against Murdoch in Sydney and Adelaide, but... because of the way they work, there are very few people still around who were involved." That's a message we'd like to pass on to the New York Post workers, about what lies in store if Murdoch and his henchmen succeed in establishing "the way they work" there.

When every other newspaper in the country carried a banner headline announcing a drop in unemployment, Murdoch's "Australian" announced a rise.

DOCTORED FIGURES

Murdoch was the first to urge the use of the Governor General, an almost unknown Constitutional official, to remove the elected ALP government. Articles favoring the popular, buried, while attacks on Labor were featured. Photos of Gough Whitlam, the ALP leader, were doctored.

One of the worst examples was Murdoch's handling of unemployment figures. When every other newspaper in the country carried a banner headline announcing a drop in unemployment, Murdoch's "Australian" announced a rise. This was because the other

was tossed off by the Governor General. On December 7, workers at News Ltd. in Sydney were on strike against the political bias in the Murdoch papers. In their own statement, the printers said: "We believe that the tone of these [editorials] had been getting so dangerously provocative of late as to cause our members' concern with their own conscience when handling the material."

In Sydney, there had only been one strike ever in the history of the union. Journalists on the Daily Mirror, the Australian and the Daily

Sunday Times.

The newspaper workers were infuriated by Murdoch's coverage of the election, which was called after the Labor government was thrown out.

At the height of the 1975 crisis, when Whitlam made his speech replying to the Governor General, Murdoch called from New York to dictate a scandal story about loans from Iraq—an excuse to bury the coverage of Whitlam's speech.

stories had been cut. This was leaked back to Stannard's editor. When the strike was over, he was taken off the campaign trail. Even after Labor was defeated at the polls by the right-wing Liberal/Country Party coalition, Murdoch didn't let up. He continued to

Speaking Out

What We Think

MAY DAY, 1978

Each year, the traditional international workers' holiday of May Day is coming closer to its original meaning—a day of workers' struggle and the fight for socialism.

In size and spirit, activities around the world last weekend marked the growth of working class organization and militancy.

SPAIN

Some of the celebrations were huge. Throughout Spain, more than a million people demonstrated. It was just a year ago that attempts to celebrate May Day in Spain led to mounted police throwing people down subway stairs and whipping them.

This year's largest march was in Madrid, called by the unions supported by the Spanish Socialist and Communist Parties. The theme of the march, working class unity, drew well over a quarter million people. Many of these are workers who don't necessarily support the SP and CP's policies of working with Spain's center-right government and its wage control policies.

In Japan, rallies across the country drew over two million people as part of the unions' traditional "spring offensive" in contract bargaining.

But not every May Day observance was important for its sheer size.

CHILE

In Santiago, Chile, an attempt was made to hold the first May Day rally since 1973. Police arrested 200 people for gathering without a permit.

A 78-year-old trade unionist, Clotario Blest, was beaten by the police as he was arrested. In years to come, when Chilean workers have won their freedom from fascism, this event will be remembered as part of the re-birth of their struggle.

Another demonstration last weekend was very much in the spirit of May Day. Between 50,000 and 75,000 people, according to news reports, attended the carnival organized by the Anti-Nazi League in London, England.

The carnival was organized to build the movement against the racist and fascist menace of the British "National Front." It was a day to celebrate the solidarity and brotherhood of ordinary white, African, West Indian and Asian working people—the people who have nothing to gain and everything to lose from racial divisions.

The turnout was about two to three times the size the Anti-Nazi League organizers had expected—the largest demonstration in Britain in many years.

From Britain, to Spain, and now to Chile—May Day is again becoming a day of workers' struggle, not just a day to recall symbols from movements of the past.

In the United States as well—not as rapidly, not as easy to see, but no less surely as the solidarity with the miners recently showed—traditions of working class organization and solidarity are also being re-born. □



Felipe Gonzalez (left), head of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party and Santiago Carillo (right), head of the Spanish Communist Party speaking at the May Day rally of 300,000 in Madrid, Spain. The rally was called by the two largest union federations—the Communist dominated Workers' Commissions and the Socialist dominated General Union of Workers. Workers in Spain are pouring into these unions, as well as the anarchist National Confederation of Workers.

As I See It

UAW's "Controlled Democracy"

by Frank Marquart

Concerning the forthcoming 1978 UAW elections, Workers' Power (April 24) reports: "A significant number of locals will have the opportunity of making a real choice between an administration which still holds to a stand-pat attitude and challengers who are committed to a more militant philosophy of unionism."

Local 212 is cited as an example of this new development in UAW politics. From 1944 to 1958 I served as full-time education director of that local.

I remember so well when Local 212 was distinguished for its wide-open democratic and militant political life. During World War II, Local 212 took the lead in fighting against the no-strike pledge and against the infamous "equality of sacrifice" program which turned collective bargaining into collective begging.

Those were the days when the two rival groups, the Reuther Caucus and the Thomas-Addis Caucus, enabled workers to get the most out of their union. But once the Reuther forces won out over their rivals and consolidated their hold over the UAW, the stultifying hand of bureaucracy throttled the rank and file activity in the locals.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

In my book, *The UAW From Crusade to One-Party Union*, I quote the late George Lyons, when he was education director of local 174 (Walter Reuther's local, no less):

"I don't think it's good when one group dominated the

Fighting Words

The working classes have taken the field and never will give up the contest until the power that oppresses them is annihilated.

—Working Man's Advocate, 1806

union. When the Reuther group and the Thomas-Addis group were fighting for power, the union locals could always count on getting quicker and better service from the International.

"Each side in the factional fight wanted to outdo the other in pleasing the locals, whose support they sought. Every time I called upon the International education department or research department for materials or for some other kind of assistance, the response was quick and helpful. Now, when I ask for such help I have to wait days before they finally come through."

Then Lyons complained about something more significant. "We no longer have the kind of democracy we once had."

"Our democracy is becoming more and more controlled...that's what we've got—controlled democracy."

He then went on to explain that in UAW summer schools

there is no longer the freedom to teach that prevailed in former times. "Our UAW teaching content is supervised from above."

Yes, for over twenty years the International UAW and the locals were ruled by "controlled democracy"—controlled from above.

I have witnessed how Local 212, once so determined to maintain its autonomy, eventually succumbed to domination by a one-party machine. But the old pioneer spirit is reviving.

New, younger militants are leading the struggle to wrest control out of the hands of the bureaucrats and restoring it to the membership, where it belongs. □

[Frank Marquart, a long-time UAW activist and historian, lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His book, *An Auto Workers' Journal* is available from Sun Distribution, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203. \$10.00.]

Where We Stand

Workers' Power is the weekly newspaper of the International Socialists. The I.S. and its members work to build a movement for a socialist society: a society controlled democratically by mass organizations of all working people.

Because workers create all the wealth, a new society can be built only when they collectively take control of that wealth and plan how it is produced and distributed.

The present system cannot become socialist through reform. The existing structures of government—the military, police, courts and legislatures—protect the interests of employers against workers.

The working class needs its own kind of state, based on councils of delegates elected at the rank and file level.

The rank and file of the unions must be organized to defend unions from employer attacks, to organize the unorganized, to make the union effective. Today's union leaders

rarely even begin to do this. The rank and file must organize to return the unions to the members.

The struggle for socialism is worldwide. We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against workers of other countries, including racism and protectionism.

We are against the American government's imperialist foreign policies, including its support of racist minority regimes in southern Africa.

We demand complete independence for Puerto Rico. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The so-called "socialist" or "communist" states have nothing to do with socialism. They are controlled by a privileged ruling class of bureaucrats and must be overthrown by the workers of those countries.

Black and Latin people are oppressed national minorities in the U.S. They have the right to self-determination—to decide their

own future. We support the struggle for Black Liberation and the self-organization of Black people. We also fight for the unity of Black and white workers in a common struggle against this system.

We support women's liberation and full economic, political, and social equality for women. We demand outlawing all forms of discrimination against gay people.

Socialism and liberation can be achieved only by the action of a mass workers' movement. The most militant sections of workers today must be organized to lay the foundations for a revolutionary socialist workers' party.

This is why the International Socialists exists—to create that party. We are open to all those who accept our main principles, and who accept the responsibility of working as a member to achieve them.

Join with us to build a movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world. □

The Socialist View

Capitalism Today - Lurching Toward The Next Recession

by Michael Urquhart and Paul Broz

Capitalism has outlived its usefulness. It is no longer capable of producing the achievements of a healthy, progressive economy.

No longer is the trend toward lower prices, higher real wages, shorter hours of work, and greatly increased capacity to make products.

Instead, the system is sick. Inflation, drops in real wages, and a falling rate of profit are symptoms of the disease.

It's a disease with a new name: stagflation—economic stagnation combined with inflation.

General Motors president Thomas Murphy said recently, "For the first nine months [of 1977] we did 6% [profit] compared to 6.2% a year ago. Four years ago we did 7%, when the volume wasn't too greatly different, and if you go back to 1965, you'd probably find it was over 11%."

This fall in the rate of profit causes a slower pace of economic growth. Investment in new equipment and machinery doesn't make any sense when expectations of future profits are low. And when 25% of the country's productive capacity lies idle to invest in new machinery makes even less sense.

New investment is only half the rate it has been during previous economic recoveries.

PREVIOUS REMEDIES

Before the Second World War, the prescription for the curing of economic ills was a depression or recession. A recession forced the most inefficient companies out of business, reduced wages by increasing unemployment [increasing profits], and made possible the birth of a new boom.

Today, a depression could trigger a social revolution.

And recessions do not work as well as they used to give new life to the system. Here are some of the reasons for this:

- Workers generally are able to defend themselves against large cuts in wages, regardless of the level of unemployment.

- Labor doesn't become as cheap as it did during earlier recessions, and so capitalists' profits aren't as big.

- Huge corporations have such control over their markets, acting virtually as monopolies, that they

can raise prices, even if demand for their products is falling.

So instead of lowered prices—deflation—during a recession, we now have inflation.

Capitalists try to maintain their profits, even in the face of shrinking markets. Such price rises fuel the fires of inflation.

- Today, the government steps in to save weaker large companies, because the bankruptcy of one threatens to set off a chain reaction which could turn a recession into a depression.

So the weeding out of weaker, more inefficient companies, common in earlier recessions, does not occur on so large a scale anymore.

STAGFLATION

The current "recovery" of 1976-78 is a good example of stagflation. Although the economy has grown some, the unemployment rate has remained at 7%, double the average post-war rate.

When capitalism was healthy in the 1950's, the official unemployment rarely went above 3%. Today, some economists are saying that the jobless rate will never go below 6% again.

These figures hide a more gruesome fact—that many youths, particularly if they are Black—can expect to be permanently without jobs.

Besides the problem of unemployment, inflation has been nipping at the heels of the system.

Capitalist textbooks teach that inflation happens when the demand for products produced is greater than the supply. Prices rise until the demand matches the supply.

But now, in our monopoly capitalist system, prices continue to rise despite high unemployment—unemployment which, by lowering consumer income, acts to reduce demand.

Recently, for example, some gas companies have raised prices, despite a drop in sales. Inflation, in recent years, has rarely been less than 6%. Today, it is headed up towards double digit levels.

In the 50's, when larger profits came from increased productivity and technological advances, instead of from monopoly control of prices, inflation was near 3% or less.

Government bigshots like Nixon

∞∞∞ THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR THIS TIME WILL NOT BE SEEN SO THAT WE MAY BRING YOU THE FOLLOWING DEPRESSION ∞∞∞



and Carter usually label inflation public enemy number one. They are concerned more for corporate profits than they are about unemployment. High inflation could wipe out the capitalists' already low profit rates.

Top labor leaders, in a recession, often suggest government intervention in the economy. But government intervention usually has the effect of raising corporate profits by attacking workers' living standards, reducing wages while allowing prices to rise.

One example is Nixon's 1971 wage freeze, supported by George Meany, President of the AFL-CIO.

Stagflation is worldwide. Each country tries to solve its own

problems by exporting more goods to other countries. But this doesn't work, because everyone tries to do it.

The only results are more competition for international markets, and calls, at home, for import controls.

Today it's the steel companies demanding protection from Japanese competition. Tomorrow it'll be someone else.

Today, some economists tell us that we are in a "growth recession." What about the future?

We can expect that the same underlying causes of this "growth recession" will continue to cause recessions that are even longer and more frequent. The recoveries from

these recessions will be shorter and weaker.

As time passes, it may become difficult to tell the booms from the busts without a scorecard.

As we said earlier, capitalism is a system that has outlived its usefulness.

No longer are living standards increasing, goods getting cheaper, and productive capacity expanding at a healthy rate.

The next recession will begin with unemployment at 7%. Employers, and their friends in government, to protect profits, will call for sacrifices on the part of workers to preserve the system.

Out of workers' resistance to these attacks on their living standards can come a movement which will throw off the yoke of this system and replace it with a humane, truly democratic system—socialism.

Only then will the cycle of boom and bust find its ultimate remedy. □

CORRECTION

Last week, due to technical problems, Workers' Power made errors in several names in our story on the fire fighters' strike in Normal, Illinois. The local attorney is Dale Berry; the City attorney is Frank Miles; the City manager is Dave Anderson; and Pam Lawson's husband, Ronald Lawson, is a permanent member of the union negotiating committee.

JOIN US!

If you agree with the views express in this paper and would like more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, send this form to: INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, Michigan 48203.

Name

Address

Union

I.S. BRANCHES

- National Office: 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203
- Atlanta: P.O. Box 11016, Atlanta, GA 30310
- Austin: P.O. Box 8492, Austin, TX 78712
- Bay Area: P.O. Box 132, Oakland, CA 94604
- Boston: P.O. Box 8488, JFK Station, Boston, MA 02114
- Chicago: P.O. Box 11268, Fort Dearborn Sta., Chicago, IL 60611
- Cleveland: P.O. Box 03336, Station B, Cleveland, OH 44103
- Detroit: 16155 Meyers, Detroit, MI 48235
- Gary: P.O. Box 426, Gary, IN 46402
- Los Angeles: P.O. Box 1545, Lynwood, CA 90262
- New Jersey: P.O. Box 897, Chestnut Station, Union, NJ 07083
- New York: 30 E. 20th St., Room 207, New York, NY 10003
- Pittsburgh: P.O. Box 466, Homestead, PA 15120
- Portland: P.O. Box 4662, Portland, OR 97208

RED TIDE: "OUR AIM IS TO CHANGE THE WORLD"

by Peter Robinson

"We've begun the process of changing the world. We have not—we will not be stopped." With these words, Frank Runninghorse, outgoing Red Tide organizer, opened the 1978 Red Tide Convention in Detroit.

His speech set the mood for the over fifty Red Tide members from Detroit and Cleveland meeting over the last weekend in April.

R.H., another Red Tide member from Detroit, put forward the feeling that we have the ideas: "This is the revolution, it's starting right now."

We Red Tiders come from the community, from the ghetto and this is for real. We can change the world, if we stick together, take an active concern in our community, build the Red Tide, and unite against our common enemy, the wealthy.

The Red Tide is the youth group of the International Socialists. Gay Semel, National Secretary of the I.S., brought fraternal greetings to the Red Tide.

The Tide is an organization of Black and white high school and unemployed and working young people. It is active in the community, in the high schools, and at work, organizing against racism, sexism, harassment, lack of democracy in

the schools, poor quality education for inner city kids and against the whole system where the wealthy control everything for their own benefit.

CLEVELAND BUSING

The theme of the convention was fighting the growing right-wing movement.

Red Tide members in Cleveland are planning to fight the racist organizing as busing begins in that city this fall. Cleveland Tide organizer, Sandy, spoke about an anti-busing meeting last week of over 2000 people including at least eight Nazis. The Tide will be active in the high schools against the anti-busing/racist forces.

In Detroit the Red Tide has been involved in a campaign against the American Nazi Party.

The Tide participated in organizing demonstrations against the Nazi bookstore and working with the Labor Community Interfaith Council against the Nazis. The campaign recently ended in victory as the Nazis were evicted and the store was turned into an anti-Nazi information center.

ANTI-NAZI WORK

Red Tide organizer Larry "Bushy" pointed out the role of the

police in this fight: "The police were all over the place protecting the Nazi book store, but they haven't been protecting the anti-Nazi store."

Another Red Tider agreed: "Yes, free speech, but not if you are going to downgrade everybody else and preach hate and murder."

There was a discussion on what causes people to turn to Nazism. Tony Satan, Southwest Detroit organizer, presented the view that it is the decay of the system and people looking for an alternative to it. "In the past, people worked two jobs to send a kid to college. Now they do it just to get by and no college."

"You supposedly get paid every day for every hour, but really you don't. All you get is food, clothes on your back and a house over your head."

Red Tide members also discussed how to organize in the high schools for more student rights and better education.

Other Tide members are active in organizing young workers on the job. The Convention discussed their problems and a number of members attended a workshop on workplace organizing.

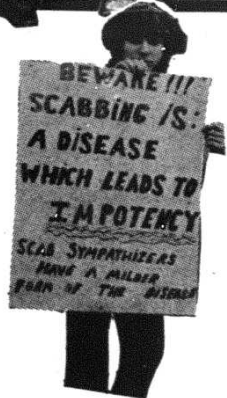
The next day the Convention attended a rally celebrating getting the Nazis out of Detroit. It was an appropriate end to the weekend. □



Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

The Labor Department has published two interesting statistics for the first three months of 1978. The first is that **workdays lost due to strikes** during this period rose to 0.25% of all working time—its highest point since 1950. The other statistic shows that **wage increases** in major union contracts jumped substantially during the same period. For contracts covering at least 5000 workers, newly-negotiated first year wage increases went up from 9.5% to 14.6%. The simultaneous increase in both wages and strikes was not coincidental—the Labor Department said the miners' strike contributed significantly to both.



One union official who does not seem to have learned much from the miners' strike is **Teddy Gleason**, president of the **International Longshoremen's Association (ILA)**, which represents east coast dock workers. West coast longshoremen may strike when their contract expires later this year. Asked if the ILA would join such a strike, Gleason replied: "No, we won't go out on strike, but we will respect bona-fide picket lines. We don't believe in tying up the industry; that's why we staged a selective strike last year."

In Carmichaels, Pa., another coal miner was killed when he was crushed by an out-of-control railcar in a **Buckeye Coal Company** mine. He was the tenth miner killed since the coal strike ended.

During the coal strike, the Carter Administration gave extensive publicity to the passage of the new **Black Lung Benefits Reform Act**. It's now supposed to be easier for miners suffering from this disabling lung disease to get benefits. The government is setting up meetings in the coalfields to explain the law. But some miners attending these meetings reported nothing but confusion. "I don't know a damn bit more than I did when I came in," said one miner as he left a Charleston, W. Va., meeting.

Coors Beer profits are down a whopping 67% for the first three months of this year. AFL-CIO brewery workers are on strike and boycotting the company's products. The company reports that a major reason for the profit decline is a 19% drop in sales.

Fans of Teamster organizer **Chuckie O'Brien** will be glad to know he was convicted in a Detroit federal court April 27 of lying on a bank loan application. O'Brien faces four years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. "It's all total harassment," Chuckie claims. "This is only the beginning. They're trying to squeeze me to get information on the Hoffa [disappearance]."

As a public service, we reprint here in its entirety an article from the April 26 Detroit Free Press:

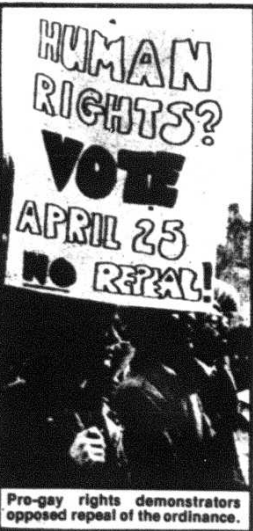
"The way to get a job is to lie about yourself and your achievements, according to an employment consultant."

"Robert Half told a meeting of personnel executives in Minneapolis Tuesday that American business has become accustomed to lies in job applications, and that employers sometimes look upon applicants who stick solely to the truth as fools not worth hiring.

Half said he's been told by some employers that they wouldn't hire anyone who stuck to the unvarnished truth, or didn't conceal the least-attractive elements of his or her past, because they figured the applicant wouldn't be sharp enough to work for them."

What's happening where you work? Send items for this column to: Workers' Power, Labor Notes, 14131 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, Michigan 48203. Or phone 313-869-5964.

St. Paul Repeals Civil Rights



Voters in St. Paul, Minnesota rescinded a 4-year-old gay rights ordinance on April 25.

The ordinance banned discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations on the basis of "sexual and affectional preference."

"This is a very serious matter," remarked **Rosalyn Carroll**, president of the St. Paul School Board. "If gay people are defeated now someone will be next—Blacks, or women, or the handicapped, or the aged."

Despite active and broad support, the ordinance was voted down by a margin of 2-1. The weekend before the referendum, about 2000 people rallied at the state capitol. They released a thousand balloons that said "Vote No."

The activists had the support of the mayor and other city officials.

CONSERVATIVES TAKE STAND

The campaign against the ordinance was initiated by Rev. **Richard Angwin**, pastor of the Temple Baptist Church.

Kerry Woodward, campaign manager for the Citizens for Human Rights, an organization which worked to defend the ordinance, noted, "There have been no problems here as a result of the ordinance and we don't know why Rev. Angwin decided to make a stand."

Conservative forces in many cities are taking a stand against human rights for gays, as well as other minorities.

Repeat of gay rights ordinances will be on the ballot May 9 in Wichita, Kansas and May 23 in Eugene, Oregon. In Wichita the ordinance is expected to be repealed.

In California, State Senator **John Briggs** claims he has signatures to get an initiative on the November ballot that would allow school districts to fire gay teachers. A similar proposal has already passed the Oklahoma legislature and will go into effect this month.

The defeat in St. Paul follows the defeat of a similar ordinance in Dade County, Florida last year. □

E.C.



STEEL WORKER ROOTS



Can you name this sports star? If not, read on...

There are sports experts, and then there are Sports Experts. Any run-of-the-mill fan who tunes in the evening news just in time for the sports can identify the likes of Bobby Bonds, Guy Lafleur, Bill Walton or even (with the advent of soccer) Franz Beckenbauer and Pele. But the way to tell the sports expert from the Sports Expert is to ask them this question: who won this year's Boston Marathon and set a new personal best-time record doing it? The mere expert flips through his mental file of recent TV film highlights and answers: Bill Rogers, of course. **GUESS AGAIN** But the true Expert, who is more than likely a woman running enthusiast, knows that the correct answer is: Gayle Barron, in two hours, forty-four minutes and fifty-two seconds.

by Eric Stovall
USW Local 1256

Thomas Bell's *Out of This Furnace* is an account of the role played by immigrant labor in the creation of America's massive steel industry.

It deals specifically with the contributions of the Slovak work-

Out of This Furnace. A Novel of Immigrant Labor in America. by Thomas Bell; University of Pittsburgh Press; 1976. \$4.95 paperback.

ers, as it follows the life of the central character, George Kracha. From his peasant origin in Tvarosc, Sarisa, Hungary, the reader is taken through the hardships of life in the lowest social strata during the booms and busts of an industrializing USA.

Bell's superb novel puts flesh on the bones of history.

Almost everyone is familiar with textbook histories that give a dry framework of politics and economics of industrial growth.

Textbooks usually interpret that history as the acts of individuals like Carnegie, Mellon, or Rockefeller. Those histories may occasionally mention the masses of working people when they discuss "America—the melting pot."

But *Out of This Furnace* provides a continually realistic picture of the life of everyday people as part of history.

HUMOR & TRAGEDY

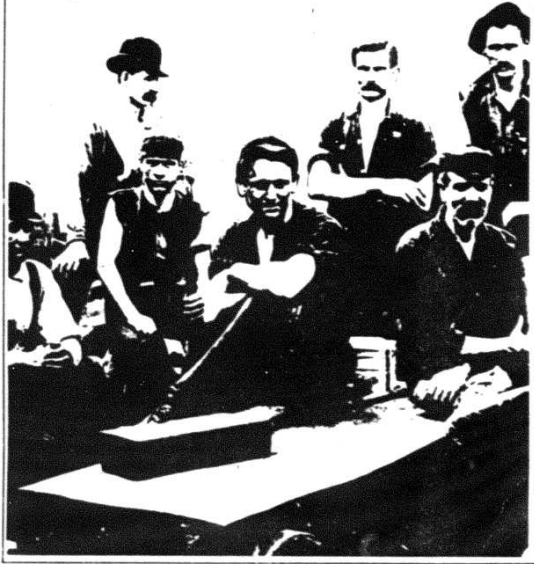
The story varies from the slightly humorous to tragedy.

At Kracha's arrival in America in 1881, he walks along a railroad where, "The ties were infernally spaced, too close together for his normal step and too far apart to be managed two at a time."

Later, his best friend dies in the explosion of a blast furnace. Kracha "grasped Dubik's wrist to help him up and felt the skin slide under his fingers like a wet label on

Out of This Furnace

A Novel of Immigrant Labor in America
by Thomas Bell



This book tells the story of immigrant steelworkers.

a bottle." But Bell does more than just convey the realism of the life of the immigrants: he puts it in the bigger picture.

Speaking of the accident that killed Dubik, "Officially it was put down as an accident, impossible to foresee or prevent... In a larger sense it was the result of greed, and part of the education of the American steel industry."

Work and the mills completely dominated the everyday life of the

millworkers and their families.

For the men it was 12-hour shifts, seven days a week, and a 24-hour shift every other Sunday that left them feeling that, "At three o'clock in the morning of a long turn a man could die without even knowing it."

And for the women, the daily hours were even longer, 14 hours a day of domestic drudgery. Cook-

ing, washing and childrearing under near-primitive conditions, and in many cases taking care of boarders that meant the difference between a few pennies in the bank and indebtedness.

You still often hear foreign languages spoken in and around the mills at Braddock and Homestead in the Pittsburgh area where Kracha worked.

These are the same mills where it was U.S. Steel's unwritten policy around 1900 not to have more than ten percent of the work force speaking the same language, the better to keep the workers unorganized.

Unionism and the continuous efforts of the steel industry to smash the organization of the millworkers is integrated almost throughout the book.

But even where it is less central to the story of people's lives, Bell very cleverly uses a broader summary of these and other political events to mark the passage of time at the ends of chapters.

1881 to 1937 is a lot of ground to cover, and Thomas Bell does it well.

There are many more quotes and examples that could be used to show this, from the breaking of the union and the eight-hour day in 1888, through the good times and bad, the First World War, the Depression and finally the success of the union in the CIO drive of the 30's.

READ IT YOURSELF

I suggest you get a copy of *Out of This Furnace* yourself and read it.

You just might find that the several hours you spend reading will pay off. It has for me.

When you find yourself discussing the present state of the unions and steelworkers and someone says, "Have you read *Out of This Furnace*?" You pause and reflect, knowing that there is a lot of common understanding about the struggles of the past and those yet to come before we're "out of this furnace." □

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Rogers, the winner in the men's division of the race, ran slightly off his own winning pace of a couple years ago.

All over the country that night, Rogers' winning performance was featured on both local and national network news broadcasts.

Gayle Barron was never mentioned once (unless local Boston news covered it, which I don't know for sure).

To find out who won the women's event in the Boston Marathon—a race women were not allowed to enter until a few years ago, when one sneaked in and physically fought off an outraged racing official—you would have to read the fine print in the next day's sports section.

EXPERT SPEAKS

Unless, like me, you happen to know a Sports Expert who remembered Gayle Barron's winning time

two weeks later.

"This outrageous sexism is typical of the way women's long distance running is ignored," she pointed out.

"The truth is that women are much better suited for endurance than for speed running. But despite a lot of pressure, women will still not be allowed to enter the 1980 Olympic Marathon."

The truth is that there are outstanding women 10,000- and 20,000-meter runners (that's about 6 and 12 miles) who only get to run competitively two or three times a year against top world-class competition. Meanwhile, men get to compete all over the world all summer long.

And it's pretty obvious that some powerful (male) figures in the international track establishment, most of whom would die if they ran around the block, want to keep it that way. □

Dan Posen

With Friends Like Gotbaum, Do Transit Workers Need Enemies?

by Michael Urquhart

NEW YORK—Victor Gotbaum, head of District Council 37 of AFSCME, is spearheading an effort to insure that the rank and file of the Transport Workers Union (TWU) do not vote down their proposed contract.

Last week rank and file transit workers successfully forced a new vote on their contract. This has thrown bargaining on other city union contracts up in the air. Plans to quickly settle other contracts, based on a transit pattern, have had to be dropped: no one knows what the final settlement will be.

And Gotbaum's very unhappy about this. So the coalition of municipal unions (comprising AFSCME, Teamsters, Teachers,

and Communications Workers' unions) is trying to sabotage efforts of the transit rank and file.

Most city workers support the transit workers. They recognize that a better contract for transit will mean a better contract for them all.

But in his column in the New York Times on Monday, May 1, Gotbaum referred to the proposed transit pact as "a reasonable contract." He went on to argue that "successfully negotiating a similar contract for the coalition of 200,000 city employees would be a convincing argument for the transit workers to ratify their contract."

In plain language a settlement now would stab the transit rank and file in the back and help to defeat the struggle.

Gotbaum's stance comes from

his unwillingness to fight city hall. His power is based on the patronage he receives from the city and state. Fighting for his members' needs would not endear him to the mayor and governor.

UNWILLING

What is the "reasonable contract" Gotbaum wants forced down his members' throats? It includes:

- \$250 cost of living bonus as settlement for COLA money owed in the last contract—less than one-half what they were promised.
- a 6% raise over two years payable starting in July;
- promise of a cost of living raise in the second year of the contract in exchange for productivity increases. Since they never got this

from the last contract, there is little reason to believe they will ever see it.

The contract amounts in reality to a negotiated wage cut. According to Gotbaum's own figures, wages fell 16% behind the rise in the cost of living during the last contract. Already, in the first three months of 1978, inflation was rising at an annual rate of 9.3%, and shows every indication of rising even further.

"GIVE-BACKS"

A major issue in the contract fight involves "give-backs"—the union giving back gains that have been won in previous contracts. A key issue here is the introduction of 200 part-timers, who would not

receive cost of living increases or any fringes. This could open the door to wide scale part timing in the future. The union, of course, would continue to receive full-time dues.

As rank and filers examined the proposed contract, an interesting discovery was made. The TWU contract no longer has a no-layoff clause. This was given back in the last contract and members were never told.

The delay in settling the municipal contracts and the possibility of rejection of the proposed transit pact has given the rank and file valuable time. They must use it to organize a massive show of opposition to the wage cutting policies of the city, the bankers, and their own union leaders. □

Workers' Power

3000 In West Coast Rally To Save Affirmative Action

SAN FRANCISCO—A spirited and colorful march kicked off a demonstration of 3000 here April 29.

To chants of "We won't go, back to Jim Crow," "We are the people, we are the nation; no such thing as reverse discrimination," and "Pueblo, sí! Bakke no!" they showed their determination to keep alive affirmative action programs for minorities and women.

In September 1976, the California Supreme Court upheld Allan Bakke's complaint that he suffered "reverse discrimination" as a white male when he was denied admission to a medical school. The school had a modest quota system for admitting minorities and women.

The case is currently before the U.S. Supreme Court, with a decision expected any time.

People marched from the Federal Building downtown through the Latin community to the Dolores Park rally. Representatives from the Black, Latin, Asian and Native American communities as well as speakers representing women and labor, spoke about the lie that "Bakke" represents: that people of color and women are now getting all the breaks.

The fact is that the small gains won during the civil rights movement are already being eroded.

Workers' Power reporters asked several people why they came to the rally.

"The main reason I'm here is because I feel that anyone who's in support of the opposition to this Bakke issue should express that opposition. So that the Supreme Court can make an honest judgement of how people actually feel about this issue."

"Personally, it's going to affect me in that it's going to restrict my upward gains in the working force."

Charlie Ironworker Oakland, California

"I support the anti-Bakke movement because reverse discrimination is a sham."

"It's not a true issue, it's actually an attack on the rights of poor people and minority people and working people to an education and to the rights of life and the rhetoric that says it's reverse discrimination is bullshit and I'm white and I can see that."

"If the Supreme Court favors Bakke, it would probably knock the pins out from under the affirmative action program in the construction unions. There are 68 women carpenter apprentices in all of northern California. And that's 68 more than there were ten years ago."

Mike Carpenter San Francisco

"I come out of affirmative action, too. If the Supreme Court cites Bakke against affirmative action programs, I feel like my family and other people in my culture will be affected by not being able to get even minimal education, let alone some high-skilled jobs or training."

"The college education I got, and even getting through high school was through an affirmative action program that came into our



Charlie



Lee

you're talking about whether I can get out of high school."

Lee CETA worker San Francisco

"An attack on affirmative action is an attack on women's right to work, and I have to work to survive."

"We've been mobilizing on it within our union. There are not many Retail Clerks here at the rally, but we have been educating people to it, on the job, and also at union meetings. It will take a while for workers who were unconcerned to understand the impact."

Kathern Clerical San Francisco



Demonstrators march past The Supreme Court last year. A ruling on the Bakke case is expected early this summer.