

More Than Meets The Eye!

1957



... Boyd Payton, Textile Workers Union Vice-President and seven other strike leaders on the way to jail. Their crime? Fighting against a textile industry union-busting drive. The place? Henderson, North Carolina.

1974



... Reverend Ben Chavis, together with other members of the "Wilmington Ten" after being released from jail on bond. Their crime? Fighting back against Klan-inspired violence. The place? Wilmington, North Carolina.

And then there's the score-board for two recent NLRB elections in North Carolina. They are part of the picture also.

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Tobacco Workers International Union	No Union
2606	4963

Cannon Mills

Kannapolis, North Carolina

Textile Workers Union	No Union
6801	8473

Other Things Worth Knowing

About North Carolina

Of all the states in the U.S., North Carolina ranks second in the percentage of people who work in factories. But, because the wages paid there are the lowest in the country (in 1972 they were about 2/3 as high as the national average), North Carolina ranks 32nd in income per person.

North Carolina has only one doctor for every 1,000 people, while the rest of the country averages one doctor for every 711 people.

North Carolina's workmen's compensation laws are so far behind the times that they only measure up to three of the sixteen standards set by the federal government.

It's A Little Tough For Workers But . . .

All of this is rough on working people—Black and white—but it's good for big business. It all goes to help make North Carolina a profitable place for giant Wall Street outfits like Cannon and Reynolds to set up mills and factories.

Things Weren't Always Like This . . .

At the end of World War II the people of North Carolina had made it the most progressive state in the South. Organizing drives had brought union protection to a higher percentage of North Carolina's workers than existed in any other Southern state. Union strength—not the goodness of the textile and tobacco industry—accounted for the fact that North Carolina's wages were also the highest in the South.

But all hell broke loose in the '50s when the corporations, together with the Eisenhower Administration and the McCarthyites, launched an all-out state-wide campaign to smash the labor movement in North Carolina. The Taft-Hartley Law, a state "right-to-work" law, racism and anti-communism—the works—were used to destroy the unity and fighting ability of the labor and people's movements.

No holds were barred as textile and tobacco big-shots used the State Police, the National Guard, under-cover agents, stool pigeons, and KKK night-riders to destroy the unions and bring back the open shop.

The job was finished in the early '60s but not without a fight-back. More than 200 union members were arrested, including the "conviction" and sentencing of Boyd Payton and seven other strike leaders to savage nine and ten-year prison terms.

The Times, They Are A Changin' . . .

Workers and union members are here today because they are determined to end unemployment and high prices. They know that thousands upon thousands of workers and poor people are going to have to get together if anybody is going to do anything about them.

It's the same way in North Carolina where all of the people are kept in poverty by the forcible denial of basic human and civil rights to Black people. For the past several years people have been fighting back against this terror and oppression.

Just as the authorities use brute force in the '50s to set back the people's march toward progress, the full power of state and local government agencies has been turned loose to block any attempts by the people to move ahead. And, as always, this violence is directed first against Black people who are leaders in the fight-back against the outrages directed against their persons and property.

That's why there's a "Wilmington Ten." That's why Reverend Ben Chavis (a one-time organizer for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers, AFL-CIO) and Ann Shepard, a former VISTA volunteer, and eight young Black men face long prison terms.

Their story is the same as that of Payton and the other strike leaders: Stool pigeon testimony, Nixon-like plea bargaining, a "hanging" judge, a stacked jury. And the aim is the same—to divide workers, to confuse them, to keep things nice and profitable for big business.

It's Up To Us!

Will North Carolina authorities get away with it? The answer to that question is in your hands. R.J. Reynolds is watching. So is Cannon Mills. So are workers everywhere.

Join us. Help Reverend Chavis and the Wilmington Ten. Help yourself.



Join Us!

SAVE THE WILMINGTON 10

**Saturday, May 31
11:00 a.m.**

Washington, D.C.

(Assemble at the Ellipse, adjacent to the White House)

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

1. Write letters, circulate petitions, and (if you live close enough) organize delegations to Gov. James Holshouser, State Capitol, Raleigh, N.C. Demand that the state join the defense in asking that these charges be dropped. There are ample legal grounds in briefs prepared by the defense. Also write the new Attorney General of North Carolina, Rufus Edmisten, at the state capitol.

2. Organize meetings in your community to hear the facts. Circulate this folder. Ask your local news media to publicize the case.

3. Help us get the word out. Petitions, brochures, and other materials are available from NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION, 150 Fifth Avenue, Room 804, New York, N.Y. 10011.

Until the Wilmington 10 are freed, a threat hangs over the head of every oppressed person in North Carolina—Black, white, or Indian—who seeks to organize and demand a better life. As long as the threat exists in North Carolina, nobody anywhere in the U.S. is safe—or free.

**National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression
150 Fifth Avenue / Room 804 / New York 10011 / 212-243-8555.**

5/31/80