

the union

HOTSHEET

OCTOBER, 1975 NUMBER 10



Trusteeship To End!
Elections In
November

LOCAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD

15 Day Notice Not Given

After thirteen months of trusteeship, we will finally be allowed to vote our union back into the hands of Local 400 members, and out of Tom McNutt's. Once again we'll be able to make motions, vote and have an active part in the running of our local.

We've seen McNutt in action this past year and we know better now than to trust our local to the International. We went from bad to worse when the International took over and we've learned the hard way that we need more than empty promises and new faces to improve our union. Those in power may change, but this change is only superficial.

What is important is that changes do take place in the basic philosophy of our union leaders. We need leadership that thinks "us" and not "me". We need leaders who actually are concerned and are working in the best interests of the clerks. What we don't need is people who are only concerned about collecting high salaries and having nice, new cars to drive. We need leaders who encourage democracy in our union and who do not stifle the voice of the rank and file, but encourage it.

Now is the time to act. Nominations for President, Secretary-Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and sixteen Vice Presidents will take place at the next union meeting on Tuesday, October 21, at the Ramada Inn in Alexandria. The elections will be held in November.

You can tell what kind of campaign the International is going to run -- they've already started cheating. According to the International Constitution, notice of the nominations meeting must be

given 15 days in advance. As we go to press, only seven days before the meeting, very few people have heard about the nominations, and no one has been notified through the Union Leader. There's no telling what else they have in store for us.

The future of Local 400 is up to you. Tom McNutt and the International must be stopped from taking permanent control of our union. Come out and vote for the rank and file slate in November.

Rank And File Beats Int'l In San Diego

In their first election after 18 months of International trusteeship, the membership of Local 1222 in San Diego, California elected the entire Rank and File Slate to union office. This slate was supported by the Rank and File Organizing Committee, the group that puts out CHECKOUT, a newspaper similar to the HOTSHEET. They defeated the International's candidate, Deputy Trustee Norm Heard, by a decisive 60-40 margin.

The situation in San Diego was much the same as it is here in Washington. The International trustee their local "to restore democracy", and immediately took away the members' rights to make and vote on motions at union meetings. And just like here, the real purpose of the trusteeship was to have the Deputy Trustee elected president when it was over.

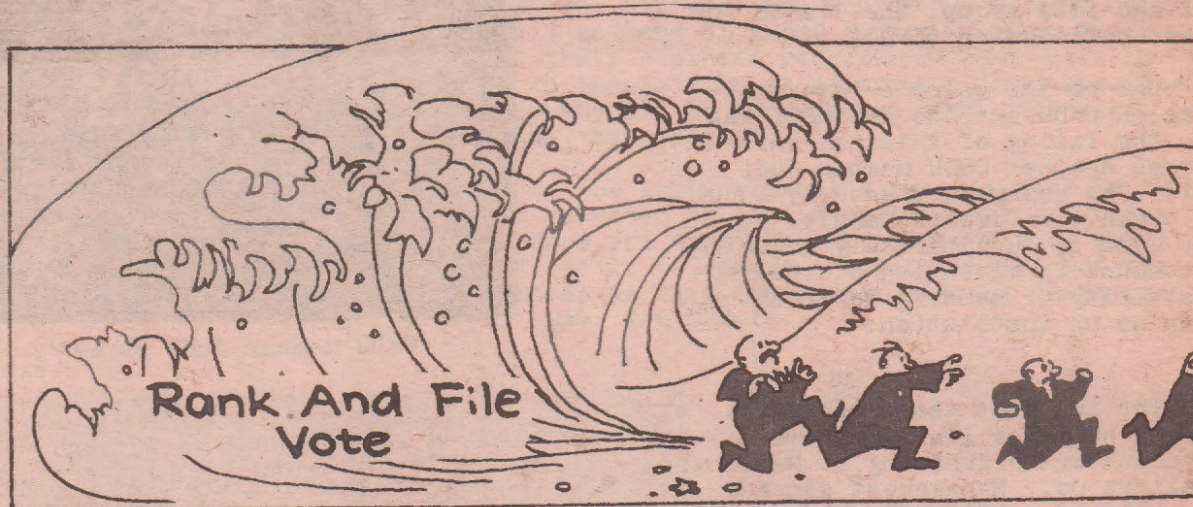
But the membership of Local 1222 saw through the International's plans. The margin of the Rank and File Slate's victory is even more impressive when you consider that the International counted the votes! We can take encouragement from the vote in San Diego. It is possible to defeat the International!

McNutt Changes Election Rules So He Can Run

Ever wonder how Tom McNutt became eligible to run for Local 400 president? After all, he's not from our local, he's from the International!

Previously, to run for local office you had to have been a member for one year before January 1 of the year of the election. This means that McNutt would have to have joined our local by January 1, 1974 in order to run. But he was ten months late, coming in September 1974 when the International took over our local.

Tom McNutt took care of this problem, though. He changed the election rules in the new bylaws. Now anyone who has been a local member for one year before the month of nominations, and an International member for two years can run for office. McNutt made it in the nick of time -- by eight days to be exact! He must be quite pleased with himself for that one.



For Election Information
Call CFDU At 585-7530



CFDU Member Harassed With Phony Charges

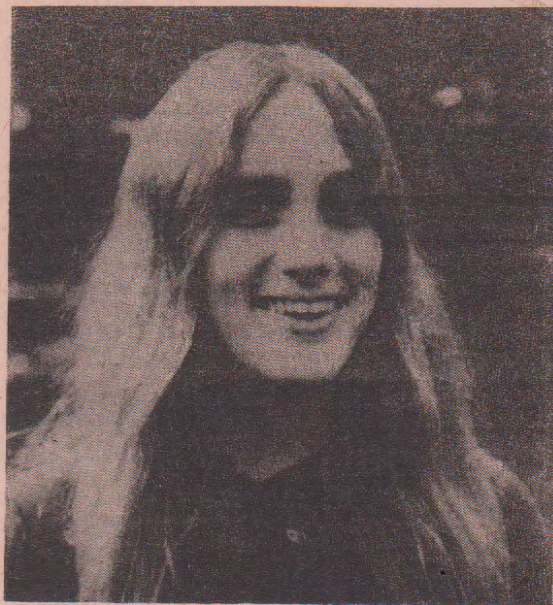
Most people who read the HOTSHEET know that the union leaders don't like us printing it. They have tried all kinds of tricks to stop us from distributing it, or to try and discredit us so people won't believe it.

The HOTSHEET is printed by a rank-and-file group, the Clerks for a Democratic Union (CFDU).

One of the union's latest attacks on CFDU and the HOTSHEET has been the filing of internal union charges against CFDU member Judi Bari. The charges, signed by Local 400 organizer Carolyn Makely, accuse Judi of "Deliberately engaging in conduct in violation of the responsibility of members towards the union as an institution."

The incident that led to the charges happened last July, when the union was organizing at National Furniture Co. Management somehow got ahold of a HOTSHEET and showed it to the employees, who then called the CFDU office and asked for more HOTSHEETS. Judi went to the store to answer the call, but she did not bring them any HOTSHEETS. Instead she tried to explain that we are for the union, and that they should join the union in spite of our internal problems.

Later that evening, Tom McNutt and the union organizers met with



--CFDU member Judi Bari--

the National Furniture workers and gave their version of what CFDU and the HOTSHEET are all about. We don't know what they told the people at that meeting, but it must have been a good one, because afterwards they convinced eight of them to sign statements against Judi. Six of the people who signed these statements had never even met or spoken to her before.

There is very little substance to the statements, other than the fact that Judi went to the store

and spoke to two of the workers (and what she said to them is conveniently left out). The only thing she is really accused of is being connected with the HOTSHEET, and there's nothing illegal about that. We're supposed to have freedom of the press in this country.

But whether or not she really did anything wrong doesn't matter much, because when you are served with internal union charges you are tried by the union bureaucrats. In other words, Judi will be tried by the same group of people who set up the charges against her. If she is found guilty she can be fined, suspended, or kicked out of the union.

All this is conveniently timed to coincide with the union election. The International thinks that by smearing Judi with these charges, they can discredit her as a candidate against them and scare people away from supporting the HOTSHEET and CFDU.

This type of tactic is not new. It has been used by all kinds of corrupt union bosses to harass their opposition. But these tactics never work in the end, because the rank-and-file are smarter than the union leaders think they are. And the more the union leaders come down on us, the more they expose themselves for what they really are.

Democracy Defeated in Bylaws Vote

On September 9, members of Local 400 lost a right they had had for over 35 years, the right to elect their business representatives. Unthinkable, isn't it, that any group of people would willingly give up rights they already had? But the International put together a slick campaign and actually persuaded 4% of our membership to vote away their democratic rights. How?

It was all part of a four phase plan. But first, they had to win the loyalty of the business reps. So the International bought them each a new Oldsmobile Cutlass. This was no small price to pay, but it was with our dues money, so why should the International care. With fourteen business reps working full time, the battle for appointments was on.

Phase I began at the August union meeting. Tom McNutt tried to prevent any discussion of bylaws but people refused to be silent, especially after finding out that McNutt was using the old "divide and conquer" routine. There would be six simultaneous bylaws meetings.

No Meeting In D.C.

The location of the bylaws meetings was basic ammunition in the International's campaign. The distribution of the meeting places was exactly opposite the distribution of the membership. Despite the lack of attention the International has paid to the Shenandoah Valley members, they figured the Valley vote would most likely swing their way, especially after a smear campaign aimed at CFDU, who was against the proposed bylaws.

So two thousand Valley members got four polling places, while the remaining fourteen thousand members got two, Alexandria and Lanham. As usual, the District members got nothing. McNutt knew D.C. members were upset. Some of them had had no business rep for four months while Charlie Warfield was sick. So once again McNutt tried to ignore them.

Phase II -- The business reps carried the campaign to the stores. Many times they didn't even explain what the bylaws were or what they contained. They just told people to come and vote yes. When they found people who knew what was happening, they tried to argue that electing business reps would just turn into a popularity contest. Now they implied that we weren't smart enough to vote for people who would do a good job. The only person smart enough to pick business reps would be the local president.

Phase III -- What happened at each meeting again showed the International's attitude. The only microphone at the meetings was held by the chairperson, making it hard for the members to be heard. They also cut off debate, especially at the Virginia meetings, as soon as they could get away with it.

Int'l. Throws Out Union Member

The Alexandria meeting was the liveliest, though. When chairperson Dave Laws tried to cut off debate after only a few minutes, Joe Moneichak from Giant 128 pointed out that Dave Laws was out of order because according to the union's own rules "ample time will be allowed for discussion." Laws ruled him out of order and demanded he be removed from the meeting. As Joe turned to leave, several of the International's men came up behind him, actually picked him up, and threw him out of the room. Joe has been a member for twelve years and a former shop steward for seven and a half years, and he did not see the need for such action.

Phil Nickle, from Giant 65, got so disgusted with the way things were being run that he ripped up his union card and ballot, threw them at his business rep, and walked out of the meeting in protest. Down in the hotel lobby, four men from Safeway began name calling and attempted to start a fight with him, but police stepped in and broke it up.

And, as the International had predicted, the Valley vote went overwhelmingly their way. In fact, according to the vote count given to us by the International, not one single person at the Harrisonburg meeting voted for elected business reps.

So with 985 votes cast, less than 7% of our membership, 684 were yes, 272 were no, and 29 votes were challenged. Why did so many of those voting give up their right to elect their business representatives, give up their ability to regulate union salaries? Good question. Here's another--Why did so many people (93%) not even bother to attend the meetings?

Phase IV of the International's overall plan is to have Tom McNutt elected as president of Local 400. Now that business reps are appointed and dependent on McNutt for their jobs, we'll be seeing a lot of them. Not out solving grievances as they should be, but out campaigning for their boss, Tom McNutt.



According to the International's count, here are the vote totals of the bylaws meetings:

	ACCEPT	REJECT
Lanham	183	157
Alexandria	208	79
Front Royal	83	11
Fredricksburg	102	4
Charlottesville	57	21
Harrisonburg	51	0
Total	684	272

THE CIA: A SKELETON IN

With more and more being exposed about the CIA, people are discovering that it has reached into all kinds of organizations. It is not surprising, then, to find out that the CIA is involved with our own union--the Retail Clerks International Association (RCIA).

CIA Agent On Union Payroll

To begin with, there is a CIA agent working on the RCIA staff. His name is Gerard O'Keefe, and his title is "Director of Foreign Affairs." He is paid \$24,879 a year out of our dues money.

O'Keefe's first job for the CIA was in 1963 in British Guiana (now Guyana), where he was sent by the RCIA to help overthrow the Cheddi Jagan government. Jagan, a pro-labor leader, had just been elected premier for the third time.

A 1967 issue of Progressive magazine described O'Keefe's role: "A secret report of September 1963 from the British Police Superintendent in British Guiana to the British Commissioner, named Gerard O'Keefe of the RCIA as having financed the 'security force' (organized gangs) . . . including assassinations and destruction of public buildings 'with explosives and arson'". In other words, O'Keefe was an agent through which CIA money was channeled to fund the CIA's illegal activities.

Union Passes CIA Money

The Retail Clerks union plays an active role in passing CIA funds and helping the CIA launder its money. For example, early in 1967, the New York Times revealed that two years before, the RCIA had received \$38,000 for "an unspecified purpose" from the Granary Fund of Boston. The Granary Fund has been identified as one of the funds through which the CIA secretly distributes money.

One of the main methods by which our union passes CIA money is the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD). AIFLD was set up as a joint effort of government, business, and labor to "assist in the development of free, democratic trade union structures in Latin America" Actually the AIFLD is a front organization for CIA agents in Latin America. It has a training center in Front Royal, Va., where they train "labor leaders" to set up phony unions in Latin American countries. These unions then help the CIA "de-stabilize" governments that are not friendly to American corporations' interests there.

Gerard O'Keefe, a CIA Agent, is "Director of Foreign Affairs" for the Retail Clerks International. He coordinates the union CIA activities.



CIA Agent O'Keefe



--CELEBRATING THE CHILE COUP--

This photo was printed in the Retail Clerks Advocate in December 1973, just three months after the military coup in Chile. It shows RCIA officials greeting Guillermo Alarcon, president of a right wing labor union in Chile that used CIA funds to help overthrow the Allende government. Shown are Michael Boggs, AFL-CIO Interamerican representative, William McGuire, RCIA Secretary-Treasurer, Alarcon, and RCIA "foreign affairs" officials Gerard O'Keefe and David Wade.

AFL-CIO president George Meany is the president of AIFLD. Retail Clerks president emeritus James Suffridge is on the board of trustees. Also on the board of trustees are the representatives of 95 corporations, most with large investments in Latin America. These include IT&T, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Anaconda Copper, IBM, Pan Am, Kennecott Copper, etc.

Besides the AIFLD in Latin America, the CIA also operates the African-American Labor Center and the Asian-American Free Labor Institute. The Asian-American Free Labor Institute, modeled after the AIFLD, was founded in 1968 with Retail Clerks president emeritus James Suffridge as secretary-treasurer. The Asian-American Free Labor Institute has its headquarters in the Retail Clerks International office building at 1775 K Street NW, in Washington DC!

RCIA Aids Chile Coup

Perhaps the most shameful accomplishment of the CIA agents within our union was their activity in passing hundreds of thousands of dollars to Chile to assist the right wing coup which overthrew the democratically elected Allende government in September 1973. The funds show up right in the 1973-74 financial report that the union is required to file with the Labor Department. The CIA laundered its money through AIFLD to the Retail Clerks, which in turn made a union-to-union gift to key CIA run Chilean unions.

The 1973 union-to-union program report lists the RCIA as subsidizing two Chilean unions, the Central Confederation of Chilean Professionals, and the Confederation of Employees of Commerce and Industry. These are organizations consisting of an elite of highly paid professional workers and technicians. These unions, given huge amounts of CIA money from the RCIA and elsewhere, joined with the truck owners and others in a campaign of strikes and disruptions designed to create an economic collapse in Chile and pave the way for a military coup. In Allende's last radio message before he was murdered, he thanked those workers who had continued to struggle against "the revolt led by the professional unions."

THE RETAIL CLERKS' CLOSET

Directly after the coup, the president of one of these CIA-RCIA funded unions, Guillermo Alarcon, visited the RCIA headquarters and had his picture published in the December 1973 Advocate. In a memo to all RCIA local unions on January 22, 1974 Gerard O'Keefe, CIA agent and Retail Clerks Director of Foreign Affairs, proudly commented on Alarcon's visit:

"Brother Alarcon visited RCIA headquarters en route to the AFL-CIO convention and the FIET World Congress. He reported on the recent military coup in his country, and the part played by the democratic labor movement." (Unions that the CIA approves of are called "democratic" or "free".)

After the CIA sponsored coup in Chile, the right wing military government outlawed the legitimate unions set up by the Chilean workers, and only allow the existence of government approved (CIA sponsored) unions. Torture of political dissidents has become institutionalized, and things have gotten so bad that even RCIA president James T. Housewright cannot defend it. In his column in the June 1975 Advocate, in an article entitled "RCIA Opposes Dictatorships of the Left and the Right", Housewright states that "In Chile, the military junta" instituted "authoritarian rule with all-too-familiar suppression of civil rights and individual freedom."

Why Help The CIA?

Why does the RCIA collaborate with the CIA in helping to subvert labor unions and to overthrow governments? It seems that the only ones who benefit from such actions are the huge multinational companies whose plants, factories, and investments are protected by the CIA supported right wing military governments.

The purpose of AIFLD and the CIA-RCIA sponsored unions is to further the interests of the corporations that sit on the board of trustees of AIFLD--not to fight for the betterment of the Latin American workers.

And if the RCIA collaborates with these companies in putting down workers' struggles in Latin America, who is to say that the RCIA is not doing the same thing in this country? Think about the way the International smashed our food strike last year. In fact, some of the tactics used to trustee our local may have even been lifted from past experiences in Chile!

We, as Retail Clerks must demand that the RCIA end all of its ties with AIFLD and all the other CIA labor fronts. Almost every other union in this country has already dropped support for these groups once they were exposed. The CIA agent Gerard O'Keefe must be kicked off the Retail Clerks payroll.

RETAIL CLERKS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORM 1M-2 (1973-1974)

SCHEDULE 13 - OTHER RECEIPTS

Surety Bond Premium	\$ 46,303.01
Accounts Payable - Affiliates	276,788.00
RCIA Pension Plan - PCT	3,622,499.50
RCIA Pension Plan - Participants	1,212,326.88
Advocate Subscriptions	267.50
Miscellaneous Refunds & Receipts	70,123.60
First Trust - Principal Payments	2,126.38
Tax D.C. Sales	8.36
Overseas Study Program	34,000.00
Program Assistance (AIFLD - AID - AALC)	297,789.30
RCIA Health & Welfare Fund Premium Reimbursement	176,891.44
Total (To Schedule 13, Line 2)	<u>\$5,739,124.47</u>

SCHEDULE 14 - OTHER DISBURSEMENTS

"Advocate" Publication	\$ 593,072.50
Building Expenses	296,175.52
General Organizing	408,260.05
Pension Plan Transfer	4,851,581.53
Surety Bond Premiums	1,790.82
Convention & Conferences	287,595.70
Division Offices Expense	232,513.67
International Representatives Expense	256,706.40
Payroll Deductions Forwarded	1,533,229.12
Mortgage Payable	83,436.59
Organizing Programs (AIFLD-AID, AALC)	155,190.92
Total (To Schedule 14, Line 2)	<u>\$8,699,552.82</u>

This financial report, filed with the Labor Department, shows some of the transactions between the Retail Clerks union and the CIA. AIFLD, AID, and AALC are all front organizations for CIA activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Philip Agee, Inside the Company: CIA Diary, Penguin Books, Ontario & London, 1975.

Susan Bodenheimer, "U.S. Labor's Conservative Role in Latin America," The Progressive, November 1967,

Thomas W. Braden, "I'm Glad the CIA is Immoral," Saturday Evening Post, May 20, 1967.

Counter-spy, the Quarterly Journal of the Fifth Estate, Fall 1974 and Winter 1975 issues, P.O. Box 647, Ben Franklin Station, Washington D.C. 20044.

Fred Hirsch, An Analysis of Our AFL-CIO Role in Latin America, 316 South 19th Street, San Jose, Ca. 95116, 1974.

George Morris, The CIA and American Labor, International Publishers, London, 1967.

George Morris, Rebellion in the Unions, A Handbook For Rank and File Action, New Outlook Publishers, New York, N.Y. 1971.

Ruth Needleman, "The AFL-CIO Abroad: Behind the Chile Coup," Guardian, Fall 1974 Supplement, September 25, 1974.

Ronald Radosh, American Labor and United States Foreign Policy, Vintage Books, New York, N.Y. 1969.



Auth. Philadelphia Inquirer

"What's the matter... you want to stay free, don't you?"

Computer Checkstands In Lanham Giant

Surprise! Giant Food has just installed new computer checkstands in their Lanham, Maryland store (Giant 62). Computer checkstands are a major threat to our jobs and to our union. When the stores all start using computers, they will lay off 40% - 60% of the clerks. With so few clerks in the stores, it will mean that much less money going into our Health and Welfare and Pension funds, and that much less bargaining power for our union.

This was one of our major concerns in asking for a one year contract last fall. But both the companies and the union led us to believe that the computers were way off in the future, and were nothing to worry about. Anyway, they said we had automation protection in our contract, in a clause saying that no one would be laid off as a result of automation.

But this has not stopped Giant from demoting grocery clerks to non-food, a pay difference of almost \$2.00 an hour! The automation clause says "employees may continue to be transferred, assigned to other work," or even laid off, "providing the lay off is for reasons other than (the computer) system." In other words, our automation clause is really no protection at all. They can cut you back or transfer you to another store, and then lay you off for "other reasons". Or, with the high turnover rate in the industry, they can reduce their workforce just by waiting it out.

Another clause in our contract says that the company must notify the union before they install computers, and meet to discuss it if the union wants. We don't know if this was done or not, but we do know that the union never met with the rank and file clerks to tell them that Giant was moving the computers in on their jobs and ask for their ideas.

So, quietly, with no big announcements or promotions, Giant Food has brought computer checkstands into our local. Keep watching them -- we bet there's a lot more to come.



How The Union "Settles" Grievances

In his "McNutt Report" in the September Union Leader, "Acting President" Tom McNutt desperately juggles the statistics, as well as the facts, in an effort to conceal what members all over the union know is the truth about his trusteeship. He brags that the Service Department has "settled" 3,247 grievances, with only 9 still unsettled...

Unfortunately, McNutt neglects a much more important statistic, how many of these so-called "settled" grievances did the union win for our members? According to his own statistics, the union won only 669 out of 3,247, or barely 20% of the grievances that are filed! In other words, if you take a grievance to the union, your chances of winning are only 1 in 5!

In the same article, McNutt stated that "handling grievances well requires real skill." -- the kind exhibited by his staff of "professional Business Agents". It seems that he's satisfied with their losing 4 out of every 5 grievances. He even goes on to say that "From where I sit, the new system seems to be working out very well." This may be because McNutt is sitting in the plush union office, rather than struggling for a living behind a cash register!

The union's first impulse should be to back-up our members by winning their grievances. The least we should get for our \$2 a week is union officers who respect us enough to fight to improve our working conditions.

No Action On Dress Code Crackdown

Now that Giant Food has installed new computer registers at its Lanham store, they are trying to ease them in by requiring all the female checkers to wear dresses. The rationale is that if the checkers look what Giant Food considers "nice", then maybe the customer will be more willing to accept being checked out by a computer.

Three years ago, the major chains decided that women could wear pants to work. It was a decision that should have been made long before. We would like to see if some of Giant's corporate executives could check groceries or stock shelves in a dress!

The idea of making female clerks wear dresses is just the latest from the company that brought you cashiers wearing "Back-to-School" safety belts, and "Count on Us" buttons.

What is the union doing about this and other dress code problems? In the last contract, a committee was established to "review" the dress code. For some reason or another, even though it's been over a year, the committee has yet to hold its first meeting!

Meanwhile, inconsistencies and selective enforcement of dress codes go on. Clerks are getting warnings for long hair, mustaches, and corn rows in some stores, while in others nothing is said. In some stores, clerks can wear blue jeans and print shirts, and men can have shoulder length hair, while in other stores, they're forced to wear dress slacks, white shirts and ties, and wigs! And now Giant wants its female clerks in Lanham to wear dresses!

What we need is a uniform relaxed dress code for all stores which will allow the clerk to wear comfortable clothes suited for the hard, dirty job of working in a grocery store!

The Neisners Organizing Campaign

"Promise Them Anything, But Give Them The Shaft"

With all the fanfare the union created about their organizers getting arrested at Neisners Department Store, there's one side of the story that never got told--the side of the Neisners workers.

Working conditions at Neisners are pretty lousy, and they definitely need a union there. Starting pay ranges from \$2.00 an hour to around \$2.35. But the biggest problem is job security. As one of the workers there put it, "When you work at Neisners, you work today. Tomorrow you may not have a job."

A lot of the organizing work at Neisners was done by the employees themselves. Two of these people, Geraldine Garner and Cassandra Bowman, signed up 47 of the 65 people who signed union cards. The union promised them that if they got fired for supporting the union, the union would back them up, and even get them a job somewhere else if they had to.

Management Crackdown

Pretty soon management started to crack down. On May 29, Geraldine was fired for "harassing the employees". Another union supporter, Glenearl Hilliard, was ordered to get a pregnancy test to prove that she was not pregnant, or she would be fired, because the manager said she was "getting fat". This was completely illegal, to make her get a pregnancy test, or to fire her even if she had been pregnant. But Glenearl got the test anyway. It didn't help her, though, because Neisners still fired her, on a trumped up charge that she didn't turn in her tips.

By the time of the vote for union representation, about ten of the workers had been fired--all of them union supporters. The company also "demoted" its supervisors to clerks so that they would be eligible to vote against the union, and made sure not to schedule the part timers to work that day if they were for the union. The vote came out 28-28.

Token Picket Line

Neisners also arrested the union organizers, and this is what made the union decide to set up a picket line. It was only a token picket line, though, as it was only held on weekends and was not really designed to shut Neisners down and make them bargain. And, by the third week-

Discount Strike In Fifteenth Week

Workers at Discount Record and Book Shop are still on strike, after 15 weeks. They are striking over the issue of lie detector tests.

The most recent management offer to end the strike is that they will stop using lie detector tests, but they will not rehire the strikers. Instead they will give them each \$240 severance pay. Local 400 negotiator Dave Laws is holding out for a union shop.

Fine, but that's not enough. What about the jobs these people have been picketing for? The union hasn't sent any support for their picket line since the first few weeks of the strike. If Mr. Laws settles without those jobs, it will be an empty victory. There's no point in having a union shop if the only people working in it are the scabs who broke the strike!

end, the union organizers stopped even bothering to show up. They didn't tell the workers anything--they just didn't show. The reason for this was that the organizers were too busy campaigning in the grocery stores for the bylaws vote to be bothered with things like organizing. But the Neisners workers didn't know that--they just knew they had been screwed.



--Geraldine Garner, fired during organizing drive--

In the September Union Leader there's a big article about the organizers getting busted. In it they say that they are filing a five million dollar damage suit against Neisners--one million dollars for each of the organizers. Organizer Carolyn Makely is quoted as saying "We want our good names cleared. We want compensation for the ordeal we went through."

Well, what about the ordeal that the workers went through? What about the people who lost their jobs? There's no million dollar damage suit being filed for them! The only money they've gotten was from a fund raiser that was held for them by a group of supporters in Washington D.C., the Alliance For Labor and Community Action. The union didn't even help organize the fund raiser.

No Help From Union

The union led the Neisners workers out on a limb, even promised them jobs, then cut them off. The workers who were fired are getting no support from the union, and the people who are still working in the store are scared to death, and disgusted with the union.

Because of this, ex-Neisners employee Geraldine Garner came to the union meeting in September. She asked why the union had dropped the Neisners drive, and why they weren't helping her and the other people get their jobs back like they said they would. The union's reaction was not to help Geraldine, but to harass her. During the next week two Local 400 organizers, Carolyn Makely and Charlene Pope, parked outside Geraldine's apartment and waited for her to come home. They tried to get her to say that CFDU member Judi Bari had put her up to complaining at the meeting. Geraldine told them that she didn't even know Judi Bari, but she didn't need anyone to tell her when to complain.

So all in all, the Neisners organizing drive has been one big publicity stunt for Tom McNutt and the International. They made political hay out of the organizers getting busted, and plastered it all over the Union Leader, while they sold out the workers. Then to top it all off they tried to turn the whole thing against CFDU. This type of mentality is exactly why the RCIA has failed to organize in general in the non-food industry.

we need your help!

FOR THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF, WE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE RANK AND FILE -- FIRST AGAINST RAY CHILTON AND THEN AGAINST TOM McNUTT AND THE INTERNATIONAL. WE HAVE TRIED TO KEEP YOU INFORMED ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR LOCAL THROUGH THE HOTSHEET.

WELL, THIS IS IT! THERE'S AN ELECTION FOR UNION OFFICES COMING UP IN NOVEMBER. THIS IS OUR ONE CHANCE TO VOTE OUT THE CORRUPT UNION BOSSES AND VOTE IN PEOPLE WHO WILL TRULY REPRESENT OUR INTERESTS. ONE THING WE HAVE LEARNED IN THE LAST YEAR IS THAT THE RANK AND FILE IN THIS UNION CANNOT DEPEND ON ANY OUTSIDERS TO COME IN AND SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS. WE HAVE TO DO IT OURSELVES. THEREFORE, CFDU WILL BE SUPPORTING A RANK AND FILE SLATE IN THE ELECTION.

BUT WE NEED MONEY TO RUN AGAINST THE INTERNATIONAL! THEY HAVE PRACTICALLY UNLIMITED MONEY SOURCES, BUT WE DEPEND ON CONTRIBUTIONS FROM UNION MEMBERS FOR ALL THE MONEY WE GET. IF YOU AGREE WITH US THAT WE NEED A CHANGE IN THIS UNION, PLEASE HELP US OUT. IT'S THE \$1, \$5, AND \$10 CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS LIKE YOU THAT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.

WE ALSO NEED PEOPLE TO HELP US REACH ALL THE MEMBERS IN THE STORES. AND WE NEED POLL WATCHERS TO MAKE SURE THE INTERNATIONAL DOESN'T STUFF THE BALLOT BOXES ON ELECTION DAY. CAN YOU HELP US? PLEASE CALL CFDU AT (301) 585-7530, OR WRITE TO US AT:

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