

The Alliance for Labor and Community

ACTION!

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Jan. 21, 1976

PUSH-Post strikers unite at jobs rally



Rev. Jesse Jackson, Pressman Pete Raffo and leaders of the Washington Chapter of PUSH, lead the march at the White House for Full Employment, carrying signs made by Pressmen.

Lack militant unions

Area teachers under the gun

Teachers throughout the Washington area are learning the hard way that a white collar is no protection against one-sided economic cutbacks.

School Boards in Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties as well as the District are trying to balance deficit-ridden budgets by slashing teachers' paychecks and jobs. Area teachers, newcomers to the union movement who lack the strong organization and union consciousness of more experienced unionists like the Post strikers, have been slow to organize an effective resistance.

The school boards have proposed a variety of "solutions" for their budget problems that involve teachers making up the deficit out of their own pockets. In M.C. the last contract included a negotiated 10.15% salary increase, but only 5.46% was funded. The Board of Ed. also suggested that teachers might help by taking two days leave without pay. In P.G., teachers were promised an additional 8% pay increase Feb. 1 if the money was available. There is talk now of forgetting about that pay increase.

Other proposed "solutions" involve worsening the quality of education by upping class size. In P.G. a plan for cutting two teachers from each high school and one from each Jr. high was drawn up. This teacher "speedup" would mean a loss of 50 teachers and increases of class size to 35 and up. More recently, P.G. school officials have been saying that

rather than cutting the teachers, they will just not fill vacancies and cut the work force through attrition. This no hiring policy is already in effect in D.C..

In D.C., proposed cuts including reducing the teaching force by 10% brought harsh public reaction and City Council chambers were filled with protesters on Jan. 12.

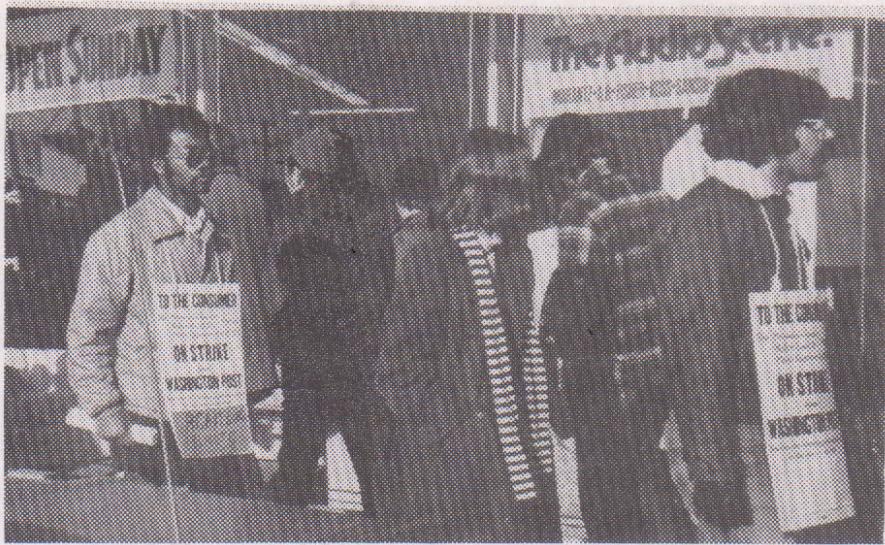
Still other "solutions" involve isolating particular groups who would receive the brunt of the cuts. Cutting 400 teacher aids was proposed in M.C. in an effort to divide teachers and aids, but the response from the Montgomery County Education Association and the Union representing supporting service workers was "No lay offs, no wage cuts."

The District and Counties are also trying to play teachers off substitutes by using subs to fill long term vacancies at a lower rate of pay, or by turning teachers into subs and taking jobs from those who are now substitutes.

In all these so-called "solutions", the losers are the students and the teachers. Nevertheless, most of the existing leadership, especially in the counties, is either sitting back waiting for developments or negotiating compromises, instead of mobilizing resistance to these cuts among their rank and file and the public.

Future ACTIONS will carry more detailed analyses of the situation in the schools, the teacher work force, and related issues.

Strikers picket, Star catches up



Post strikers and their supporters have been traveling all over the Washington metro area urging shoppers to boycott goods advertised in the Washington Post. Last Saturday a contingent of strikers and friends picketed George's appliance store on Rockville Pike.

Statistics Tell the Story!!

TOTAL ADVERTISING LINEAGE for 4th Quarter 1975		
	Star	Post
1975	48% of market	52% of market
1974	34% of market	66% of market
Gain or Loss		
in Lineage	+ 3,168,261	- 5,700,622
% Gain or Loss	+ 29.4%	- 27.3%

the labor scene

Neisner's Department store was found guilty of unfair labor practices last Summer. The NLRB notified Local 400 of the Retail Clerks Union on Jan. 14, 1976 that a new election will be held sometime in the next 30 days.

Neisner's had fired several key workers in the unionizing drive, and then had the cops arrest several Local 400 organizers on the day of the election.

The Alliance and the D. C. Fightback Committee have been aiding the workers who were fired--particularly Glenn Hilliard who had been really hassled by Neisner's. Community support for a full-scale Boycott Neisner's Campaign is building.

We have agreed, however, to hold off the Boycott Neisner's Campaign for the time being, to give Local 400 a chance to prove that it is behind the Neisner's workers and to be sure that there is no confusion about the need for all workers to have a union.

Post strikers, led by pressman, continue to accelerate the economic offense against the paper. Circulation and advertising boycotts have put the Post into minus percentages for the first time in years. Post circulation is down by more than 100,000; the Star is up by more than 50,000.

According to Post Unions United coordinator Brian Flores, "We are sure that this is not because 50,000 people just now decided to take the Star. Printing and dumping of papers by the Post still goes on so that the Post can maintain the facade of a large circulation for advertisers and public, but it looks like both are catching on to their tricks."

Pressmen are leafletting specific high circulation areas during the day and calling subscribers in the same area in the evening. People interested in working on the boycott should call Mike Dresser at Strike Headquarters, 659-9827, -9828, -9829.

Picketlines and shop-ins of major advertisers are planned each week on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Volunteers should call Dave Knudsen, 533-2157 eves.

Suburban support

A Montgomery County residents and workers committee has started to organize local support for striking Post workers. The twenty people who attended the first meeting Jan. 14 to hear Pressmen president Jim Dugan outline the strike situation included members from Local 400 of the Retail Clerks, the meatcutters union, the Insurance Workers International Union, the Montgomery County Federation of Teachers and clergy. The group decided to form a six-person committee to plan the strike support work that needs to be done.

A large part of the work will be contacting rank and file members of County unions about canceling their Post subscriptions and helping the pressmen on the boycott of Post advertisers. The next meeting will be Wed., Jan. 28. For more information contact Irv Riskin at 656-9239 or Paul Baker at 949-9780.

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