

# THE WORKER

For the Maryland - D.C. - Virginia Area

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## Battle Against Job Elimination And Union Busting Intensifies Thousands Rally Behind Post Strike

On Saturday, Dec. 13, 2-3,000 workers, their families and supporters marched around the Washington Post chanting "Boycott the Post" and "On Strike, Shut it Down." The march and rally had been organized by the Post Unions United and endorsed by the Central Labor Council of the D.C. area unions.

It showed exactly what the strikers thought of the Post's "final offer" that had been made a week earlier. The so-called "final offer" had been voted down by the pressmen 249 to 5. Katherine Graham, the owner of the Post had delivered an ultimatum along with it--after midnight Dec. 15 she would begin hiring permanent nonunion replacements. She also said any striking worker was welcome back on an individual basis.

Chanting "Workers United Will Never be Defeated" at the rally, the workers showed what they felt about that. They also expressed their anger at the strikebreaking traitors. One child carried a sign that read "I'm proud my dad isn't a scab." Another said "Scabs are the lowest form of living scum."

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THOUSANDS MARCH IN MILITANT SOLIDARITY WITH WASHINGTON POST STRIKERS

## U.S. Makes Grab For Angola

Once again the U.S. government is up to its waist in a war in someone else's country. Once again the newspapers are full of talk about the "national interest," references to "aid and advisors" and "official denials." Once again it has become necessary for the American people to oppose the ruling class' military adventures.

This time it is Angola, on the west coast of southern Africa, that the American capitalists hope to keep under their control. For years, the U.S. government aided Portugal to maintain its colonial rule in Angola and U.S. businesses profited. Now, they have helped stir up a civil war there between organizations which all had fought to free Angola from Portuguese colonialism.

The U.S. government admits having sent \$25,000,000 in cash and arms in the last three months alone to the groups it backs, UNITA and FNLA. There is another \$25,000,000 on its way right now, plus more "advisors." The U.S. also has a friend--the racist settler regime in South Africa--which has invaded Angola and is taking part in the fighting there.

The U.S. capitalist class has a

rival in its attempts to deny the Angolan people independence and control the country. This rival is the Soviet Union, which because it is now capitalist and not socialist, has become the U.S.'s chief competitor in international robbery. Only after the Portuguese were beaten and had made arrangements to grant independence to a coalition government made up of all three groups, did the superpowers jump in with large-scale "aid" to play on differences between the groups.

The Soviets have been pouring "aid" to one organization, the MPLA. They have been pouring guns, tanks, rockets, even MIG jets into the Angolan capital, Luanda, which is held by the MPLA. During the long war against Portugal, they had never provided the liberation forces with such weapons. They have also brought in 5,000 troops from Cuba, whose economy is permanently mortaged to the capitalists of the USSR and whose leader, Fidel Castro, has pledged "Cubans will never be disloyal or ungrateful" to Brezhnev and company.

The U.S. and USSR each point to the involvement of the other side and its sidekicks in the fighting to

justify their own role. What both are after, however, is control over the tremendous wealth of Angola and its strategic location. Angola has oil, gold, diamonds, iron and other minerals in abundance and soil and climate so favorable for agriculture it is already the world's third biggest coffee producer. Its location is important both for naval ports in the South Atlantic and for influencing all of southern Africa.

As the war in Angola continues, so does the extent of U.S. involvement. There is a lot of debate within the American ruling class over how best to proceed, but one thing is clear. They are ready to sacrifice the lives of tens of thousands of Angolans to advance their interests, and depending on developments, may even send in American forces to strengthen their bid.

The only solution to the current conflict in Angola is for both superpowers, and the other countries they are working through, to get the hell out and let the Angolan people settle their differences. More and more the feeling of the American people is to keep our government from carving up another country.

# Struggle Continues At Bethlehem Steel

As the local versions of Bethlehem Steel's nationwide attacks are carried out at the Sparrows Point Steel Plant, the workers are continuing to step up their resistance. Here are just a few examples of how people are fighting back:

In mid December a belt carrying scrap away from one of the mills broke near the end of 11-7 shift. The company wanted the daylight millwrights to repair but management didn't want to stop the mill while they did the job.

The first crew of millwrights they tried to get to do the job refused, invoking Article 14 Section 3 of the USWA Contract. (According to Article 14 Section 3, workers have the right to refuse to do a job if they feel a changed condition on the job threatens their health and safety.) After a few quick phone calls, the general foreman phoned the head of the local union 2610 grievance committee, Harry Spedden. Over the phone Spedden and the foreman reached agreement that there was nothing unsafe about the job. (Spedden's home unit is in another part of the plant and he had probably never even seen the belt that needed repairs.)

But the fact that their article 14 had been sold out didn't stop the workers. They still wouldn't do the job. So the company tried to get the other crew to do it. They figured they had this crew because they had written records that this crew had repaired the belt before while the mill was running. But these millwrights refused too! As one of them pointed out, "We made a mistake once, but with our lives on the line we won't make another one." Besides, the men pointed out that the belt they had repaired was broken on the end farthest from the mill. But this repair had to be done right in next to the mill.

The company started threatening to send people home so the men a-

greed to go out and inspect the job again. Which they did carefully and slowly. By the time they were finished inspecting, the turn was over. The company started right in on the 3-11 millwrights but they wouldn't break either. They pointed out that the job wasn't safe and did the same careful and slow inspection that the daylight crew did. By 9 PM the company gave in. They shut the mill down and the belt was repaired. And nobody got docked for this either.

Recently there have been many occasions where workers, either indi-

and filling out short crews with doubles. Over the objections of many workers, the company added one extra turn on to a crew they figured would most likely work it. Once they had their foot in the door they added a sixth day to all three shifts the next week. The same week a department meeting was held at which organizing an overtime refusal was discussed. The company got wind of this and got so uptight that a management representative called the union hall during the meeting and said there would be no more 6 days scheduled -- hoping to lull the workers at least into working the overtime that week. (The next week only 2 days and 2 holidays were scheduled). Even so, 18 people scratched on the 6th day. On top of this, people were laid off the next week. The workers are more determined than ever to take on the company and are working on organizing a complete overtime refusal. They are also stepping up the fight against bad safety and conditions and lack of



vidually or in groups, used Article 14 to sock it to the company. But as this battle points out, the key to really building the fight against the company is to rely on our own strength and unity. If these workers hadn't been ready to stand together they would have lost after their Article 14 was sold out. But because they did stick together they were able to see who was really strong and who was weak, and stand up to the company and win.

#### OVERTIME DURING LAYOFFS FOUGHT IN TIN MILL

In the 42" Pickler the company has been trying to keep as many as possible laid off by forcing those still working to work 6 days a week

repairs.

#### BLACK AND WHITE UNITE AGAINST HARASSMENT

In one of the mills, a Black millwright helper was sent home at 3:00 AM while working 11 - 7 shift for taking 10 minutes too long for lunch. (It's unusual to time millwrights on lunch breaks, and unheard of on 11 - 7). The foreman that did it has a history of harassing all the workers, and the Black workers in particular. When he pulled this B.S. the 3 people working with the man who was sent home, 1 Black and 2 white, all got their cards and went home in protest. Grievances have been filed and there's talk of trying to get the foreman booted.

## THE WORKER

This newspaper exists to build the struggle of the working class against the capitalist system of exploitation and oppression. It puts forward the political stand of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA on the major questions and struggles facing the workers.

The Worker for Maryland-D.C.-Virginia Area is one of many such papers across the country. The staffs of these papers are made up of members and supporters of the RCP, USA.

We want to be in touch with all the struggles of our class. We need and welcome your letters, articles, and any kind of contribution or criticism.

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# STEEL RANK AND FILE ON THE MOVE

For rank and file steelworkers our future has always been wrapped up with fighting the steel companies. That goes for so-called good times and bad times, although these days it's hard to distinguish between the two.

"Don't worry, steel is different" bragged the owners of the big steel companies as layoffs started hitting other industries. The leadership of United Steel Workers of America chimed in with an article in their paper entitled "Steel--an Island of Stability." According to the USW leadership, workers should give thanks for having a job to the leadership's policy of company-union co-operation and the Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA) that gave away the workers right-to-strike until 1980.

But no sooner had the article in the USWA's paper Steel Labor appeared when layoffs hit full force throughout the steel industry, and the workers left in the plants were pushed that much harder.

Hardly any rank and file workers like the steel companies. Very few think that union-company co-operation policies like the ENA are super ideas, and everybody knows they haven't brought good times. But for the rank and file, the real question hinges on whether we can fight and win against the steel companies.

the country has in recent months launched a new wave of attacks on workers across the country and a growing struggle is developing against this. There are several examples of this.

They threaten to close down their four fabrication plants across the country, with almost 3000 workers, unless the workers take an immediate \$1 an hour paycut, plus a freeze on wages over the next couple of years. This would mean an over \$3 wage cut over the life of the present contract. The company further stated that they wanted to break the fabrication locals out of the basic steel contract so the locals would be in a weaker bargaining position.

Workers in all 4 fabrication shops refused to choose between poison and the noose and told the company to go to hell with their offer. In Pottstown, Penn., where the largest shop is located, workers have begun to organize against the threatened shutdown. The Steelworker ran an article on the struggle calling for resolutions of support for these fabrication locals and some of these have already been received by the workers.

In the Bethlehem Steel Lackawanna

plant, the scene of some heavy battles and wildcats in the coke ovens. Layoffs reached into almost every department and speedup has increased. With many people laid off, the workers took on an International union by-law, which removes workers from 'good standing' status, when they have been laid off a year or more. A resolution against this blatant company by-law was unanimously passed by the 2 Sparrows Point locals, but union leadership has done little to actually unite the employed and unemployed to fight both the by-law and the company attacks.

This fight however, has been taken up among the rank and file. A petition opposing the by-law, and putting forth the need to unite together to fight, was circulated and the struggle has advanced off of this. The Steelworker carried both an article on the events in the Sparrows Point local and a call for all steelworkers in all divisions of the union to oppose the establishment of the by-law.

A problem up until now has been that many of these struggles are isolated from each other and the company has spread lies in the vacuum. But now the new newspaper, The Steelworker is playing an important role in communicating details of the struggle in Bethlehem and in calling for support from all steelworkers.

The idea for such a newspaper sprang up when rank and file forces, including some members of the Revolutionary Communist Party, united to hold a picket line and rally at the last USWA constitutional convention in Atlantic City, N.J. The event, which called together about 300 people was called to voice opposition to the sellout ENA, no-strike deal. In building for the picketline, steelworkers in the East and some in the Midwest, decided it would be a real help in the struggle, if we could have better communication between the different mills throughout the country.

The first issue of The Steelworker is filled with articles from around the country--articles written by rank and file groups, individuals, or taken from local working class newspapers. Articles that talk about slowdowns being built, wildcats, strikes, and demonstrations and rallies against speedup and job eliminations. There are also editorials and calls to action in support of particular struggles, like the fabrication locals at Beth and the fight against the by-laws change.

The Steelworker is being actively sold in the Baltimore area. To contact the newsletter, get more copies or write in an article, write to STEEL UNITY, the rank and file steelworkers group at Sparrows Point at P.O. 4449, Balt. 21223.

At this point much of the struggle against the steel companies is still scattered and isolated. The key question for the rank and file still hinges on whether the steel companies can be fought and beaten. But the struggle is growing in the face of these vicious company attacks. And as these struggles become stronger and better organized and as lessons of these struggles are spread throughout the industry, they will deal sharper and more powerful blows to the enemy.



Shouting "Fight the Layoffs! 6 not 5, no company jive," steelworkers in Seattle march on Bethlehem headquarters on October 8th.

We steelworkers have never stopped fighting the companies, but like other workers, our struggle has had its high and low points.

Right now the rank and file is beginning to build a big and powerful movement throughout the industry. It is a movement that says we won't starve for steel company profits; a movement that fights for what we need, and not only for what the companies say they will give us; a movement that demands unity among the ranks, between basic, non-ferrous, and fabrication, between the employed and unemployed, and among the ranks of the entire U.S. working class.

Two events are good examples of this movement. One is the struggle that is now developing in the Bethlehem Steel Company and the other is the publication of a nationwide newspaper, called The Steelworker which will be a big help in building the fight against the steel companies.

## BETHLEHEM INTENSIFIES NATIONWIDE ATTACK

The Bethlehem Steel Corporation, the second largest steel producer in

Plant in upstate New York, workers have faced very heavy layoffs (over 7,000 are on the street now), with the company greatly intensifying the attack on the workers inside. Faced with these attacks, the workers there have asked for strike authorization to fight the layoffs, and to make the company live up to certain provisions signed in the 1973 local contract. As of this date no one has heard a word from I.W. Abel, the union president, on the question of strike authorization, but in any case, workers there have begun to meet to plan the fight.

Also in the Beth Steel Mill in Seattle, Washington where there were already over 200 workers laid off, Bethlehem attempted to cut the operator crew size from 6 to 5 on each shift. The workers responded to this with a three day walkout in August and with a recent march and rally against the layoffs and crew reductions. The workers there have formed a committee of employed and unemployed steelworkers to build the fight against the company.

The company has also come down hard in the Beth Steel Sparrows Point, Md.

# FORD'S TRIP UNDERLINES WAR DANGER

President Ford's trip to the Peoples Republic of China in December underlines the growing danger of world war.

Since Ford's visit didn't result in any new agreements, there has been a lot of speculation as to exactly why he went there in the first place. Ford certainly had in mind "looking presidential" for the coming elections. But mainly he went because he had to recognize the growing strength of socialist China and because of sharpening rivalry between the U.S. and its chief competitor--the Soviet Union.

Ford and other spokesmen for the ruling class in this country bragged about how taking this trip was more evidence of their tireless efforts towards peace in the world. But at the official banquet for Ford, the Chinese vice premier said that "detente" between the U.S. and USSR is a fake and that the conflict between them is increasingly leading the world towards a new world war.

This is the truth of the matter, despite Ford's hypocritical denial. Even while they're trying to fool people by talking peace, the rulers of both the U.S. and the USSR are building up their armed forces and carrying out armed confrontations with each other all over the world, such as in Angola today. And as part of their expansion, both superpowers have threatened China.

China used the occasion to warn of the danger of war between the superpowers and expose the real nature of the situation so as to help alert people and delay the outbreak of such a war. China also used the Ford trip to make it more difficult for either superpower to attack China, especially the USSR.

The press in the U.S. has tried to turn the truth upside down on this. Calling every nation warlike except their own, they claimed that Ford went seeking peace while the Chinese urged the U.S. on to war. But the drive toward war between the superpowers is a fact "independent of man's will," as the Chinese said. It is the capitalist system and its constant drive for profits that forces both the U.S. and USSR to expand, and each is the major obstacle to the other as long as these capitalists exist. Their test of strength can only be settled by war.

## BIG CHANGES IN THE WORLD

Trips to China, unthinkable only a few years ago, now seem to have become almost a matter of course for U.S. presidents. Part of the reason is that after decades of trying to "contain" China and overthrow socialism there, the U.S. ruling class now has to face facts. Before its revolution, China was once so weak that almost half a dozen imperialist countries were able to rip off a chunk of it. Now the Chinese workers and peasants are a major force in the world.

And this change has been accompanied by others. The position of U.S. imperialism is growing weaker as the U.S. capitalist class faces a crisis at home and is battered on all sides by revolutionary struggle. Their attempts to occupy and militar-

ily dominate Asia have led to some big defeats, such as in Vietnam.

The other major change is that the Soviet Union has become a capitalist country, even though it still calls itself socialist. In the mid 1950s, Khrushchev and a small group around him were able to take power out of the hands of the Soviet workers. Since then this new capitalist ruling class has lived high on the hog at the workers' expense. Along with the U.S. ruling class, today these new Soviet rulers have become one of the two main bands of capitalist robbers bringing misery to the people of their own countries and around the world.

Just as in the U.S., the capitalist system has caused economic crisis in the USSR. To "solve" this crisis, the rulers of both countries are trying to squeeze more than ever out of the workers at home and everywhere.

As a latecomer to the international thieves' banquet, until recently headed up by the U.S. rulers, the USSR is grabbing wildly for a big portion of investments, markets, raw materials, and space for military bases in all corners of the globe. Every-

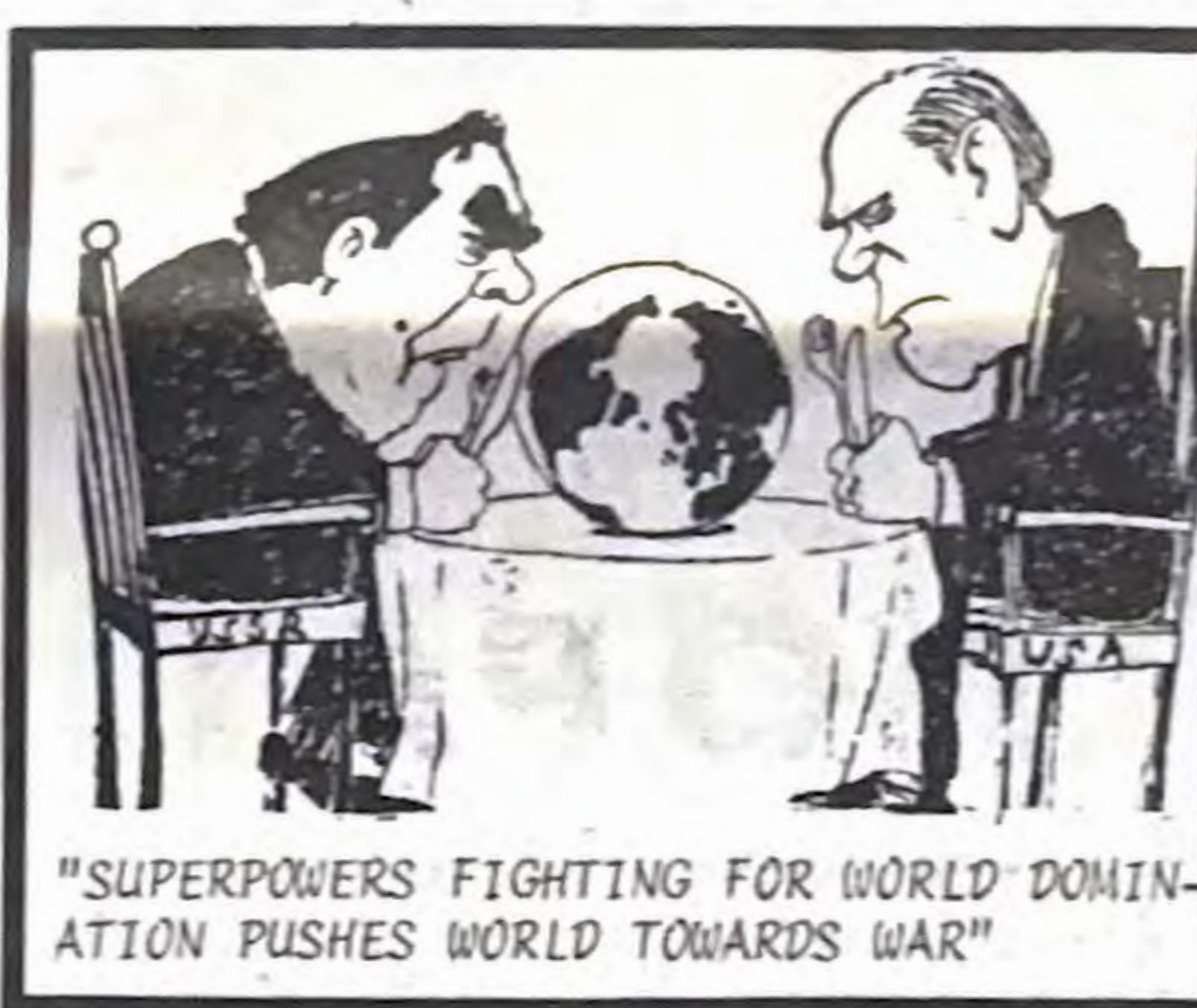
But China exists in a world where there are still butchers on the loose. Part of its policy must be aimed at defending itself from attack. The rulers of the two superpowers fear each other more than they fear China right now, because China is not a rival for world domination. But as part of their attacks world-wide and against the people of their own countries, the imperialists want to attack China. They want to boost their profits by exploiting workers there, and they can't stand what China represents. The successes of socialism in China, in transforming a country so long kept poor and oppressed by the imperialists, stands as an example to people everywhere that they don't have to live in the way the capitalists now force them to.

Even though the U.S. capitalist class has been forced to change its tactics toward China, they also hate it and can't help dreaming of overthrowing socialism there. The U.S. still has thousands of soldiers stationed in Chinese territory in Taiwan, against the spirit of the agreement reached during Nixon's trip to China. Recently the U.S. has given the Taiwan rulers new diplomatic encouragement and military aid to keep the island from being reunited with the mainland. They hope to use it as a base for more threats and aggression against China. This is only one of a whole series of recent hostile acts by the U.S.

But today, the most immediate threat of attack on China comes from the Soviet Union. The new Soviet rulers have started several border battles with China by trying to snatch up Chinese territory. They've encouraged other countries, such as India, to attack it, while the Soviets themselves have a million troops stationed on the Chinese border. They've also tried to overthrow socialism by using agents within China. These Soviet capitalists have a special hatred for China because China has exposed their phony "socialism" and their real capitalism and imperialist expansion and aggression. The Soviets are counting on their fake "socialist" label to help them deceive people and take over positions once held by the U.S. imperialists.

To defend itself, as its vice premier told Ford, China depends first on its own strength--on "independence, self reliance, and millet plus rifles," as he put it. In addition, China is using tactics, including diplomacy such as the Ford trip, to get the U.S. to back off China and even to use the U.S. as an obstacle to Soviet plans to attack China.

The necessities of capitalism itself are driving the superpowers to war. Their talk of "detente" is a smokescreen to hide their real blood-thirsty nature. In exposing this and delaying the outbreak of war, China is helping the revolutionary struggle against these two big oppressors to gather strength. The existence of China itself is proof that the working class can break free of the system which has already caused so many wars.



"SUPERPOWERS FIGHTING FOR WORLD DOMINATION PUSHES WORLD TOWARDS WAR"

where the people's struggle has forced the U.S. to retreat, the USSR is trying to take advantage of the situation to snatch things up for itself.

These are the conditions that have forced the U.S. ruling class to scale down their attempts to encircle and destroy China and to improve relations with China somewhat. Right now, beating back the growing Soviet challenge and extending the U.S. empire at Soviet expense is the main goal of the U.S. imperialists, and attacking China is secondary to that. That's why Ford went to China, like Nixon before him.

## CHINA'S VIEW

Besides making use of the trip to expose and help delay the outbreak of war, the Chinese agreed to Ford's visit for other reasons, too. As a country where the working class has put an end to capitalism, China wants to live in peace with other countries, including the U.S. It has given support to revolutionary struggles around the world, such as their aid to Vietnam and their positions against the two superpowers in the UN. At the same time, the Chinese know that revolution in each country must be made by the people of that country themselves.

# RANK AND FILE UNITY GROWS Drydock Strikers Determined To Win

The 1800 workers striking at Md. Shipbuilding and Drydock in Fairfield are continuing their struggle to "catch up" on the raw deal they got 3 years ago. In the face of the company's stubborn refusal to offer anything near what the workers are demanding, the workers are keeping up their resistance to the bosses' attempts to knock them down even further. Fruehauf, the big monopoly which owns the Drydock and 2 other shipyards, is attempting to starve the strikers into submission, to get them so desperate they'll accept almost anything -- like what happened 3 years ago, after being out 91 days. But that experience has given a whole lot of the strikers the determination to see this one through to a victory for the workers. And many are starting to see that the key to this is in the rank and file being on top of the situation, organized, and determined to fight to win.

The workers have been out over 7 weeks. The turnout on the picket lines has been regular and pretty good. This massive show of strength is an important weapon in keeping up the unity and spirit of the strikers, and making clear to the company that no attempts at strikebreaking will be tolerated. So far the company has not dared to try to bring in scabs).

And its pretty clear that this kind of organization and unity -and even more- is going to be necessary. The company has already shown that what it's holding out for is a contract that amounts to nothing less than a complete shafting of the workers. The company has only made a token attempt at providing a Cost of Living Allowance, one of the key demands, which is a must given the proposed wage offer (\$1.60 over 3 years, 75-45-40). And the company's mickey mouse offer is only a fixed and frozen COLA- 3¢ an hour addition starting the 3d quarter of the first year, adding 3¢ to it every quarter, changing to 4¢ in the 3d year of the contract. Which means in plain English, a whopping total COLA of 32¢ an hour in the last quarter of the 3d year-- in the Bethlehem yards, under the last contract, workers were getting 44¢ an hour. The company's offer of a fixed and frozen COLA is worthless. People need a flexible one (with a formula based on actual increases in the cost of living) which means if the cost of living goes up faster, your pay increases faster to keep up. Even the Bethlehem yards contract, which many see as a "model" is no good, because there's a lid on the cost of living allowance- so when inflation goes beyond a certain point, you're up the creek.

Another reserve the strikers have to draw on beyond their own strength is the support that can be built among other workers. This strike is a significant one, both because of the number of people involved, and because the issues involved are those faced by the whole working class as the bosses try to preserve their profits by cutting back on our wages. A lot of workers in the area are watching the strike closely, and support is already being built, especially among other shipyard workers. Local 33 of the IUMSWA (Sparrows Point Shipbuilders) has been donating \$200 a week, and other locals have also been giving

money. Local 43, one of the smallest in the area has made substantial contributions. Gate collections were taken up at the Point- the first one got \$500 which was matched by local funds (the money was used for a Xmas party for the strikers kids). And the unity

the strikers see the need for more union meetings. This would get the rank and file more involved in actually running the strike and enable the membership to hash out problems that have come up like how benefits are distributed and what picket schedules



of the rank and file is being built as every week, groups of rank and file shipyard workers have been going down from the Point to walk the lines with the brothers and sisters on strike in Fairfield.

So far the local officials have been taking a pretty strong position on the company's ridiculous "offers" reflecting the strong feelings of the workers on fighting to win. And they have been putting out strike bulletins informing the members on the progress of negotiations, which helps to keep the strike united. However, many of

should be. Many point to the experience of the last strike when lack of rank and file participation and knowledge of what was going on weakened the strike.

But it is clear from the spirit of the strikers that the company is not going to be able to easily crush this strike, much as they would like to. People are ready for a long battle, and they are seeing more and more the strength the working class has to draw on when we take matters into our own hands.

## D.C. METROBUS "NO PAY, NO WORK"

Metrobus drivers and other workers in Metro's transportation department have been subject to numerous threats and intimidation as contract time grows closer. The latest was a threat of 'payless paydays' in January with Metro officials weeping that they had no money.

When drivers read about this in the D.C. newspapers on Dec. 5th, the response was nearly unanimous-No Pay, No Work! Metro superintendents in all garages were 'mingling' with drivers that day in the schedule rooms more than they ever do-so much in fact that there was at least one in the room the whole day. And they must have got the message because they managed to get the money for the payrolls!

The bus and subway system is in financial crisis--much the same way as New York City. And Metro is threatening to cut all 'owl' runs and some daytime lines altogether, eliminate 300 jobs through attrition and has stated that wage increases will be limited to 6% a year in the new contract, eliminating the cost of living clause that Metro drivers struck to retain in May '74.

The contract expires April 30 and the main issue emerging is to keep the full cost of living escalator clause. With the rising cost of living, drivers are saying, "Why should we pay? The cost of living clause only keeps us even." The company is not going to get by with what amounts to a pay cut.

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*Revolution* is the organ of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA (RCP). The RCP is the Party of the U.S. working class, and its formation is a product of the struggle of the working class and represents a great victory and advance for that struggle. *Revolution* belongs to the working class and its Party, and exists to further the class' revolutionary struggle. It is published on the 15th of every month.

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## CARR-LOWERY GLASS

Things down at Carr-Lowery glass were never really good. But now they are getting worse than ever. The company is like a cornered rat striking out at us workers with stepped up harassment.

It all started a few years ago when several of us circulated a petition charging Carr-Lowery with discrimination in hiring and promoting. We filed these charges with the Human Relations Commission. We were tired of seeing some foreman's nephew get hired off the street as a machine operator while Blacks who had been in the plant for years stayed in production jobs.

We were also tired of the overall low pay, almost no benefits, general harassment and other problems faced by all the workers. And the fact that our union president spent more time washing the boss' car than fighting for us. So we put out several copies of a paper called TIME TO UNITE trying to fight for a good contract last time and to throw out some of our do nothing union officials.

We did get some things accomplished. We got an extra union meeting a month so that 4-12 shift wasn't always left out of what was going on. And we made Carr-Lowery start posting skilled job openings in the plant first and

## TIME TO UNITE

start promoting some Blacks.

But we also suffered some setbacks. Some people were singled out as leaders and fired. Others were harassed till they started laying low too. The motion we had going was just about stopped.

Well our discrimination case is finally coming up in court. (It's about time, too. One brother involved in the case was fired 2 years ago.) Carr-Lowery is running scared. They don't want any of the workers to come down and tell it like it is down here. But we got the judge to say that no worker can be penalized or harassed for being involved in the case or speaking out in court. This notice should be posted in the plant. So we should all come down and tell just what kind of discrimination has been going on.

But we need to do more than just this. The fight against discrimination and against all the other problems we face in the plant won't really be won in court. To really win we've got to build the struggle right here in the plant. And there's plenty to be mad about too. Carr-Lowery is trying to cover its tracks and hitting all the workers with harassment. It used to be that there was no written absentee program and the company



would fire anybody they wanted to get rid of for 'excessive absences'. Now they've written a program down but it allows so few absences before you get fired that it's a threat to all our jobs. On top of that they recently started giving out safety glasses, supposedly for our protection. But if you're caught without your safety glasses you get written up. And 3 write ups and you get fired.

And our union leaders don't raise a peep while the company does this. It's fine with them.

But it's not fine with us workers. And we need to let them know that. We've got to get people together to stop both of these harassment programs and to take up any other attacks the company dumps on us. We should raise hell every time we're harassed and back up our fellow workers whenever they get harassed. And we need to give our union some backbone and get it involved in this fight. We don't pay dues money for nothing!

## AUTO

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)



put out by a group of workers that are tired of the harassment by management, our wages falling behind prices, wondering whether we'll have a job tomorrow, wondering whether our health will hold up under our quotas..."

The formation of the caucus is a big step at WE. It will make it possible to build the strength and organization of workers, link up the struggles in different sections and spread the growing sparks of resistance throughout the plant. And in the past the union officials of CWA Local 2395 have often held the workers back instead of moving their interests forward. United and organized to fight for what they need, WE workers will be able to change this situation to make the union their union.

of a local strike forced the company to back off to some degree for 60 days. This was a big victory because it broke one of the main ways the company and union officials have worked together to hold back the struggle of the workers all over the industry-by the International sitting indefinitely on a strike vote and waiting for things to "cool down." The key question is building on such victories and going forward, not allowing the companies and their henchmen in union leadership to hack away at these gains, which they are already trying to do.

As yet, most of these battles in auto are disconnected and many are short lived. But more and more workers are seeing through the illusion of individual solutions to the crisis and pointing out the cooperation between the company and the union leadership.

Many workers are getting organized to take matters into their own hands and keep them there. The skirmishes going on now are the embryo of more widespread and conscious struggle of the working class that is bound to be developed in opposition to the desperate profit drive, which the capitalist class calls its "recovery."

## Hell With W.E. Work Rules Slowdown Stops "Pink Slip"

A worker in the Key & Base section at the Western Electric Service Center in Arlington, Va. got suspended for 3 days in early December for wearing a coat in his work area.

This typifies the increasing everyday harassment of workers by Western Electric as they move toward raising the quotas in January with word has it--layoffs not far behind. Western Electric is hoping to intimidate the workers with the current rash of suspensions and firings over their petty work rules.

But these attempts didn't get over in the Key & Base section. When this worker was suspended, his fellow workers were angry and had a work slowdown in support of him--hitting the company where it hurts most--their profit margin. This and the union officials backing up the worker got the guy back a day early.

Western Electric (fully owned by AT&T, one of the largest monopolies in the country) did not show a profit last year due to, as one top management official put it, "the general economic crisis in the country." WE is trying to turn this around by squeezing more work out of fewer workers and cutting their pay (70 at WE-Arlington were downgraded several months ago) and increasing harassment to keep workers "in line."

But all this has met with increased resistance by the workers who are saying to hell with their profits--we need a decent life.

Out of this a rank-and-file caucus was recently formed. The first newsletter of the caucus, The Rank and Filer, said "This is a newsletter

# 'RECOVERY' IN AUTO! WORKERS SAY "NO WAY!"

"The economy is recovering. We're pulling out of the worst recession since the 1930's. Good days are just around the corner." So say government and industry spokesmen. As proof they proudly point to the upswing in auto sales.

These statements are nothing but garbage! The truth is "recovery" to the companies does not mean more jobs, lower inflation, or better working conditions. No. When they say "recovery is around the corner" they mean they are going all out to get their profits up-and to drive working people down even further!

Ask an auto worker what "recovery" means in the auto industry. Sure, production in many auto plants is being pushed back up to the level of September, 1974, before all the huge

means they can to "recover" high profits. Equipment is not being properly maintained. As a direct result during the last 4 months, workers have been killed on the job in 3 Detroit area plants: Chrysler's Sterling Stamping, Ford's Sterling Axle, and the Maintenance and Construction Unit of Ford's River Rouge complex. There has also been a big increase in the number of workers losing their fingers and hands.

On top of this, autoworkers are forced to swallow the outrage of massive overtime in some plants, while thousands of fellow workers, even in the same locals, remain without work!

Neither talk about recovery nor the calculated and cold nature of these attacks can hide the fact that the Big Three are in a desperate sit-

leadership of the UAW, like the leadership of all major unions in the U.S., has played an important role for the companies. They have done their best to lead the rank and file into dead ends and ambushes. Their tune these days is "when the company is in trouble, we're in trouble." Overall their crap boils down to telling their members to work harder to help the companies to "recover" their profits and to fight each other for the leftover crumbs.

But these wolves in sheep's clothing, while a difficult obstacle, have not been able to stop the rank and file from fighting back. At Chrysler's Dodge Truck plant in the Detroit area, workers were able to push back the divide and conquer plan promoted by the local officials to prevent laid off and fired workers from being eligible for union offices. From Ford's Michigan Truck plant, fifty workers picketed the international union headquarters in order to advance the struggle to rehire workers fired and suspended for leading a work stoppage. At GM's plants in Saginaw, Michigan and Wilmington, Delaware, workers have put the company on notice with strike votes as part of the fight against speedup and work standards.

A similar and very significant struggle recently took place at Ford's Mahwah, N.J. plant. At Mahwah, Ford makes the Granada and Monarch, two key cars. In one part of the plant the workers held a department-wide union meeting where everyone got together and talked about the vicious speedup, harassment and job eliminations coming down. Summing up lessons from a defeated wildcat in 1973 that involved only one department, the workers set out almost immediately to spread the struggle to the whole plant. They forced a special plant-wide union meeting to be called and when three hundred people showed, they unanimously voted for a strike vote to be held on September 9.

The result of the strike vote was 2,462 in favor to 752. Although the union officials began to drag their feet, the rank and file continued to push. In the face of a threatened strike, the company responded by scheduling overtime to build up inventories. But this only angered the workers more and intensified their push for a strike. Ninety percent of the workforce began daily to wear buttons printed with the single word "STRIKE".

In response to this determination, the company was forced to announce the following concessions on October 1:

1. Ford Motor Company has agreed to fire its current plant manager at Mahwah (indicating that they "disagreed with his practices of harassment").
2. No more overloading or elimination of jobs.
3. Ford will immediately enter into negotiations to resolve all grievances on job standards and safety.
4. All disciplinary actions (including suspensions) taken against workers since June 1 will be withdrawn with back pay.
5. The Company agrees to suspend for 60 days, while other grievances are being negotiated, the contract provision which forbids the Local to strike without approval from the International.

Although the effective date of point 5 has since expired, the threat

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*Autoworkers in New Jersey march last February in a demonstration against layoffs and for jobs.*

layoffs. But how is this being accomplished--through grinding speedup! The auto companies are calling back as few workers as possible.

They try to use the facts and the figures to cover this up. The ruling class says "only" 80,000 auto workers remain on layoff out of the 278,000 laid off last winter. But they fail to point out that there are 178,000 fewer jobs in auto than in the fall of 1973! On top of those who have been fired, retired, or quit, there are thousands of workers who have lost their call back rights, who have been laid off so long they are no longer considered auto workers by the companies' pencil pushers.

Chrysler's Dodge Main plant in the Detroit area is undergoing this kind of "recovery". Last September they were turning out 120 cars an hour, with 10,000 workers. This year, up to changeover, only a little more than 7,000 workers were turning out the same number of cars! And now after the changeover to the '76 model, Chrysler has put in new machinery and new car models that require even more work, but has added as few workers as possible.

Along with this speedup, auto companies are using every other possible

means to "recover" high profits. The competition among the auto companies--along with their foreign competitors--is heating up. A key feature of this competition is who can produce at the highest return on their investment, when all their profit rates have been going down over the years. They must get higher profits so they can retool for smaller cars and put in new machinery to speed up production in existing models. In this way they are all trying to expand their share of a shrinking market at the expense of their competitors.

Huge price increases for cars since 1974 has been one method they've used to keep up their profits. But this solution has become less and less possible because people can not afford to buy high priced cars. So their competition boils down to one thing--competition in exploitation--who can get the most for the least from the labor of auto workers.

But auto workers haven't taken this lying down. With these vicious attacks the fighting anger of the rank and file has mounted. Small skirmishes have been building in many plants in Detroit and around the country.

On this score, the international

# HOLIDAY SPIRIT AND JOBS

With millions on layoff since Christmas '74 who are now spending this one with even unemployment insurance running out and jobs unavailable, the world is far from merry and bright. The newspapers carry stories about the increase of business in pawn shops -40% in Detroit at the Federal Collateral Society, Inc., the manager of that shop reports. Forty percent in two years-and at an interest rate of three percent per month or 36% a year! No one wants to pawn their things at any time and usually does so only as a last resort, for a little money or a little better dinner at the holidays. So it is certainly an indicator of the way they are trying to make us live.

In major cities during this holiday the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC) took to the streets to broadcast the demands of the unemployed for "Jobs Now!" "Extend the Extensions!" "Food Stamps No Cutbacks!" Marches through downtown streets, through shopping centers...caravans of cars stretching down the streets and freeways decorated with signs and UWOC insignias...confrontations at mayors offices...picketing inside and outside of unemployment centers-all of this and more showed the stand of the unemployed.

As one woman who took the bullhorn at the Germantown, Philadelphia unemployment center said: "We're sick and tired of the way things are going here-we are going to deal with it, and we are going to win."

Onlookers listened at rallies and picketlines. TV and radio picked up and covered the news. They had to, it was right out there and could not be ignored.

Raised fists and horns greeted us. People at unemployment offices and on the street joined in the lines and rallies. In Philadelphia one unemployed steelworker came to the UWOC table and told us: "I was in line thinking-you were there organizing and we're in here doing nothing-we've got to get together and build a movement."

## BIRMINGHAM AND HOUSTON

In Birmingham, Alabama, some

plain-clothesmen tried to stop the demonstrators. One threw some hot coffee, but this didn't stop them. The pickets went on to confront the mayor at his office and the TV news went on to pick up the confrontation. In the past he was always claiming how sorry he was about unemployment. UWOC asked: then how come he sent his cops against the pickets.

In Houston, Texas, this was the first UWOC action. Employed and unemployed did it together, marched inside the office. The hundred or so people inside the office waiting for their checks gave them a warm reception, even though officials threatened them with arrest. The feeling for them was so strong that they were able to speak and sing despite the officials' harrassment.

## NEW YORK CITY

In New York City, the march went through the 14th street shopping area to Union Square. Thousands of workers of all nationalities showed solidarity with the marchers. Banners proclaimed the demands. At Chase Manhattan Bank the picket line chanted: "Working People Say No Way-Make the Banks and the Bosses Pay." And the banner they stood next to read 'City Crisis-To Hell With the Banks and the Profits-Make the Banks and the Capitalists Pay."

UWOC spoke about the struggle for jobs in NYC and the layoff of city workers. The banks have made millions and now they are trying to get out of their crisis by taking the money to invest elsewhere. "Jobs! No layoffs!" Then they marched to Union Square and spoke briefly at the spot where the first hunger march assembled in the 30's.

## MILWAUKEE AND DETROIT

In Milwaukee UWOC marched in a steady downpour of rain. Despite the weather, a lot of workers joined in, including young workers and some high school students. The line of march stretched for blocks as it went through a working class area. At the end, an indoor rally was held. There some of the young workers talked about how there were no jobs available to them, except for a few

at McDonalds, at below minimum wages.

On the Monday before the march a manager at a Milwaukee unemployment office had told UWOC that he couldn't meet with them. He was told, "We'll come anyway." Later his mind was changed when workers marched into his office and confronted him. He claimed to want to help anyone who had a problem in the office. Workers there put case upon case to him. He promised to take them up. UWOC told him that we'd be back if there were no results. Many people who were on the lines told him: "Take my name too." Overall 50 people gave their names and ran down their cases.

The next day there were two results. One worker who had been fired for union organizing and is now an active member of UWOC, had his hearing date moved up several weeks. Another person who had left a part time job to take a full time job and then was laid off finally got his checks they had been holding up. Before they had refused to give him unemployment benefits.

Detroit had a terrific response. People throughout the downtown shopping area were conscious of the march for jobs and the demands. The need for jobs is felt very strongly.

The march stopped at a small plant to support the fight of a worker who had been fired and to confront the boss, demanding that he pay the unemployment insurance. The boss yelled to his thugs to "get the gun." But UWOC pinned him down, made him listen and told him we'd fight. The 13 week penalty period for those who were fired had just been started in Detroit. UWOC says "That's three months without income to live on."

## OHIO

Cleveland had its first UWOC action. Many leaflets were passed out and the response was excellent. People showed support and wrote letters. Workers in steel construction, trucking and others planned and helped. The weather was snowy and rainy but many joined the line. Angry security guards with billy clubs tried to prevent marchers from coming inside the center to see the manager, but the guards were forced back. One worker on the line told them "if you put anyone out you'll have to get me first." When the manager came people yelled at him, "where's my check?!" He claimed he couldn't do anything. Many newspapers covered this demo.



DEMONSTRATION FOR JOBS IN DETROIT LAST FEBRUARY





for a subway and no job arrangements are made for them. There they held a rally and spoke. As they went through the streets many unemployed and employed joined in, including old as well as new members of UWOC.

#### BALTIMORE, PORTLAND AND CHICAGO

In Baltimore, Maryland, demonstrators went to City Hall where they demanded that long proposed subway jobs be opened for hard hit construction workers. They told the government that "we're tired of hearing you don't have the money. Your economic system is in crises. People need jobs...people need services!" Another action was to picket the city papers in support of the striking workers or the *Washington Post* who are putting up a strong battle against job elimi-

nation.

On December 15, Portland UWOC took their rally into the Unemployment Office. The supervisors were unable to stop it. People agreed with the demonstrators' chants of "Broken Christmas it aint funny, give us jobs or give us money". They sang a song to the tune of *White Christmas* called "I'm dreaming of a full paycheck". "Not just the crumbs I used to know...there will be no more layoffs or weekly payoffs for making the bosses a lot of dough." And another to the tune of *Twelve Days of Christmas* called the "Five Months of Layoffs"..."In the 5th month of layoff I joined some of my friends, WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!" "Gonna fight for jobs, gonna lose no car, gonna feed our kids and the system can take a flying leap!"

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## Unemployed Fight Cuts

Politicians keep telling us better days are right around the corner. What the hell corner are they talking about? Every day the unemployment lines are growing as factories and workplaces throw thousands of workers out on the street. Bethlehem Steel alone has put 4,000 workers out of jobs. Key Highway Shipyard is shutting down whole departments. G.E. has cut back to 1/2 of its workforce. And there is no end in sight to these layoffs.

Those of us "lucky" enough to still have jobs are faced with killing speed-up as the bosses try to squeeze more work out of fewer workers in order to pull themselves out of the crisis.

this country rich with our labor, sweat and blood. So we're not asking or begging for anything. We're demanding what's rightfully ours--jobs or a decent income for as long as we're laid off.

The campaign for Jobs or Income is really starting to grow in Baltimore. In just a few months the Baltimore chapter of the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC) has reached thousands of unemployed workers with leaflets and our national petition for Jobs or Income. Many of these unemployed workers are joining UWOC and helping build the fight of the unemployed. Last month UWOC organized two demonstrations. In one, UWOC went to City Hall demanding JOBS NOW - NO LAYOFFS. We also de-



For those of us out of work and looking, there are no jobs. Even though we're ready willing and able to work, there's nothing except one or two jobs at \$2.50 an hour. But no way are we going to be forced to work for that kind of wage. Then the unemployment checks, even when they do come on time, don't cover our cost of living. We don't want to just barely survive - we want enough to have a decent way of life.

But instead of getting more, thousands of unemployed workers are now going to get nothing. The federal government has decided that Maryland is no longer a "high unemployment area" and is cutting back on the federal unemployment benefits. At one time, thousands are being cut off. Many other unemployed workers have already used up their 65 weeks of unemployment benefits. At the same time that the government is cutting off all income for thousands of people, the government is also cutting back on food stamps, medical aid and other needed social services. But we are not going to stand for it. What we need and are going to fight for is a decent income for as long as we're unemployed. It's not our fault that there aren't any jobs.

It's the rich businessmen and their profit-hungry system that created this mess and we're not going to pay for it. We're not going to let ourselves be thrown in the streets and left to starve. It was us workers that made

manded that the benefits be extended and that there be no cuts in food stamps. After a militant, chanting picket line in front of City Hall, we marched through downtown handing out leaflets and chanting.

Right after Christmas, UWOC had a demonstration at the unemployment office demanding NO MORE DELAYS in our checks. More and more people are going weeks at a time without receiving their unemployment checks. But we need those checks in order to survive. Many unemployed workers at the center joined the picket line and when the TV reporter showed up, the peoples' anger really showed when they talked about their problems to the reporter. UWOC is going to keep fighting to get our checks on time.

But as bad as delayed checks are, the even worse prospect of having no checks at all is being raised for thousands of workers by the dropping of the federal extensions. On Jan. 12, UWOC is going to have a demonstration demanding that the extensions not be dropped and that, instead, unemployment benefits be continued for as long as we're unemployed. The whole system is going to feel the strength of the unemployed as we organize and fight back against all attacks on us. Because we're not going to starve - we're going to fight like hell to get what we need.

In Cincinnati and Dayton lots of people responded to the presence of the demonstrators. In Ohio they have cooked up a scheme where they are giving one 13 week extension now, while cutting out two extensions later. This will cut down on the insurance for many and they hope to sneak this one through when people don't yet see what they are doing. UWOC is getting together on that.

#### SEATTLE AND LOS ANGELES

Seattle had a good response even though the weather was poor. They added a demand of their own to stop their State's Senate bill 2373 which is a local version of several national proposals to cut back unemployment insurance.

In Los Angeles 75 to 80 people demonstrated at the unemployment center. New people came forward to build the demonstration and participate in the action. One woman waited from 8:00 AM when she thought it started until 9:30 and went through the whole day and then asked "when's the next one." There were good chants and much response. There were some questions like: "Oh that won't do anything." But as one worker said: "I've been out of work for three years now looking for what and what I found is UWOC."

#### ROCHESTER, BUFFALO AND ATLANTA

In Rochester and Buffalo, New York people went to the downtown area to the local chamber of commerce, as the leaflet said, "this is where big business gets together to carve more profit out of our hide." The speech related to three demands and also No Layoffs. "To those still on the job-slow down, let things pile up, force them to rehire more workers." An employed worker spoke: "One week of work and I'm laid off, I can't lay off my family or my bills. And that's why I'm here to fight this and this rotten system." Speeches pointed to the fact that Rochester's Unemployment Council had held its first big rally on March 31st, 1930 which was International Unemployment Day. 1,250,000 people marched in this country and many in Canada and in Europe. The unemployment insurance we won and the social security we won came from their fight.

In Atlanta, a Jobs Convoy, headed through town to the downtown shopping area where hundreds of workers are left jobless as the stores they were working in are torn down to make way

# JOBs

In Chicago, UWOC held a very spirited picket line in front of an unemployment office. In the week before they had leafleted nearly every unemployment office in the city, and hundreds of unemployed workers were wearing buttons that said, "Jobs Now" and gave the date of the rally.

At the picket line a UWOC member ran down how for years he had been worked for 12 or 16 hours a day until suddenly the plant closed down. An electronics worker spoke about the struggle against layoffs in that industry.

UWOC actions also took place in other cities across the country.

#### SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

In the San Francisco Bay Area in California UWOC had a three part caravan from San Jose, San Francisco, and the East Bay. They linked up in the parking lot of a very large shopping center and then held a rally at a park. This caravan distributed thousands of leaflets and got petitions signed. UWOC fanned out and spoke to many people. New people joined in. A young worker

(CONTINUED FROM P. 9)

spoke of the trouble young people have in finding work or any kind of decent life. A veteran spoke about how tough it is and how one-third of prisoners are vets and how hard it is to find work, especially because of the great number of "dishonorable discharges". A woman from the Electronics Workers Organizing Committee told of thousands being laid off and the low pay and poor conditions on their jobs. Prairie Fire, a working class singing couple was much applauded.

The following Monday a large picket line was held. The regional supervisor of unemployment insurance was confronted. He said he did all he could and was told that it wasn't anything. He'd better tell the companies and the government there were no jobs and we mean to have them! Also that we'd have employment insurance until they opened them up! One radio station in Oakland taped and played the spirited confrontation between UWOC and the unemployment directory.

A special skit was written for the rally to the theme "Twas the Night Before Christmas" but the lines read: "But not all is quiet as one would think,

with unemployment and inflation, SOMETHING STINKS!" And "We workers are strong, we'll accept no defeat. We made everything from the building above to the shoes on our feet, from the clothes that we wear to the food that we eat," And "So we stand up together as they tremble with fright, as we millions organize with all of our might. In the factories and the street we do battle that we will have jobs or income now!"

These demonstrations are building the momentum. But it is just the beginning. The fight goes on...it grows.

# ITT STRIKE

"Workers have got to stick together. We know now how important this is in order to win what you go out for." (CWA Local 2370 worker)

650 CWA workers at ITT recently were out on strike in Washington, D.C., San Francisco, New York and Honolulu for 5 weeks.

Their main demands were for a better retirement plan--the average retiring worker only gets \$157.00 per month; and a decent dental plan. ITT, like other giant monopolies, is only interested in profits. And in order to try and stay on top in its cutthroat competition with other companies, it needs to squeeze more and more profits out of its workers. One way they try to do this is to destroy the workers' unions, to make it harder for us to fight back. And as an ITT bargaining member declared, "we're going to break the union--we're going to bust the CWA." And they set out to do this by refusing to negotiate for several days. As a CWA local 2370 worker in D.C. said, "ITT is doing just what the Washington Post did to workers there in refusing to negotiate and then giving nothing. Workers from the Post Unions United came by and told us that if we needed any help they'd do what they could to support us. What we have to do is get the locals of different unions together and support each other when we need help. Our local is small but we've already pledged to help other locals when they need help!"

After 5 weeks on strike CWA workers working for ITT went back to work. They won some gains--10% pay increase the 1st year and 9.9%. The 2nd, a dental plan and an extra holiday in 1977. But not all they went out for. In particular, they didn't get a better pension.

One reason striking CWA workers couldn't stay out longer and win a better contract was because their strike funds were almost non-existent with bills going unpaid, getting just enough to eat and money to get to the picket line. Workers learned one important lesson from this strike, the importance of having a special fund set aside going into a strike or defense fund. Another reason the strike wasn't as effective was because company engineers ran the equipment while workers were on strike. Executive salesmen took over the messengers jobs (delivering telegrams to people close by)..

But the workers at ITT's D.C. site pointed to the example of the workers at an ITT shop in West Virginia where the workers shut the place down and other workers supported their struggle. ITT workers see how they overcame these obstacles and moved to victory.

## Workers Demand Jobs BUILD THE SUBWAY

With millions unemployed and more layoffs coming down all the time, the City and State governments are playing political football with Baltimore's proposed subway system. Not building the subway is costing us 9,000 jobs that we desperately need. And besides the construction jobs directly affected the subway means many other jobs, like those who make and supply the materials that would be needed.

For over a year the politicians have been bouncing these jobs around. These hacks' thumb twiddling and finger pointing is no surprise. The politicians are just fronting for the banks and monopolies that run this country and they are in the middle of a big profit crisis. Their answers to our problems are to cut back on our unemployment extensions and social services, put a freeze on government jobs and to hold back money for projects like the subway.

But workers demand jobs! We will not suffer while ruling class agents like Mandel and Schaeffer try to get the bosses thru the crisis. All over the country workers are saying "Fight for Every Job! Fight-Don't Starve!" (see above articles on UWOC)

This is why workers are saying "Build the Subway now!" While this one program

is only a start in getting us back to work, 9,000 jobs are nothing to sneeze at and workers in Baltimore aren't sneezing! At hiring halls, construction sites, the Unemployment Office, all around, workers are talking about how important forcing the bosses to come up with those jobs is. Many agree with what one construction worker said, "Having a good transportation system is good, but hell, for 9,000 good paying jobs, I don't care if they hire us to dig a hole and then fill it up again." Members of the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC) along with other workers both in construction and out, are circulating a petition demanding the subway construction start now. In the construction union locals some workers are trying to get together to push their union leaders to call a demonstration to force the politicians to build the subway.

As the bosses try to save their own skins by dumping their crisis on our backs, we've got only one way to go and that's to fight back against each and every attack the bosses come down with. We won't let the bosses mess with the 9,000 jobs off building the subway. Jobs Now! Build the Subway! A Decent Income until we get a job!



# Why King Died BEHIND THE FBI REVELATIONS

In the last months more outrageous practices by the FBI and CIA have come to light: drug experiments on innocent victims, spying on millions of people, partnerships with Mafia figures, assassinations of foreign leaders, and all out attempts to infiltrate and wreck Black and anti-war groups in the late 1960s and early '70s.

Even Martin Luther King, who preached non-violence in the face of the violent repression of Black people was not safe. Senate investigations have shown an FBI conspiracy to discredit, blackmail and eliminate him. Few people ever felt satisfied with the explanation that James Earl Ray killed King all by himself. Many suspected the direct government involvement that is now being made clear by these FBI revelations.

Why wasn't the FBI, which followed King everywhere he went, on the scene when he was shot? And why was King's accused assassin pressured into pleading guilty against his wishes and then denied a new trial, allowing the government to hush the whole thing up? Well, the FBI was on the scene. If they were not directly behind the finger that pulled the trigger, then they were indirectly involved in setting up the target. The FBI made plans to have King switch hotels to the one where he was shot.

#### WHY DID THE FBI DO THIS JUNK?

These low life tactics are nothing new for the FBI or their counterparts in the CIA. While the public image promoted for these agents of the state is that of clean cut, Elliot Ness type crime fighters and patriotic warriors against foreign subversion, their main purpose has been to protect the wealth and power of the capitalists. This has meant everything from overthrowing anti-U.S. governments in many countries to disrupting all types of mass struggle against the American ruling class, in particular, attempting to destroy progressive and revolutionary organizations.

In the 30s and 40s the FBI tried to do this to the workers' movement and the old Communist Party. And they're still at it. During the recent miners' wildcat they ran all over the coal fields harassing, slandering and plotting violence against leaders and active workers.

But why Martin Luther King? He was far from a revolutionary. In fact, the Rockefellers, Kennedys and others like them promoted and praised King for his efforts to channel the storm of Black rebellion against generations of exploitation and oppression into pacifist attempts to reform the system. Popular songs have linked "Bobby, Martin and John" as the three great champions of civil rights and great buddies. But the fact is that the ruling class used King against more radical leaders like Malcolm X and others who were beginning to make the point that you can't "reform exploitation", that it was the system of capitalism itself that is responsible.

For instance, the 1963 March on Washington was originally planned to be a militant protest against the oppression of Black people. But as Malcolm X exposed in *Message to the Grassroots*, the Kennedys used their power to put King and other "moderates" at the head of it and to water it down to a rally in favor of the Kennedy civil rights bill.

But the Kennedys also wanted to keep control of King and keep a lid on the struggle against Black oppression, so "John and Bobby" authorized wiretaps and other forms of bugging against King.

And when you cut through all the baloney, the U.S. capitalists could not even tolerate King's non-violent dissent. To even expose the oppression of capitalism, to so much as speak out against part of it, drives these

There's no denying that J. Edgar gets top honors as an A-1 pig, or that the degeneracy of the ruling class provides enough factual material for a whole warehouse of sleazy novels. But it's only in science fiction movies that the ghouls and monsters can control their masters. Cops don't order around the capitalists. They do what they are told.

But if the big capitalists who control the government and its police, courts, laws, and politicians are the real saboteurs, murderers and assassins, why are they letting all this dirt hang out?

#### WHY EXPOSURES ARE HAPPENING

Mainly it is because different sections of the capitalist class of bankers and owners of big industry have different interests to protect and different ideas on how best to maintain their rule and overall U.S. power in the world. Over the past few years the size of the pie they divided among themselves has been shrinking, and they've started to fight like hell among themselves over who gets what share. There has been more and more sharp disputes over which policies will best protect U.S. interests and which politicians will best carry them out.

In addition to using their secret police to attack the struggle of the people, the different sections of the ruling class have increasingly attempted to use these agencies against each other. So when one side starts exposing the Nixon administration, others leak out some dirt on JFK. By now they are all the way back to Truman and Roosevelt, saying "they did it too."

They are also using these exposures to try and give some credibility to their government and to overcome the growing cynicism and contempt with which a lot of people look at the government. "There may have been some things done wrong" they say of all these atrocities, "but at least we expose it and try and get rid of the bad guys. It shows that American democracy really works."

Hogwash! It is not just one bureaucrat, or a handful of politicians, or abuse of power in some agencies. The problem is the capitalists themselves and their whole damn system, and you will never hear that on Walter Cronkite. They are the ones who build secret police forces and intelligence agencies to concentrate even more than their regular cops do on repressing the struggle of the working class and other people.

As much as they want to cover it up, these investigations and revelations do show just how rotten their rule is. No news agency or legislation can pretty it up. More important, they show just how scared these capitalists are of our struggle. And the fight against their repression should be strengthened and built as part of our struggle.



PATRICE LUMUMBA, A FIGHTER FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION. THE CIA PLOTTED TO MURDER HIM.

people mad with anger. With Martin Luther King, a well-known leader, it made them determined to wreck his life, and failing that, to kill him.

#### LIBERALS EXPOSED

The ruling class would like to blame all the actions of the government and its agencies on a few politicians or some bureaucratic fall guys. J. Edgar Hoover is becoming the arch villain. All of a sudden Mr. G-man, promoted for years as a folk hero, is accused of being as rotten and underhanded as the scummiest Mafia hit men. He is made out to be the power behind the presidents and Congress, making the whole ruling class kow-tow and shake with fear, controlling all with twenty file cabinets full of dirt on everyone from Henry Ford and Nelson Rockefeller to Nixon and JFK.

# Stop Harrassment At Shipyards!

Every day at Sparrows Point shipyard the bosses seem to come up with some harrassment and discipline even more than the day before. If the white hats aren't putting out the fires we use to keep warm, they're writing up people for not wearing safety glasses or "low production" etc. "Lack of production" discipline used to be used only on piecerate workers- but now Beth has outdone themselves and given a 3 day suspension to a non-incentive worker, a chipper for "lack of production"! People who never had trouble with supervision are getting plenty of it and lots of people are MAD, tired of being treated like children or animals or both. Increasingly this harrassment has led to resistance from the workers in many forms.

In one area, next to the water where the wind is murder, white hats were hassling people standing by the fire. So a few guys started taking some action- throwing welding rods at foreman, from inside and behind units. Almost immediately the company stopped bothering people around the fires there! In other areas, pieces of steel have "mysteriously" fallen off units and the boat just at the moment when some particularly bothersome foremen have walked by. And these types of resistance are spreading, from individuals to small groups (like one guy said, "After the others saw us throwing and got away with it, everyone picked it up.").

With the freezing weather setting in the Servomation canteen area by the Graving Dock is jam-packed, with people getting their coffee and getting a little warmth-(on the boat, there's only a couple of electric heaters for 400 people!)

## UNITED WORKERS

### UNITE TO WIN

When the 17,000 United Airline workers of the International Association of Machinists contract was up, United refused to negotiate a new one that was worth having, so the workers walked. The strike grounded United's planes nationwide for 16 days. The workers main demands were around the company hiring large numbers of part-time workers during peak periods and then planning to layoff full-time workers. With the contract the workers just got the company can't hire more than 15% part-time people. Another demand workers had centered around job grades. United was forced to upgrade workers working a higher grade job for 20 hours or more. Before workers would many times work a 40 hour week doing a higher grade job but receiving the same pay. They also won a slightly better medical plan; increased vacation; increased sick leave (up to 100 days); better severance pay.

United workers from National and Dulles airports in Virginia are in the same local with workers who service the planes and workers that fix the machine parts. There is talk among the union officials to divide the local into two with skilled workers in one local and unskilled in another. Workers see this as a threat to their unity. It's the unity of the skilled and unskilled that enabled them to win the strike.

So white hats have found it almost impossible to pull people out of there especially because of the sheer number of workers united there around their essential need--warmth. One punk white hat almost got his ass thrown off the boat (literally) for messing with the guys- the company's response to this threat from masses of workers is to shut down the canteen during the day (except for lunch time) as well as suspend some workers for "insubordination". If they go through with this, hell could break loose; guys who normally don't say too much are saying, "no coffee, no heat... we ain't going to do much work then!" And the company knows that hundreds of people have gone home in the past few weeks because of both the weather and the overall harrassment. It sure isn't the "peanut" white hats who are the reason for the increase in harrassment- its the owners and bosses of the company who are trying to squeeze every last dollar of profit out of the workers, by trying to chain us down to the machines, to increase productivity, so their pockets will be lined with green to somehow (they hope) pull them out of their deep financial crisis. And if they do successfully "increase productivity" and even more so if they don't, we get hit with the disease built into the system- layoffs and unemployment. Already about 100 workers have been laid off (mainly in paint, pipe, and shape departments). But more and more people are getting hip to it, and how to fight the bosses attacks. The company was forced to transfer several dozen wor-

kers from shipfitting (with low seniority) who'd almost certainly be laid off, into the carpentry department. The significance is that carpenters deal with staging, ladders, etc. And more carpenters were needed because people had been refusing to work with the previously inadequate ladders and staging which were unsafe. This has been a blow to companies in effect forcing them to improve safety conditions by slowing down the work. And it has kept some of our brothers from being laid off.

But the fight is more than just against scattered incidents of harrassment, rip-offs, or layoffs. The real strength to successfully fight will develop as these various acts of resistance come together in a yard-wide movement linking all these struggles. When people in one section of the yard are fighting back, we must be organized so that everyone finds out and can join in. For example a couple of months ago some workers on the boat walked out when a sister was hurt due to company negligence. But this action which could have involved many more, remained isolated because most people didn't even know it was happening. And we need to be coming together more to consciously plan the fight, especially around layoffs, rather than just waiting around for the latest company offensive. People still remember back in August when hundreds of workers would come together at lunchtime rallies to organize the fight for a good contract. This is the direction things have to go in now.

# Central Post Office Anger Into Action!

According to the Post Office over 8500 people passed tests for employment at the Baltimore Central Post Office. A few over 400 were actually hired as "casual" employees-part time work over the Christmas holidays. Even though the Post Office made it clear that these jobs were 'temporary', 89 days at the most, most people jumped at the chance for work.

The Post Office is on a big 'cost saving' kick with a freeze on hiring 'regulars' while increasing the cost of stamps from 10 to 13¢. One older worker there told how there used to be 5 full timers in his section. Now he was the only one, doing the work of 5. And this is true all over.

But workers at the Post Office, like workers in all industries, are mad and fighting back. A small example of this anger surfaced in the middle of December at the main office in downtown Baltimore. A small number of workers

were sorting mail and complaining about the job eliminations and the situation with the casuals. Their anger turned into action when they decided to find the union president and get things together. They left their job and started marching through the plant looking for the union president and calling on their co-workers to join them. Soon there were 30 workers marching and saying "we want the casuals hired as regulars and we want job elimination stopped."

This one action was unsuccessful. Most of the 'casuals' have been terminated. The Post Office is charging 13¢ to mail a letter and the regulars are still faced with job elimination and speed up. But the workers' anger has not subsided. The march kicked off a lot of discussion about how to build the fight for our jobs and occurrences like this are becoming more frequent at the Post Office and work places all over.

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# MISTY HARBOR

## FIGHT FOR A GOOD CONTRACT

The International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) contract at Misty Harbor is coming up on March 1, and workers there are beginning to take up the fight for a good contract.

Last year when the contract ran out, the workers got a one year extension shoved down their throats with a lousy 6% pay hike that doesn't even show up on our paychecks. Although most of the workers weren't happy with it, we felt we had no choice. We weren't prepared to strike, we weren't organized, and our union leaders sure weren't willing to fight.

This year we have another chance to force the company to give us what we need.

So far we've been getting the same run around we got last year. There's been no call for contract demands to be submitted. The union leadership has been keeping us in the dark about what's going on. At Mount St., elections for the negotiating committee were held a week and a half before X-mas vacation with only 2 days notice. Many workers at Mount St. were angry about this last minute notice and also about the fact that only 2 people were to be chosen to represent nearly 400. This was just another way to keep the union membership out in the cold. Four candidates were nominated who have a reputation for

fighting on the shop floor and for fighting for the interests of all of us against the company. They saw the importance of building the unity and strength of the rank and file in fighting for the contract and were determined not to get stuck with another sell out. On short notice and during the Christmas rush, about 50 people came to the meeting.

Since only 2 candidates could be elected, 2 of the 4 fighting candidates dropped out. Not only were they not allowed (by Business Agent Clara Gummer) to say that they were dropping out to support the other candidates. No one was allowed to say what they stood for. This was even after a vote had been taken saying that they should speak. Because of a lot of confusion about who was running and not being clear on where people stood, the better known union reps were elected by a very close vote.

Many people left the meeting angry at the way the Business Agent manipulated the meeting to get in her candidates, who will carry on the present leadership position that you just can't fight the man. A petition was circulated calling for a new election with a two week period for campaigning on the issues, so that the whole shop can be involved.

Whether or not a new election is won,

there's a lot that can be done to fight for what we need and we need a lot!

Conditions in the garment industry have always been bad--it's tiring, back-breaking and nerve-wracking work. But with the economy crumbing, conditions are getting even worse. Many shops have closed down. Those of us who are still working often find ourselves working short days or short weeks, with the companies constantly pushing us to produce faster. Most sewers and pressers are piece rate workers--they get paid by the amount they produce. But they are finding themselves producing more and getting smaller pay checks as the companies are constantly trying to cut costs by cutting the rates. Non piece rate workers, "time workers" are also being sped up.

We need more money--not just a lousy 6%. A cost of living allowance so we're not always losing out to inflation. Job security! We need supplemental benefits so we get paid even when we're laid off one day, and a guarantee of a full day's pay when we punch in in the morning.

We have to have meetings of all the Misty shops and locals (Operators and pressers, cutters) that are involved in the contract to discuss contract demands. These meetings should be held regularly to report on negotiations and keep us informed. To take on the company we have to be as strong as possible. We have to be united about what we're fighting for, so we can really put the company on notice that we're fighting to win.

## Workers Go Back Bosses Shaken In Canadian P.O. Strike

The Canadian postal strike is over. On December 2, 22,000 postal workers returned to work after 6 weeks on strike. The postal workers lost their main demands for higher wages and against various forms of job elimination. But their struggle has set the stage for other struggles against Canada's new wage controls.

Canada is a capitalist country, like the U.S., with a lot of U.S. investment. So the Canadian government and the U.S. capitalists were very uptight about this postal strike. At negotiations the Postmaster General shouted himself hoarse about "greedy postal workers." After the government's first offer, they broke off negotiations. The TV and press joined the attack on postal workers and praised the few that crossed the picket lines. The government even threatened back-to-work legislation.

This vicious response of the Canadian ruling class was because this strike was a direct blow to the wage freeze passed in Canada in October. By imposing a ceiling averaging 6% on wages, the capitalists in Canada hope to stop the big strike wave which has swept the country. These wage controls are fully supported by the capitalists in the U.S. who said in the N.Y. Times, that "If this tough but flexible Canadian approach works, it would serve as a model program in this country."

But in spite of the campaign by the Canadian ruling class against the strike, the workers stood firm in the longest postal strike in Canadian history. The strike was marked by militant mass picketing in several large cities. In Montreal, Canada's largest city, only a dozen people crossed the picket lines, despite the government encouragement to scab. The story was much the same all across Canada, and as mail ground to

a complete halt many businesses were hard hit.

In addition postal workers received support from many other workers throughout Canada. Even before the strike many were proudly wearing patches in English and French showing they are part of a boycott of zip codes, now being introduced by the Canada Postal Service, and against the

rejection.

Faced with this confusion, sabotage and government attacks, the postal workers voted to return to work, but only by a 52% majority. Many large cities rejected it, however, and Montreal voted 3 to 1 against it.

Despite the defeat of the workers demands, the settlement of a 17.75% annual pay increase was way



May 1974: OUTLAW, a rank and file postal workers organization in the NYC-NY area supports 1974 Canadian postal strikers.

elimination of postal jobs through automation.

The strike was lost when the postal union leadership sold out. Throughout the strike they had given the rank and file no information and refused to organize the support of other workers for the strike, including especially the letter carriers, who worked through the strike. They even denied strike benefits the first month of the strike. Then on November 29, the National Executive Board accepted the government's original offer—a 38% wage increase over 30 months. But later at a ratification meeting they flip-flopped and hid the fact that they had sold out by recommending

above the 11.63% the "Wage Board" said they could get under the wage freeze. This led the "Wage Board" to reject it. But fearing a renewed strike the Canadian Cabinet overruled this and accepted the settlement. This opens the door to more struggle against the wage freeze when other contracts expire this next year.

The Canadian postal workers weren't able to win all their demands in this strike, especially given the vicious government attacks and sabotage by their union leadership. But neither were the capitalists able to stop the postal workers from showing their beginning ability to organize and fight.

# LET OWNER GRAHAM WHINE WORKING CLASS BEHIND POST STRIKE

(--cont. from page 1)

The permit for the rally only allowed the demonstrators to march around the Post once. Although most people were ready to keep it up all afternoon, shutting the whole block down, the leadership took the march back to the original rally point.

Afterwards people got in their cars and began driving around the block honking their horns. The cops who were friendly enough standing out in the cold with one or two pickets showed their true colors as soon as the workers took action. They began passing out \$5 tickets for "causing an unnecessary disturbance." One striker even got a ticket for yelling "beep, beep" out his window. But it took more than that to disperse the workers. A crowd gathered on the side walk yelling at the scabs watching from the roof, telling them to jump. The crowd also surrounded the cops writing tickets yelling, "Cops are strikebreakers."

## ON STRIKE SINCE OCT 1

One of the greatest strengths of the strike is the unity between the different unions at the Post. The strike started Oct. 1 when 220 pressmen walked out. All 9 unions at the Post, 2,000 workers in all are now on strike or out in solidarity with them. 250 of the 800 guild members (reporters and others) stayed out and are actively building support for the strike.

From the beginning, there have been regular picket lines at the Post round the clock. In addition, the unions have been building a boycott of the newspaper and trying to get the advertisers to take their ads out of the Post until the strike is over. The unions tried through discussions with the advertisers such as Dart Drug, K-Mart, Sloanes and others to get them to stop advertising in the Post.

But advertisers too are in for

profit and the only way to convince them is to get them where it hurts. Recently K-Mart has gotten a taste of what organized action on the part of workers can accomplish. Hundreds of workers have showed up at certain stores at opening time. When the stores open they all go in, fill shopping carts with goods and leave them in the aisles until all the carts in the store are filled and clogging everything.

K-Mart got wise and removed the shopping carts, so people began carrying laundry baskets and garbage cans around, filling them and leaving them in the aisles. Then K-Mart took the garbage cans off all the shelves. But the strikers had made their point and the lesson was clear. The strength of the working class lies in its unity and numbers.

The strikers know its going to be a tough fight. They also see that the outcome is important not only for themselves but for workers throughout the newspaper industry and throughout the working class. Over the past few years the pressmen's union has been busted in a number of cities around the country. In Miami the pressmen held out in a 2-year strike only to have their union busted. The fight at the Post is not only for those who work there, but to stop the union busting trend that has hit the newspaper industry and is sure to pick up in all industries as the economic crisis gets worse and the capitalists increase their attacks on the working class.

Larry Wallace, ace strike breaker and union buster, hired after breaking unions at several other newspapers and TV stations, began preparations years ahead of time for this strike. Scabs were trained in a special school in Oklahoma City, paper was stockpiled and non-union shops in the area were contacted about printing the Post. Since the pressmen walked out, the Post has been flying scabs in by helicopter and printing sections of



Thousands rally Dec. 14 in D.C.

the paper as far away as Miami.

Kathryn Graham (who also owns Newsweek, WTOP, Channel 9 and numerous other newspapers, radio and TV stations) tries to put the paper across as "impartial," concerned only with printing the truth and having the best interests of the people at heart. The truth is, the Post, like the rest of the media is Big Business and Graham's only concern is PROFIT. To keep her rate of profit from falling any further she is desperate, like all capitalists, to eliminate jobs so fewer workers are producing more (60 pressmen's jobs are planned to go in the first wave).

So it's no surprise that Graham's supposedly "impartial" paper has been churning out vicious propaganda from the first day of the strike aimed at making the pressmen appear to be madmen bent on "senseless violence." The Post like the rest of the media not only makes its owners rich, but provides valuable service to the class that owns and controls this country by slanting everything in their interest.

But all their propaganda about how violent the strikers are is falling flat right now. Working people know what violence is. We see it everyday. Violence is when bosses line their pockets with gold stolen from our labor, and then throw millions of us out in the street when it is no longer profitable to them for us to work. Violence is union busting, cutting our real wages, bringing scabs in to take our jobs, and the continual attacks on the lives and livelihoods of ourselves and our families. Violence is built into this system which is based on profits. And all the whining of Graham and her cronies against the strike can't cover that fact up.

By herself, Katherine Graham could never have faced down the workers as long as she has. But she isn't alone and this is becoming clearer as the courts and the police line up on the side of the rich owners, the class that they really represent. At the very beginning of the strike, grand jury indictments were issued accusing the workers of malicious destruction of printing presses. A few days after the strike began an injunction was slapped on the pressmen limiting their pickets to three men at an entrance. One striker said, "There ain't no way we can keep the scabs out with only three men on a line. Hell, they'll make laws that say we can only picket in our living rooms watching TV if they need it to break this strike." But these obstacles too, will be overcome by the organ-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)



STRIKERS AND SUPPORTERS BURN AN EFFIGY OF KATHERINE GRAHAM, OWNER OF THE WASHINGTON POST IN FRONT OF POST BUILDING.

**POST**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

ized action of the strikers.

**STRIKE BUILDS ON ALL FRONTS**

The main focus of the strikers activities have been on cutting off the Post's advertisers and cutting into its circulation. The shop-ins have been an important tactic against the advertisers and have helped build the unity, organization, and fighting will of the strikers. And while it is difficult to know exactly how the boycott is going and to what extent circulation has been cut, it must be having some success. In some communities, the Post has been delivered door-to-door to people who never ordered it. Graham must be hurting if she has to give her paper away (Some estimates say that circulation has dropped by 100,000). At the same time, as these activities continue to be built stronger and broader, there is another front where the struggle must be strengthened--at the Post itself.

Since the first day of the strike there have been scabs in the Post and the paper has been reaching the streets. The workers know that scabs are lousy scum, that they are strike-breakers, and that there is only one way to deal with them. But because of the injunctions and many strikers fear that "public opinion" might be turned against them, little has been done to stop the scabs from going into the Post.

More mass pickets at the Post, Marches and rallies in D.C. will play an important part in winning the strike by helping to tighten the ranks of the strikers, unite as many people as possible in support of the strike and making a real show of strength against the Post.



Workers move up 15th Street chanting "The Workers United Will Never Be Defeated."

Mass picket lines will make it clear to the scabs that they won't get away with putting their own greedy interests ahead of the thousands of strikers and their families. Sure there are injunctions. But injunctions are rules that the rich make in an effort to break the strength and unity of the working class when it is fighting back. The working class never won anything without fighting for it. The strength of the strikers and supporters, united and organized can sweep away these roadblocks they throw in our way.

As the strike continues it is increasingly important to take the issue out to working people in the D.C. area. Other workers know what it means to be on strike and to fight union-busting. Workers know what a scab is, what it means for them to be taking someone's job, and how they have to be treated. Other workers daily face the attacks

of the ruling class and know what it means to have to fight for everything. As one striker put it, "Washington ain't no Detroit, but there are lots of working people here. They are the ones we need to reach out to 'cause they know what the hell we're up against. They're in the same boat as us."

Some outreach has been carried out. But this has to be organized and developed in a way that can really mobilize rank and file workers behind the strike. Leaflets need to be taken to workplaces and plant gates. Strikers need to go to union meetings and talk to the rank and file. But this needs to be broadly organized so that strikers, their families and supporters can take it up and the working class throughout the city can unite behind the Post strikers to deal a decisive blow against Graham and her class.

**POLICE TERROR**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16)

The cops charged Peet with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and assault in addition to the ticket. All the cops in the incident are still on the job and a week after the assault on Peet, one of the cops involved shot another man's dog to death for no apparent reason.

In the other case 3 young men ran a red light in Oxon Hill at 2 a.m. Christmas morning. When the cops pulled them over, Rick Bowcutt got out of their truck and a cop immediately began pushing him around. When his brother Dennis asked the cop why he was doing this, all hell broke loose as the cop began beating Dennis with a flashlight. Soon a friend, James King was pulled out of the truck and all 3 were being beaten with nightsticks. A gun was shoved in King's face while 4 or 5 cops beat the Bowcutt brothers as they lay across a highway guard rail. When the 3 were brought into the station, they were beaten again in front of witness Gary Herr. When the cops saw Herr watching, they attacked him too, told him to get out of the area "and never come back."

The Bowcutt brothers and King, maintenance workers in D.C. were charged with various offenses, including resisting arrest and assault.

Both the Bowcutt brothers and King and Thomas Peet are filing police brutality charges against police as well as Gary Herr. Dozens of other residents in the D.C. area have contacted newspapers, the NAACP and other organizations with

similar experiences. Over 40 formal police brutality complaints have been filed in P.G. county since July. And when the NAACP called a meeting on police brutality over 75 angry people turned out.

The county big shots are running scared. The head of the police department has been on TV and in the papers saying that he's going to take care of things. He's going to assign more cops to investigate how the cops are beating people up. But we aren't about to sit back and let them cover for themselves.

It's no accident that the people attacked were working people (on traffic

violations) for when did the cops ever rush in and beat a landlord for charging too high rent or a boss for lousy safety conditions?

But just like foremen on the job, the cops will do to us what they can get away with. More often they attack us when they know there aren't a lot of people watching...they fear us when we're together. For our part, we have to expose every incident of police repression and build a movement that brings these animals to justice. As we do this more, the police will be the ones afraid to walk the streets and jump on us at will.

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# POLICE TERROR IN P.G. COUNTY

Police repression around the country is increasing as the crisis this country's in gets deeper and deeper. Two recent assaults on people by cops in Prince Georges County, Maryland starkly reveal the desperation of the government to "keep people in line".

In the first case Thomas W. Peet had stopped his car in Laurel Dec. 4 to help give a stalled motorist a push when the cops arrived and told Peet, a Black man, to "get over here." The cops gave Peet a ticket for leaving a vehicle unattended--Peet thought that was ridiculous under the circumstances and offered to go to the police station, rather than sign the ticket.

Then, in front of ten witnesses, the cops jumped him. "There was a



PEOPLE PROTEST POLICE MURDERS IN CLEVELAND, OHIO

guy on each arm and 2 guys with sticks," Peet said. "Instead of taking me to the station, they took me to the ground and damned near beat me to death." His right arm was sprained in the assault and his head shaved in three places where 43 stitches were required to close the wounds. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

# TV CAN'T HIDE TRUE ROLE COPS NO FRIENDS OF OURS

It's Wednesday and you feel like watching T.V. If you're lucky there's a ballgame on or even reruns of "Hogan's Heroes". But most nights your only choice is which kind of cop show to watch. You can watch the "supercops", "Starsky and Hutch", the "liberated" "Policewoman", the baldheaded "Kojac", or the tropical "Hawaii 5-0". There are cops of every size, shape and color and if you count all the detective and lawyer shows, which are really cop shows in disguise, there are almost two dozen on the air every week. There's even a cop comedy called "The Cop and the Kid" about the daily life of a white cop who adopts a Black ghetto kid, designed to show us how human and warm-hearted cops are. And last month, still another new cop show went on the air called "The Blue Knight". This one is supposed to be more down to earth. "The Blue Knight" is just a regular cop who, while chasing down a hotel thief, solves the problems of a young boy with an unemployed father and alcoholic mother. Very realistic, except the only way we ever see cops dealing with unemployment in reality is down at the unemployment office when they lock people up because they create a "disturbance" over their meager or non-existent checks.

On T.V. just about all the police are dedicated, honest, self-sacrificing folk who are working to protect the masses of people. Although they face organized crime, corrupt politicians, and ridiculous bureaucracy, they always manage to smash through obstacles and get their man. Truth and justice prevail.



IN BUFFALO, COPS COME OUT IN FORCE TO ESCORT SCABS THROUGH STRIKE LINES AT BUFFALO FORGE. WORKERS TOOK ON BOTH SCABS AND COPS TO KEEP IT SHUT DOWN.

But in real life gangsters flourish in our cities. They're never touched because they're tied right in with the leaders and lawmakers of our country, often even in the same person. In real life the job of the police is to protect the interests of the biggest gangsters around - the ownership class. Like the cops on 24 hour duty to protect the Washington Post from the "violence" of the striking pressmen. Or the shotgun squads outside the Civic Center after every event. Anyone who's ever been in court has seen the police lie like crazy to get over, and they're almost always upheld. The only law the ruling class respects is the law of profits and private property.

These cop shows try to preserve the fiction that the legal system and its executors in this country serve the interests of the ordinary citizen. In reality there is only justice for those who can buy it. While we are treated to SWAT every Saturday night, the real life SWAT teams in cities like Atlanta and Detroit are used to brutalize Black and Latin communities and have committed dozens of murders of innocent people. Here in Baltimore last spring Jerry Parker was shot in the head by an officer for supposedly trying to escape after being arrested and handcuffed for making a U-turn. The cops have always been and will always be used to attack demonstrations, break-up strikes and carry out any other orders in the service of the ownership class.

But why this sudden influx of cop shows right now? Well, because in the course of the current economic crisis



George Kennedy

TV SHOWS PICTURE COPS AS OUR FRIENDS, BUT NOTHING IS FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.

the criminal absurdities of this system are being more and more exposed. The rulers of this country are hard put to explain away the growing crime including political corruption exposures, unemployment, inflation and other injustices this system generates. In the face of peoples' growing anger against daily attacks that come down on our standard of living, people are fighting back. We are coming more and more into direct confrontation with the cops as they move to protect the bosses interests and to try to squash our struggle.

The rulers of this country are trying to confuse us about the role the cops play. So they push all these programs that "show the cops as kind and concerned like Joe Forrester," or "Baretta," or so powerful that the people are completely helpless by comparison. Overall the message is: "yeah, there's lots of problems, but the cops are our protectors - they are a part of the solution, not part of the problem."

In reality nothing could be farther from the truth. Crime is built into this system where millions are permanently out of work and are forced to turn to crime to survive.

A lot of people watch these shows and enjoy them, but that's a far cry from believing them. The problem (for the ruling class) is that everyday working people come up against the cops and we know exactly where they are at.

As the people's struggle continues to grow a lot more of this type propaganda will be showing up. But no matter how desperately they try, their true features stand out more and more. A bunch of actors dressed up like cops is not going to be able to fool us into believing in their system.