

# THE WORKER

For the Maryland - D.C. - Virginia Area

February 1976

Vol. 1 No. 5

X-523

25¢

**"We Didn't Cause the Mess This Country's In"**

## **UNEMPLOYED GET TOUGH!**

The bosses are running scared. At the Baltimore Unemployment Office they have hired a bunch more guards to protect themselves from people who (according to the Balto. SUN) "are angry and/or hostile because of delays in getting unemployment checks or simply because they have no jobs." The article in the SUN goes on to say that "incidents had become more frequent with rising unemployment".

Ain't that the truth! People are fighting back. We know that we aren't responsible for the mess that the country is in. And we aren't going to suffer for the bosses system.

Monday, Jan 12, the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC) held a demonstration at the Unemployment Office. We were saying "We want Jobs or Income Now. The Government cut off 13 weeks of our benefits. We said "No Way--Don't cut them--Extend them!" We are tired of the delays in receiving our checks--of being penalized for refusing lousy jobs etc., etc. We want jobs!

About 20 members of UWOC marched right in the building chanting "Jobs are our right--Stand up and Fight!"



BALTIMORE UWOC DEMANDS, "JOBS ARE A RIGHT, STAND UP AND FIGHT!"

The guards panicked and attacked us. But faced with the anger of the people the guards couldn't touch us and the guards took a beating.

The next day, some of the guards let loose some of their frustration. A young man, angry and frustrated about his situation got into a fight with guard Jesse Hubbard. Hubbard, who is about 6'4" and weighs around 250 lbs. beat the young man (5'9" and around 150 lbs) with his club and

then threw him head first thru a plate glass door probably causing the youth's loss of one eye. 3 or 4 other guards came running out and arrested a UWOC member who witnessed this atrocity charging him with assault and battery, trespassing, disorderly conduct and interfering. But pig actions like these will not slow us down. In fact, they show us all the more that in unity there is strength.

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## **Demonstrate July 4: Build the Fight Against the Bosses**



WE'VE CARRIED THE RICH FOR 200 YEARS  
LET'S GET THEM OFF OUR BACKS! MINERS  
WILDCAT AGAINST ENERGY FREEZE, 1974.

July 4, 1976, will be the high point of the Bicentennial hoopla. But for the great majority of people there is little about the way we are forced to live to celebrate. Gathered in Philadelphia on the 4th will be the top bosses and politicians of this country, the chief representatives of the class of people that stands between us and a better life.

But while they call on us to pledge our loyalty to them and their system, thousands of workers and others will be in the streets of Philly proclaiming, "We've carried the rich for 2 hundred years! Let's get them off our backs!"

The original call for this demonstration was made by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW), an organization of those they sent overseas to fight their dirty war, and then turned their backs on when they came home. The Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC) has taken up the vets' call to build a big demonstration to demand jobs or income for the unemployed and to oppose the preparations of the ruling class to involve us in another war.

Despite the rosy picture painted by the Bicentennial messages from the

country's biggest corporations, for most of us conditions are the worst since the Great Depression. With the crisis getting worse we are being asked to sacrifice even more. But the working class is not sitting back and taking it. Every day skirmishes break out as we fight against a layoff, or defeat a speedup attempt on the job. More and more frequently we are waging major battles, such as long, hard fought strikes, and fights to keep our unions from being smashed.

And come July 4, there is no doubt we will be embroiled in many more battles large and small. Four and a half million workers have contracts that expire this year. By July 4, reality will have punched even more holes in the bosses' recovery talk.

For workers all over the country, July 4 will be a good opportunity to come together and take an important step in building a united struggle against our common enemy.

A half hour of TV begins to clarify what the Bicentennial is all about. They try to sell us everything from cupcakes to toasters by painting them red, white and blue. And for those who really want to serve their country, there

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# '76 Contracts Call For Struggle

This year, contracts covering over 5 million workers expire. Most of these are in key basic industries, auto, trucking, rubber, electrical equipment and construction.

The question on the minds of many workers is--can anything be won in these contracts? And if it can, how are we going to do it?

These are real questions that come out of the bitter experience of the last 3 years, and more.

Since most of the contracts coming were last negotiated in 1973, inflation has outrun our wage increases by an average of 6%--a wage cut! For rubber workers, saddled with an up-front sell-out contract in '73, it has meant a 15% cut. Tens of millions are unemployed while the government cuts benefits and auto companies claim UAW SUB payments have run out.

Meanwhile the companies have announced their intention to "hold the

line" against any real wage increases, as they intensify speedup, push for job combinations and elimination and attack work rules.

Of course all this is done out of their concern for the "good of the country". This is a recession, the economy is in trouble and company profits are hurting, the bosses tell us. It's hopeless and self-defeating for workers to fight to improve conditions. And if we demand "too much" they say, we will blow any chance of recovery and lose our jobs altogether.

Their solution is for us to accept the layoffs, speedup and real decline in wages now--help them increase their profits--and will be better for everybody in a while. In other words, the way to ease our own hunger is to make sure the bosses have plenty to eat.

Obviously this "solution" is no solution at all. It's a plan to rob us of what little we have now and



RANK AND FILE AUTO WORKERS' DISCONTENT COULDN'T BE CONTAINED. PHOTO SHOWS STRUGGLE AT CHRYSLER'S MACK AVE. PLANT IN DETROIT IN 1972.

## Letters

Dear Friend,

I found a copy of your paper here where I am presently incarcerated in Patuxent Institution and read it. I liked what I read and had no idea there was any organization of it's kind here near D.C.

I would like to know if it would be possible for me to receive a free copy of your paper for a while at least until I could come up with some money. I would also like to know as much as you could tell me about the Revolutionary Communist Party--what it believes and disbelieves. And I would like to know the overall look of what THE WORKER is doing in the community. I liked your article on Cop Terror in Prince Georges County. It is a long overdue subject that really needs focus on it. Thank you.

-a prisoner

Following is a poem written by an unemployed worker that was sent to the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee "in the hope my poem will play some small role in the struggle."

### "A DEDICATION TO UNEMPLOYMENT"

I'm just an observer who is taking the time  
To let you in on some facts about  
the "Unemployment Line".  
It's not the pleasant sight to see--  
And believe me folks, I'm glad it's  
them and not me!  
I know it's at least two hours or more  
Before you even get to the door!  
Their legs feel like they are giving away  
And their feet are so sore!  
You are finally greeted by the guy  
who must see your card,  
And if you make one smart remark  
they send for the guard!  
Then you go through the channels  
like the "Panama Canal"  
By the time they get through,  
You don't know "who" "Where" or "How"!  
Then you sit and wait for your name  
to be called,  
By the time you get out  
You feel like you've been overhauled!  
Thank "God" for the ones who still  
have their jobs!  
They don't have to fight the mobs!  
I could write so much more it seems  
But I'm forced to stop  
So I can keep this poem clean!

hand it over to the capitalists. It's pure and simple nonsense to say that if we concede them more now they will take less later.

What's at issue here is not some abstract question of "improving the economy". It's a question of whether they are going to take even more of the wealth workers produce and leave us even less to meet the needs of survival.

The bosses are using their economic crisis to try and force us into submission: eat dirt or you'll be out of a job. But the lack of struggle has never protected a single job, recession or no recession, recovery or no recovery. The only limit to what the bosses will take is how hard we fight them. And the fact is that we don't have to be crushed down and meekly accept every attempt they make to rob us.

This was shown to be true in some of the proudest moments in the history of the working class in this country--during the '30's. This was the time of the Great Depression. Companies were folding left and right and about 30% of the workforce was unemployed. But workers in their millions organized and fought back against the bosses. Massive strikes, sit-ins, street battles with the cops and the bosses' army of goons won real victories: better wages, unemployment insurance, and they built unions in most of the basic industries. And they also strengthened the spirit and determination of the working class for subsequent battles.

But today the capitalists have man-

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## 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.

To contact us or for more information, write:

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# Washington Post

# Strike Nears Crucial Stage

The struggle of 2,000 workers on strike or out in solidarity at the *Washington Post* is entering its 5th month and a crucial stage in the strike.

In their battle against job elimination and union busting, the workers have held a mass rally of 3,000 people, have spread the *Post* boycott all over the city and have taken on a campaign against companies that advertise in the *Post*.

Just in the last month there have been several pickets of the *Post* in defiance of the injunction the courts had issued to help Graham (the *Post's* owner) break the strike. At one of these pickets, some windows were broken as the workers marched and shouted their determination to win. Although a couple of people got busted, and Graham has tried to have court action taken against the unions for violating the injunctions, this only fanned the workers anger and strengthened their resolve to escalate the fight.

At the same time the *Post's* advertising business, the main source of profit, has been reduced. This has happened because the stores have been hit with big militant actions. The powerful K-Mart chain was forced to negotiate after a series of "shop-ins" which completely disrupted the stores after K-Mart's attempts to have people arrested were met with 200 angry people in one store, letting them know they would not stand for it. The advertising campaign has continued to build with a series of militant mass pickets at the "George's TV and Radio" chain.

Circulation has been continuing to drop as strikers have reached out to thousands of workers in the D.C. area with a mailing of 63,000 to area union members, and teams of strikers have gone door to door in neighborhoods where distribution of the *Post* is still high as well as leafleted large downtown workplaces like the Post Office and the Metrobus terminals. Over 100,000 fewer papers are estimated being sold.

These actions have taken their toll and the *Post* is hurting. But the battle is far from over. The *Post* has begun a new offensive aimed at splitting the craft unions and isolating the Pressmen's Union.

So far, the *Post* has been able to get the 26 member paperhandlers to cross the lines and scab on the strike by giving them a new contract. One of the things contributing to this setback is that the Paperhandlers, though members of the same union as the pressmen, received only 1/4 the strike benefits as their union brothers. Now the *Post* has plans to do the same with the Mailers, the largest craft union, by offering them a separate settlement (so far all the offers stink and include proposals to eliminate even more union jobs). This threat to divide off the Mailers could really hurt the strike because the International (ITU) has said they will not support anyone honoring the picket lines once the Mailers have a settlement of their own.

The *Post* is trying to scare the different unions with the unspoken

threat: "We're still publishing the newspaper, so accept what we offer, jobs, like we did to the Pressmen". And this has been backed up by the injunction limiting the union to a token picket.

The fact is Graham's ability to continue publishing has seriously hurt the strike. Many of the workers see clearly that the key to winning the strike is stopping the paper—Most of them want to stop the paper and would love to get their hands on the rats who are daily stabbing them in the back and taking bread off their families tables. The early days of the strike, when the workers stopped the paper cold by tough mass action, proved that they are certainly capable of doing what is necessary. But since then, they've generally held back from giving these traitors their just deserts. One reason for this is the concern with losing public support which has been growing. Union leaders, including the Central Labor Council and the International have been saying, "Violence can only hurt the strike, that's just what Graham wants", and a lot of workers have the same fear.

It is true that D.C. is no Detroit. There aren't many strong unions compared to industrial cities like Baltimore, and there haven't been many long or militant strikes. But in a strike there are only 2 sides—the workers and the bosses. In the Kraft strike in Pennsylvania last summer, strikers were able to defy injunction like those faced by the *Post* strikers, stop scabs, and shut the plant down, finally winning the battle for union recognition.

Support from other workers is important and they can and are being won to see the justice of the *Post* strike, particularly as more and more people come to understand that the strike is not only a fight to save the jobs and unions at the *Post*, but part of the battle of the whole working class against the bosses' offensive of union busting and job elimination aimed at keeping their bankrolls fat at our expense. "Violence" as an issue becomes clearer as we understand that the bosses' use violence every day to keep us down and give us no choice but to fight.

Based on assuming a position of weakness, the unions are now calling for settling the strike by binding arbitration. This means the issues are submitted to an arbitration panel and whatever the panel comes up with is what the workers are stuck with. At this point, Graham is out for nothing less than completely smashing the Pressmen, so she won't agree to arbitration, even though experience with arbitration shows that it is never "impartial" and in fact, generally favors the companies. But if she does agree, that would mean that the strikers were getting the upper hand and that she knew she was losing. The strikers should have the right to vote on any settlement and stay out if it's no good. Otherwise, they could wind up with victory snatched from them, after they had earned through months of struggle and sacrifice.

Another scheme the *Post* has used

to try to isolate the strikers, has been to rant about the "racist" Pressmen's Union, and paint the *Post* as the great promoter of the rights of Blacks and women. Their columnists have played this up big, and when the *Post* advertised for scabs, they specifically asked for Blacks and women. The fact is that the *Post* like all capitalists has carried out discrimination over the years to divide the ranks of the workers—now they are simply trying to cash in on it. If the Pressmen at the *Post* are predominantly white, it is because the *Post* hired only whites until a few years ago. The Pressmen, like many craft unions, has weakened the workers position by holding back on organizing non-union shops and particularly has failed to organize Black workers. But the struggle at the *Post* is in the interests of all the whole working class, and workers of all nationalities can see this.

The *Post* has also been pushing a lot of garbage about how the Pressmen make so much money that they have no business being on strike, and have no right to complain when they compare their position with that of most workers who are paid much less. But workers know that every dime we wring from the company's comes from fighting them tooth and nail for it, and that the first chance they get, the bosses will rip it back. For that reason the *Post's* strikers fight to protect their union as a weapon against the company is a life and death struggle, and the stand they are taking strengthens the



STRIKERS HAVE CUT INTO POST'S ADVERTISING BY PICKETS LIKE THIS ONE AT GEORGE'S TV & RADIO

entire class in going up against the rich class that rips us off.

At this point, in order for the strikers to win, the *Post's* latest round of attacks have to be met head on. It's important to build the unity of all the unions that are out, and all the members, and not allow their ranks to be divided. And the strikers need to make the most of the growing support, concretely involving other workers and their unions in collecting financial support, and more mass rallies. And the paper can be stopped—the workers showed this in the early days of the strike—and in many ways the strength and determination of the strikers has grown and become more solid in the course of the battle. As one striker said of those who went back, "When something like this happens is the only time you find out where your weak links are—now we have a tighter chain."

# Veteran Worker Remembers Paul Robeson STOOD BOLDLY WITH OUR CLASS

Paul Robeson died on January 23. He was 77 years old. The newspapers and t.v. have been filled with obituaries about him. They have noted how he was the first Black All-American football player, Phi Beta Kappa at Rutgers University, an internationally known actor and singer who starred in Broadway plays and in the movies. Some of these articles have also noted that he was a "bitter critic of racism", a supporter of socialism and that "he had friends in the communist

party".

Who was Paul Robeson? Many people remember him best as a singer who sang songs of people's struggle all over the world. An older worker remembers Paul Robeson and said:

"It was about 30 years ago when the old Communist Party was still revolutionary. The Party held a rally at the old Baltimore Coliseum on Monroe St. and Paul Robeson was the featured speaker. I was so excited about seeing him I, myself, sold over 100 tickets

to the affair. The hall was bursting full up with working people and Paul Robeson was inspirational. It was a glorious evening. He sang songs of working people in struggle. When he spoke, he both made people aware of what was going on and got our enthusiasm up for the struggle. He was a real fighter for the working class."

Now he's dead and the ruling class is saying "too bad--he was a great guy". But Paul Robeson was a revolutionary—an enemy to the end of the capitalists who now praise him. The bosses say he had a great voice and was a fantastic actor. But he used his talent to serve the people's struggle. Because of that the ruling class hounded him as they did many other revolutionary artists in the 1950's and finally forced him out of the country.

Paul Robeson broke a lot of ground for Black people but all working people Black and white respected and loved him. Now that he's dead, the ruling class figures its safe to tip their hat in his memory. But the capitalists' tributes to him are empty. The working class' tribute lies in building the struggle Paul Robeson was so much a part of--To rid the world of the capitalist parasites so that working people of all colors can live in freedom.



Paul Robeson singing with California shipyard workers, September, 1942.

## WORKERS ROCK REIGN IN SPAIN

The recent death of Spain's hated dictator Francisco Franco has been followed by a national strike wave even stronger and more widespread than the strikes which rocked that country last fall.

With Franco gone, his replacement, King Juan Carlos, has taken some steps to appease the demands of Spain's people, and even more measures to break their struggles by force. Even so, opposition to the government is growing stronger than ever.

One of the first acts of the new king was to declare a so-called "amnesty", releasing a tiny percentage of the thousands of workers and others rotting in prison for such crimes as being suspected of belonging to an illegal union, going on strike, speaking ill of the government, etc. In response to this, which became known as the "indulto insulto"--the insulting pardon--huge demonstrations broke out across the country, and the police couldn't stop them. In Madrid, 20,000 metal workers walked out in protest. Over 17,000 workers struck in the city of Barcelona, thousands of coal miners stopped in Asturias, and in general hell broke loose in dozens of factories. The main demand of the workers was for a real amnesty, a cleaning out of the jails of the class fighters who'd been locked up by Franco.

The U.S. government's role has been to try and bolster the Spanish regime, as they have been doing for decades. In a recent treaty signed between the two governments the U.S. promised a \$1.25 billion arms and aid handout to protect the U.S. ruling class's investments and other interests in Spain.

By mid-January, strikes for higher wages and for an end to political restrictions on the working class were

breaking out in many sectors. The subway workers, for example, in their strike received support from rail, telephone, airline and taxi workers; and over 50,000 workers in construction, the metal trades and banks walked out in sympathy. To break some of the strikes, the government drafted into the army over 100,000 workers and 72,000 railway workers, threatening to treat them as deserters if they didn't go back to work. Due to strike-busting by the regular army, the sub-

way workers' strike was over in three days, but in two weeks they were preparing to strike again.

The Spanish capitalists who hide behind the king are afraid that if these political restrictions are lifted the workers movement and other struggles against them will press them even harder, threatening their profits and even their rule. But the more the government tries to repress the struggle, the wider it spreads and the stronger it grows.

## Chou En-lai

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great mass movement involving hundreds of millions in China which smashed outright attempts to put China back on the road to capitalism and criticized the practices which would have had the same affect in the long run. The Cultural Revolution cleaned out traitors in the Party and government, would-be Khrushchevs. It sent thousands of other leaders, officials and professionals back to work in the factories and communes to learn from the rank and file workers and peasants. And the Cultural Revolution itself brought forward tens of thousands of new leaders from the millions who rose up to protect the gains of the revolution.

Chou En-lai played a key role in the Cultural Revolution, meeting constantly with groups of activists from the schools, factories and communes, learning from them, encouraging them to continue their fight, and providing support and direction. In the course of this great movement, some leaders lost their bearings, especially when they came under fire, and the Chinese people espec-

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It was necessary to wipe out these leftovers step by step by keeping the revolution going, continuing the struggle to change the world. The people hated the old system and were ready to fight to keep their country from turning backwards.

In order to enable the working class and peasants in China to keep power in their own hands, Mao launched the Cultural Revolution. This was a

# CHOU EN-LAI

## LEADER OF THE WORKING CLASS

Recently Chou En-Lai, the Premier of the People's Republic of China and a leader of the Communist Party of China, died at the age of 78. His passing is greatly mourned in China by the hundreds of millions of people to whom Chou dedicated his life. And throughout the world revolutionaries mourn and honor him.

Early in life Chou deserted the wealthy feudal family into which he was born and joined with the struggles of the Chinese people to free their country from the foreign imperialist powers who plundered it, and from their own reactionary rulers who ground the Chinese people into hunger and misery.

The rich and powerful always ridicule the idea that the masses can make revolution and run society themselves. And in the old China it would have been easy to doubt that half-starved and illiterate peasants and laborers, living for the most part in small isolated villages, could overthrow their exploiters who were backed by the most powerful countries on earth, and build a new life for themselves.

Like other Chinese student rebels of the time, Chou saw in the Russian Revolution, which had taken place a few years earlier, the road that China had to take to free itself of imperialism, exploitation and oppression—the road of working class revolution, socialism and communism. Chou helped found the Communist Party of China and helped link it with the then small but growing Chinese working class. The Party worked hard to build the workers' struggles, and later led the struggles of the peasants, who also wanted to destroy their oppressors.

It took a quarter of a century from the founding of the Party until 1949, when the Chinese people succeeded in defeating their oppressors and driving out the foreign exploiters. During all this time Chou was a leader of the Communist Party and the struggle of the Chinese people for liberation.

With the working class in power, the masses of Chinese people became masters of their own fate, and were able to change the whole face of their country. In the 25 years since then, the working people of China have created miracles. Tiny plots of land have been united into vast agricultural communes. The threat of starvation that used to hang over the head of the Chinese people has been eliminated. Industry has been built and helps provide an ever improving standard of living.

In China, the common people control their own society, and make sure that everything—education, health care, etc.—is run in their interests. The Chinese people could do these things only because they had made revolution, and today there are no robbers lording over them. Instead the people have their own

# Chou En-lai

## 1898-1976



The death of Comrade Chou En-lai is a great loss to the working class and oppressed people of the world and to the international revolutionary Communist movement.

The Revolutionary Communist Party of the USA unites in grief with the Chinese people and the Communist Party of China and calls upon all genuine fighters for working class victory to honor the memory of Comrade Chou En-lai by learning from his life:

To be a revolutionary Communist all of one's life. To maintain one's bearings in the face of difficulties and setbacks. To aim high and persevere in step-by-step struggle according to changing conditions. To be firm in principle and good at uniting with others. To stand, ever, with the surging masses; to learn and to lead. To be conscientious in preparation and bold in execution. To uphold the Red Flag against all enemies within and without.

In this moment of solemn reflection, we strengthen our resolve to unite the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought with the concrete practice of United States revolution in solidarity with the revolutionary struggle of the peoples of the world.

Central Committee,  
Revolutionary Communist Party, USA

leaders, like Chou En-lai, in the government helping to plan and guide the people in building a new China. Leaders, like Chou En-lai, who came out of the struggles of the masses of people.

#### THROUGH TWISTS AND TURNS

Chou En-lai is mourned and honored because he helped guide the struggles through to victory. As part of the collective leadership of the Communist Party of China, Chou helped figure out what was necessary to win, by applying Marxism-Leninism, the revolutionary theory of the world's working class, to the actual situation. Chou demonstrated throughout his life the ability to carry on in the face of setbacks and defeat, to chart a new course when the struggle demanded it, while always leading the masses forward to the final goal.

For example, in 1934, little more than a decade after the formation of the Communist Party, it led a large liberated area in China, where millions of people were free from the oppression of the ruling classes. But errors were made by the Party's leadership, including Chou himself, that led to the defeat of their base area by the oppressors.

This led to the famous and heroic Long March, when the Red Army marched 6,000 miles, zigzagging and fighting constantly, until they reached northern China.

Early on in the march the Communist leaders had to sum-up the mistakes that had led to their earlier defeat, and get a better understanding of how to win victory in China. Mao Tsetung had argued for years that the road to liberation in China was for the working class to give leadership to the peasantry, 90% of the population, and wage a long, protracted war which would wear down and isolate the enemy, and that the Party should strive to unite and lead the great majority of Chinese people in wiping out Japan

which at that time was the main power trying to gobble up China.

At this time Chou En-lai criticized his own earlier mistakes and worked hard to win other leaders to adopt Mao's line and make Mao head of the Communist Party. In this process the Party greatly increased its understanding of how to apply Marxism-Leninism to conditions in China. This understanding of political line enabled the revolution to push ahead to victory, even though the Long March ended with only 10,000 soldiers left out of an original 100,000.

Even so it took 15 more years of constant fighting and hard work, through advances and retreats, to win final victory. Chou fought together with the people in many capacities, now as a political leader of the army, now as a negotiator, now as a general.

#### REMAINED LOYAL TO THE REVOLUTION

Chou En-lai is mourned and honored because when victory in the revolution was won he remained one with the common people. Too many times workers in every country have seen opportunists who want to get to power on our backs, or even seen real leaders in their struggles turn traitor and wind up siding with the enemy. This is exactly what happened in the Soviet Union, the first workers' state, when a bunch of new capitalist exploiters led by Nikita Kruschev succeeded in seizing power and undoing all that the working class had accomplished in 30 years of socialism. These new bosses tried to force communists everywhere to knuckle under to them and give up making revolution.

The Chinese Communist Party was one of the few in the world that stood up to the Soviet leaders, first in private debate when Chou and others tried to win the Soviets back to revolution and socialism. But the new Soviet leaders continued turning their country into a new capitalist,

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## Sellout, But Bosses Want More

# Ford Vetos Construction Bill

All hell is starting to break out in the construction industry. In the most recent series of events President Ford vetoed what was known as the "common site picketing" bill. In protest 8 leaders of the AFL-CIO building trades unions, plus Fitzimmons of the Teamsters, resigned from President Ford's Collective Bargaining Committee on Construction. This was followed by the resignation of Secretary of Labor Dunlop.

What's all the stink about?

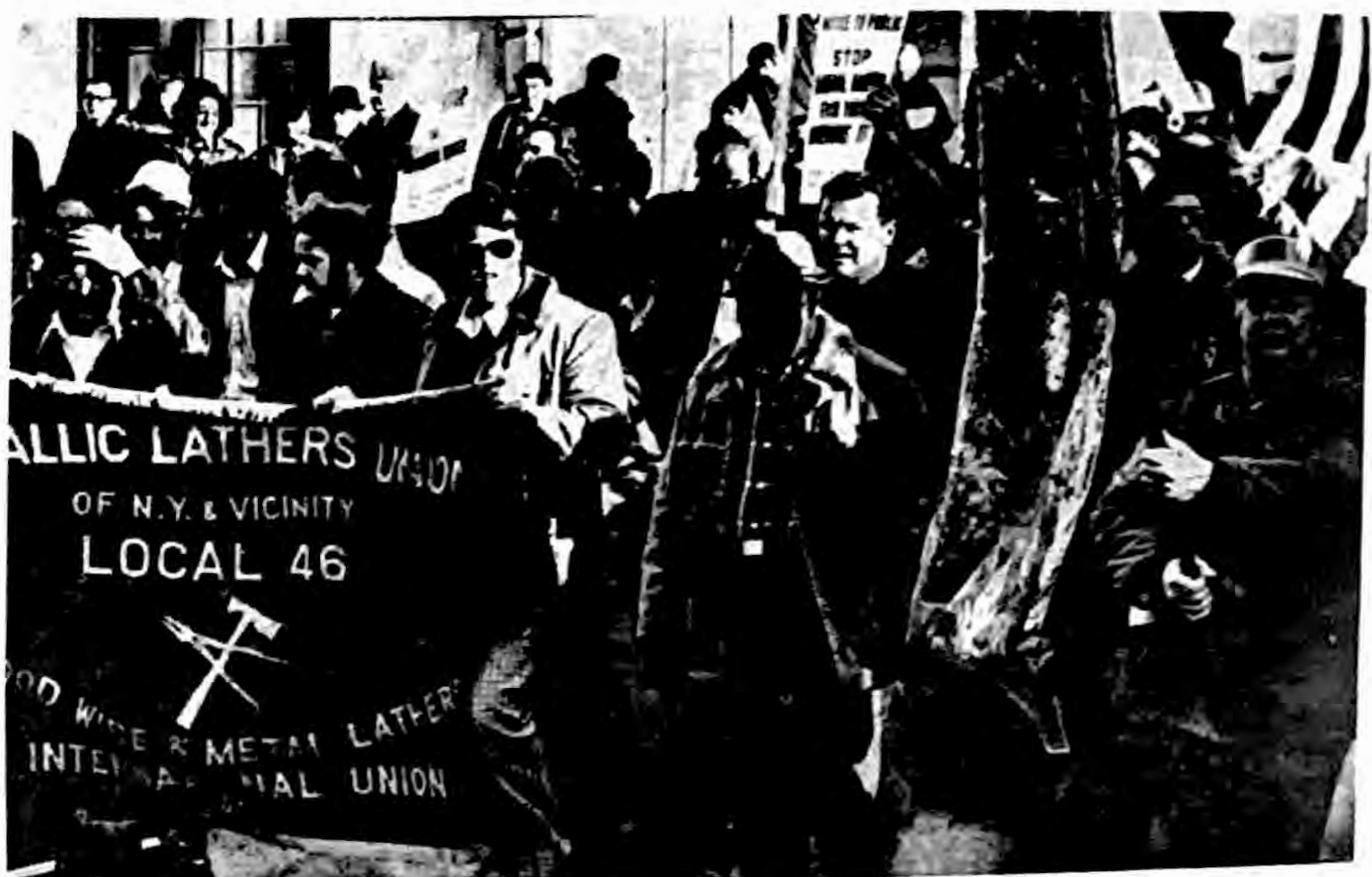
President Ford's veto of this bill reversed his earlier promise to sign it and signals a step-up in the capitalists' attempt to bust the construction unions.

The ruling class has always dreamed of the day it could break our unions. In the last few years their efforts to bust the construction unions has picked up steam. With hardly anyone being able to buy a house and commercial construction way down, there is a wild scramble for profits among contractors. So these guys have been doing all they can to weaken and break the unions so they can drive wages down, reduce crew sizes, violate craft jurisdictions, and introduce new "labor saving" technology.

The most recent blatant attempts to break the construction unions have been the move by non-union contractors into formerly all-unionized construction in cities and on big projects. In order to get the skilled labor for these jobs, these non-union outfits have tried to take advantage of the extremely high unemployment among construction workers. As an indication of how successful these non-union contractors have been, today they account for over 40% of all commercial construction, up from virtually nothing a few years ago.

To counter these moves, rank and file construction workers have been literally raising the roof recently. Huge demonstration have taken place against unemployment and non-union contractors in Trenton, N.J., Manhattan, Atlanta, Boston, Milwaukee and several other cities (see article about Houston construction workers on this page). There have also been many local strikes against worsening conditions on the job site and against non-union contractors. The construction workers are showing in a thousand ways what they think of these attacks.

This union busting, and the up-surge of their own rank and file, scared the hell out of the leaders of the building trades unions. Rather than going all out to organize the unorganized construction workers, they went hat in hand to the bosses to try to work out a package deal called the "common site picketing" bill. Look, they said, we'll control the rank and file for you if you lighten up on the union busting. To crack down on the rebellious rank and file the bill would have set up a labor-management committee with power to take negotiations out of the hands of the local unions. An automatic 30 day injunction against striking would also have been imposed on any negotiations taken over by this committee. The Wall Street Journal summed it up, saying the bill was designed "to reduce the number of strikes by the nation's 10,000 local construction unions and to hold down



Over 10,000 construction workers demonstrated in New York City Feb. 27, chanting "We Want Jobs!" They rolled over cops who tried to hold them back and pounded on the cars of politicians who were on the scene.

their wage gains....It is intended to give national unions more power over the often rambunctious locals."

The international officials tried to sell the bill to the rank and file on the basis that the bill would have made it legal for the workers of one contractor to picket a whole job site and for other workers to honor them. This right is something construction workers need and often take--legal or not. But even this provision was saddled with loopholes and was really just a cover for the main provisions

of the bill to shackle the struggle of construction workers.

But, as it turned out, even this disgusting deal was not enough for these capitalist rulers. The most powerful sections of capital made it clear they wanted the legislation buried. The Construction Users Council, made up of representatives of the country's largest corporations and utility companies, was strongly against the bill. As a Chicago Tribune editorial emphasized, it was not just "right wing", Reagan supporters who blocked the bill:

(continued on p. 7)

## HOUSTON CONSTRUCTION BLAST UNION

On Friday, January 9, without any warning, the bosses at Charter International Oil Company laid off 900 union construction workers, who were building 2 processing units at the plant. Charter terminated the unionized contractor, Luminous Construction Company, who employed these workers and switched to Payne and Keller Inc., which is non union.

Charter Oil said the issue is simple--a matter of dollars and cents. One company, Payne and Keller is supposedly cheaper than the other. This made good sense to them, but the workers who were thrown out on the street without a thought by the company saw it differently. They lost their jobs because they were union members and they decided to do the only thing workers can do--fight, and to hell Charter Oil profits.

On Monday morning, January 12, 600 of the laid-off workers and supporters from their local unions picketed the Charter Oil plant in order to keep Payne and Keller from stealing their jobs. 3 Payne and Keller trucks were turned over, which was just a small dose of the type of action these union busting bosses deserve.

The next day hundreds of workers showed up again and these 2 big companies had to get protection from over 50 cops, including the SWAT team, who brought out clubs, 2 attack dogs, and

a sub-machinegun. They showed very clearly who's side they were on, who's property they will protect, by viciously clubbing and arresting 7 workers on the phoney charge of "suspicion of inciting to riot".

These rich man's goons did not intimidate the workers, who vowed to keep up the fight until they got their jobs back. Monday and Tuesday the struggle was organized mainly by individual militants in the Pipefitters local. Tuesday morning the company and their police goons had the upper hand, but Wednesday workers showed up 3000 strong, when the anger of the rank and file forced all 17 local construction unions to call their men off the job.

For over 3 hours workers controlled the whole area around Charter Oil. They barricaded the streets with their cars, went into the plant grounds and showed Charter International Oil what workers will do when the rich try to bust our unions and leave us without jobs. They overturned a crane and burned company records and offices. They answered police lines with rocks and bottles. The cops backed down the street as workers surrounded squad cars and started rocking them. Against their dogs, helicopters, and their SWAT team, the workers still had the upper hand.

This struggle so shook up the bosses

## MD. DRYDOCK

# "Our Side Is Growing Stronger"

The 1800 workers at the Maryland Shipbuilding and Drydock Co. are in the third month of their strike for a new and better contract. Their determination has already forced the company into making several concessions. The workers went out Nov. 18 demanding a wage increase that would catch them up with the Beth Steel Shipyards plus a cost of living (COL) increase that won't let inflation eat up their paychecks. The company is still holding back on the good COL raise, but the workers are standing tough on their demands.

The workers struggle at the Drydock did not just kick off with the contract. A month or two before the strike, hundreds of workers refused to leave the lunch area after lunch. Despite threats from white hats, the workers stood firm and forced the company to rehire a woman who was fired for "kicking a white hat in the tail".

Victories like this one showed the workers that "in unity there is strength" and it is unity like this plus the support the strike is getting from other working people that is facing the bosses down.

Other locals of the International Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America (IUMSWA) are making regular donations to the strike fund. Workers at the Sparrows Pt. shipyard contributed money for Christmas presents for the strikers and their families. A number of guys from the Point have been coming down to walk the line with the strikers. All this is really putting the company up against the wall.

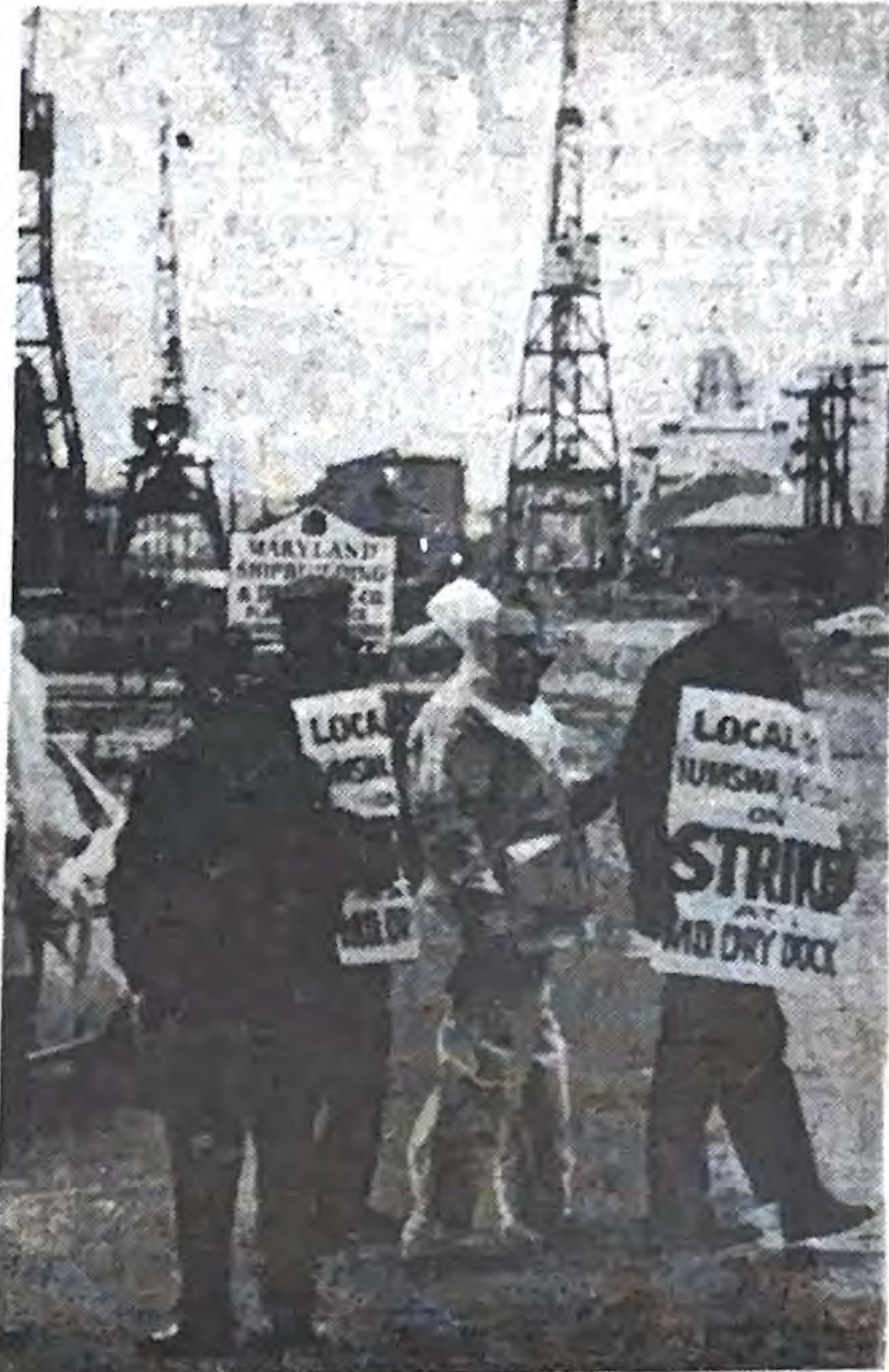
Nothing shows the company's des-

peration better than the TV ads and full page ads in the local newspapers on January 19. The company's open letter said that "The strike...threatens the job security of every employee...there are no winners in a strike-only losers." The ad urges workers to ask the union to hold a secret ballot election to end the strike, on the company's terms.

With this letter the company is trying to resurrect images of the 1972 strike in which workers stayed out 91 days and went back with little more than the original company offer. But many strikers see these ads as proof that the workers are strong and the bosses are weak. The company is also trying to use the ads to turn public support against the strike.

While the strikers are in a strong position, there are some roadblocks in the way to a clear victory. The main one is the rank and file is being kept from participating in running the strike. The strike bulletin distributed by the union on the picket line is no substitute for the involvement of the workers in leading the struggle. There hasn't been a union meeting since before the strike vote. In December, when a few workers posted a petition calling for a union meeting, some union officials tore it down. This showed that while the workers were taking the initiative in strengthening the strike, some of our union leaders want to keep the thing in their pocket.

The workers see several problems they need to deal with. After 3 months on strike, many workers are facing financial problems with more workers facing evictions and repossession.



The picket lines are organized so that these are usually only 10 or 20 strikers walking the line at a time, even though at times over 100 people have picketed together in a real show of strength. White hats are allowed to drive through the line. These are some of the problems that can be demoralizing, that a union meeting could help to straighten out. But the main thing is that the rank and file must become more actively involved in running the strike.

Another thing that will really strengthen the strike is taking it out widely to other workers in the area through the unions as well as getting out directly to workers through letters and leaflets, as the Washington Post strikers have done (see article on p. 3).

The strikers know that the biggest blow to the company has been shutting down the production in the yard. Let the company lie about how everyone loses in a strike. There are two sides in a strike, and our side - the workers - is growing stronger!

## WORKERS BUSTING FIRMS

that they put the National Guard on alert and had to bring out their big guns to stop it. Wednesday night, one of their judges issued an injunction against violence and mass picketing.

Thursday morning the cops came back determined not to be caught with their pants down, as one police captain put it. The ruling class brought out 1000 cops, nearly the entire patrol division in Houston. Then the local union officials, who had called out the men on Wednesday under the pressure of the rank and file, backed down from the threat of the injunction. Guys came out Thursday, but weakened by the cowardice of some of their officials, split when they saw all the cops. In fact, most of the local

union heads have been apologizing for the whole upsurge, a few even admitting they had no control over the men.

At this time the police, courts, and union misleaders and the lack of solid organization among the rank and file, has halted the struggle. But still it was the biggest explosion of the working class in Houston in many years. It had an electric effect on other workers in the whole area who found out about it on the news and through leaflets from the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee and the Revolutionary Communist Party. With non-union construction on the rise in the Houston area, more struggle is certain to erupt.

## FORD VETOES

(continued from p. 6)  
"Industry and the national press--liberal as well as conservative--were almost unanimous in opposing the bill."

Despite this, the union officials are now saying we must "put a friend of labor in the White House" in the '76 election. But the fact that Ford reversed himself and vetoed the bill is a clear example that the power of capital calls the shots in government while politicians and presidents scurry to carry out the orders.

The message of the veto is clear: they're not about to give up a damn thing that they're not forced to. The bosses will even cut the throats of the top union officials who have served them faithfully. They dream of busting the unions altogether!

But construction workers aren't about to give up their unions. The struggle is growing, not through campaigns to elect Democrats, but through strikes and demonstrations all across the country. Things are sure to pick up momentum, especially with many construction contracts coming due this summer.



CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN ATLANTA RALLY AGAINST UNION BUSTING

# SYSTEM CAUSES UNEMPLOYMENT



MARCHES LIKE THIS ONE SHOWED THE STAND OF THE UNEMPLOYED

"I've been out of work for 8 months now, trying to feed my family on the two-bit checks I get from unemployment. Pretty soon even these will run out. How the hell are people supposed to live? The government doesn't care what happens to us. We've gotta do something!"

That's the way one worker at the unemployment center put it. But it's not just one man's feelings. Tens of thousands of people are facing the same situation. Thrown out on the streets as factory after factory gears down, we're forced to make it on a lousy \$89 a week—and that's the maximum.

For the unemployed, time is divided between pounding the pavement for job openings that are scarcer than wooden nickels and standing in line at the unemployment center trying to hunt down the 8 checks they owe you.

And now, to top it all off, the federal government has launched its latest attack—cutting off 13 weeks of extended benefits. Up until now unemployment benefits ran 65 weeks (26 initially and three 13 week extensions). As of January 4th, one of the 13 week extensions is being cut on the pretext that Maryland is no longer a high unemployment area. Some of us have been looking for a job for over a year and can't find one; and now they are telling us that we can only collect benefits for 52 weeks!

Unemployment benefits aren't something that the bosses gave to workers because they felt sorry for us when we are out of work. The masses of working

people had to fight to win unemployment benefits back in the 30's (as we've had to fight for everything we've got—the 8 hour day, unions, workmens compensation, seniority rights, etc.), when they had nothing but soup and bread lines to live on. Now, when times are getting rough for the bosses again, they want to put us back in those bread lines. The bosses have always tried to put their problems back on working people—we make everything, then they take it all away from us and tell us to starve. But we aren't going to starve, we're going to fight!

The bosses' system leaves us no other alternative but to fight back. What else can we do when the bosses' need to make profits is more important than our right to live a decent life? We're the ones who make everything—the cars, the steel, housing, clothes, etc., but we can't even afford to buy back what we ourselves have made, because we have no control over our work once it's finished. The bosses, who do control it because they own everything, don't have to work for a living like we do, they just take what we've made from us after we do all the work—and then, if they can't make enough money off of our work, they put us out on the street.

This is why we have to fight the bosses until we win everything—because every gain we make they'll try to snatch away from us as long as they are in control of all we produce (what they give with an eyeglass they try to take back with a steamshovel). We are beginning to realize that having a job is not a privilege given to us by some boss, but it's a right. We have a right to a job at union wages, or a decent, livable income while we're out of work—and a right is something no one can take away from us without a fight, no matter how hard they try. But we do have to fight to protect that right, or they'll grab it right from our hands.

Workers are beginning to realize that we are all one class, while the bosses are another; and that, in order to stay on top, they are trying to split our one class into two warring factions—the employed and the unemployed. They hold the unemployed over the heads of the employed as some kind of threat, to get workers to produce as fast as they want us to. But the employed are seeing where this is coming from—we'll do as much as one person could handle B.T.L. (i.e., before the layoffs), and if the bosses need more work done, they'll just have to call people back!

And that fight is growing as it is being taken up by both employed and unemployed. In plants across the country, workers are fighting back against layoffs and speedups (making those left behind do their own plus the work of those laid off). In some places they are taking this a step further—they are organizing employed-unemployed committees, linking up with their co-workers who have been laid off, to force the bosses to open the plant gates and recall the unemployed, in addition to saving the jobs of those still working. The employed are refusing to take up the slack while their co-workers are out on the streets.

The unemployed are also taking up the fight against the bosses and their divide and conquer schemes. We are refusing to be scabs for the bosses, refusing to allow them to drive a wedge between us and the workers who are still on the job. We are taking up the fight to protect our right to jobs or income. The Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee, which started several years ago on the West coast, has been spreading across the country, building a fighting movement of the unemployed. UWOC has been leafletting at the unemployment centers demanding jobs at union wages, decent benefits for all, and an end to the layoffs, in addition to getting signatures on a petition voicing these demands.

## Public Hearing

SPONSORED BY UWOC

Sunday, Feb. 29, 7 P.M.  
YMCA, 24 W. Franklin,  
Balto.

**"BUILD THE FIGHT FOR JOBS OR INCOME NOW"**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 947-3070

## UWOC

Continued from p. 1  
The reason the bosses are running scared is because the people are angry and are on the move. And that's where UWOC comes in.

And the demonstration is just really at the start of the struggle. At every meeting of UWOC our numbers double. More and more workers are signing the nationwide petition for Jobs or Income. We are planning and having more demonstrations and other activities. We are joining with the thousands of other angry workers going to Philadelphia on the 4th of July saying "We want Jobs or Income Now—We Won't Fight in No Rich Man's War. We will be letting the bosses know that the U.S. working class is saying "200 years is long enough—Let's get the rich off our backs!"

UWOC is calling a "People's Hearing" for the last week in February. Hundreds of working people will be testifying on just what the situation is. More important, we will be turning our anger into action by building the struggle for Jobs or Income Now!

For more information on UWOC call 947-3070 or write: UWOC, PO Box 4449, Balto. Md. 21223.

## Chou En-lai

(Continued from P. 4)  
ially cherished those leaders who, like Chou were able to point the direction forward at key times.

### A COMMUNIST LEADER

In summation, Chou is mourned and honored because he was a communist, a leader not only of the Chinese people, but of the worldwide working class. Even the capitalists who run this country and their press are forced to recognize Chou's role in history and how he helped change the world. But they try to make it seem that it was because he was an "exceptional individual" and that he did everything in spite of the fact that he was a communist. They even try to portray him

as they do each other, as "brilliant", "suave", "an administrator and not a revolutionary".

Chou En-Lai was a great leader, but his greatness lay in the fact that he always stood with the oppressed and exploited, that he was a representative of the working class, and used Marxism-Leninism, the science of revolution, to advance the struggle.

In life, Chou En-Lai was never separated from the movement and the millions of people he helped lead. The monument to his life is the People's Republic of China and the struggles of the working class and oppressed throughout the world.

Over 200 prisoners at the Maryland Pen in Baltimore showed their unity and strength in a work stoppage on Jan. 21. The prisoners in "C Dormitory" cells were protesting a mass transfer to the worst section of the prison, South Wing. South Wing is the punishment section of the prison, and is notorious for its inhuman conditions: filth, vermin, broken toilets, no hot water, guard brutality, etc.

At first, the "C Dorm" prisoners were locked in their cells for refusing to work. The rest of the prisoners showed their support in various ways, including giving food to the strikers. The feeling of solidarity, including Black and white unity, was high. The prisoners said, "let them throw some tear gas to make us move—then there'll be some violence". The prison officials backed off in the face of this unity. The transfer went ahead, but the charges for refusing to work were dropped, and the strikers were let into the population (not locked up) when they were transferred to South Wing.

The reasons for this transfer was to "renovate" South Wing. A lot of pressure has hit the Pen officials about South Wing from prisoners through daily struggles, lawsuits and publicity. So it's going to get cleaned up: new lights, hot water, paint jobs. Of course the purpose will remain the same, control and punishment. South Wing, clean or dirty, is still a "prison within a prison". And prisons don't help the prisoners rehabilitate themselves or prevent crime. Prisoners are by and large working class people. Some were forced by the economic conditions

# UNITY BEHIND BARS

## Pen Prisoners Rebel

into ripping off, generally other working class people. Others were just victims of police railroading.

The solution isn't prisons, which just lock people up. It's dealing with the cause of crime, the whole capitalist system.

Whether it's C Wing or South Wing



PRISONERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE LEARNING THAT THE WAY FORWARD IS THROUGH ORGANIZATION AND UNITY. ABOVE, THE HEROIC ATTICA REBELLION IN SEPTEMBER, 1971.

## '76 Contracts...

Continued from p. 2  
aged to blunt the unions as a weapon in the hands of workers by getting their own toadies like Meany into the top leadership. And these scabs fall right into line with the bosses' efforts to threaten us with dire consequences if we dare to fight back.

Leonard Woodcock, President of the UAW, is talking about the companies' profits being "razor thin" and not "foreseeing a long strike". Teamster boss Fitzsimmons warned the rank and file that "we have never had a national strike in this union, and I will do anything possible to ward off any work stoppage". The heads of the building trades unions have announced all out support for Meany's campaign to "put a friend of labor in the White House", in order to divert rank and file anger and frustration away from the contract battles.

But the tighter the bosses and their labor lieutenants try to tighten up, the more workers do in fact fight back. Everyday, literally thousands of big

and small battles are being fought by workers around the country. And even in situations where the workers are not yet strong enough to prevent a sell-out or force an official strike, contracts give rise to sharp struggles as workers demands for better conditions and wages rise to the surface.

A good example of this was the wildcat strikes following the '73 auto contract. Woodcock and the UAW International went all out to stifle struggle. They kept the rank and file in the dark during negotiations, then sold out the contract after a phoney week-long strike. Despite this, three big wildcats broke out before the contract expired at Chrysler plants in Detroit. And numerous local strikes continued after the national contract was signed.

Our very conditions of life force us to struggle. And all across the country that's exactly what we're doing. We come up against the fact that our unions are controlled at the top by traitors who sabotage

our fights. But we can pit our strength, the fact that we are millions, against their weakness, the fact that they are only a handful, and in no way represent the interests of the rank and file.

The contracts coming up will give rise to numerous battles throughout the country. We must go all out to win everything we can, seizing on every spark of struggle that erupts in the course of the year and building each fight as strong as possible. In this way we can win important victories now and build up the strength, fighting spirit and organization of the rank and file in the course of battles large and small, laying the basis for bigger struggles and bigger victories in the future.

This was certainly the case with the miners wildcat last summer and the support it received from workers all over the country. It started as a strike at one mine around the violation of seniority and the firing of one local union president and spread across the coalfields to include 80,000 workers—a fight for the right to strike and against the use of injunctions.

The capitalists are relying on the top union officials to make 1976 contract struggles "Labor's Year of Compromise", as *Business Week* magazine calls it. But you can't compromise with a shark, giving it a foot now, hoping it won't take an arm and a leg on the next pass.

Each one of the contract struggles is an opportunity to stand up to their bloody dreams of chewing us to bits. If the struggles around these contracts are taken on in a bold way, we can win some immediate gains and develop the understanding of the nature of the enemy and build the organization and determination for future battles that will help us blow them out of the water altogether.

## PA. Garment Strike

Continued from p. 12

rehiring of two fired strikers, a provision that PJR can't run away during the contract, and clauses strengthening the union against the company. As a step to strengthening the hand of the rank and file against sellouts or another "memorandum", it was agreed that all contracts will be negotiated in Reading by a rank and file committee, not in New York by the union hacks.

While the PJR strikers won an important fight, many have come to see that the battle has just begun. Since going back, working conditions have

not gotten wonderful overnight. In fact, management has gone all out to find new and better ways to attack the workers. In response the workers have formed a rank and file "committee to enforce the contract".

In addition to the real gains won by the strike, the PJR strikers won more: dignity and a better understanding of the strength we have as a class. They are now working to maintain and build the strength developed during the strike, to keep what they've won so far and fight to move forward.

# History Punches Holes in JFK Myth

For years the press and TV in this country built up the Kennedy legend. Now that legend is falling apart piece by piece.

The same media that helped create the Kennedy myth are telling us that this "martyred" president himself had the CIA gun down many other men. This great "champion" of civil rights had taps put on civil rights leaders' phones to blackmail them into staying in line. This "idealist" shared a woman "close personal friend" with a Mafia chieftain. And after all this has come out from various Senate committees, now we're told that Kennedy carried on like an emperor, turning the White House into a pleasure palace, even while masquerading in public as a family man.

Even as the picture of the Kennedys as the Holy Family is ripped to shreds, various ex-presidential aids, some ex-"Young ladies" and all the newspapers and TV are scrambling to sell the last few pieces. A lot of other politicians and their millionaire backers who came out of Watergate stinking like hell are now churning out a steady stream of facts which show how Kennedy was just as bad as they are. Other forces, still trying to get ahead by peddling the Kennedy mystique, are trying to defend him, implying that while maybe JFK did get a little overenthusiastic in his private life, at least he didn't stoop to stealing like other politicians.

The whole foul affair and the stench that surrounds it really shows everything is business for the rich ruling class of people that run this country, even the dead. Careers and all sorts of interests advance or decline as Kennedy's "stock" goes up and down in the market place. That's the reason they're all making so much fuss about Kennedy today.

But the working class has its own reasons for wanting to know the truth about Kennedy. While he was president, and even more after his death, our rulers presented him as a man who really stood up for working people, who used his wealth and power to do more for us that we could ever do for ourselves. Today the scene is crawling with would-be Kennedys of one type or another, and our rulers would still have us believe that putting the right man in office would change the way things are going and finally make this system work.

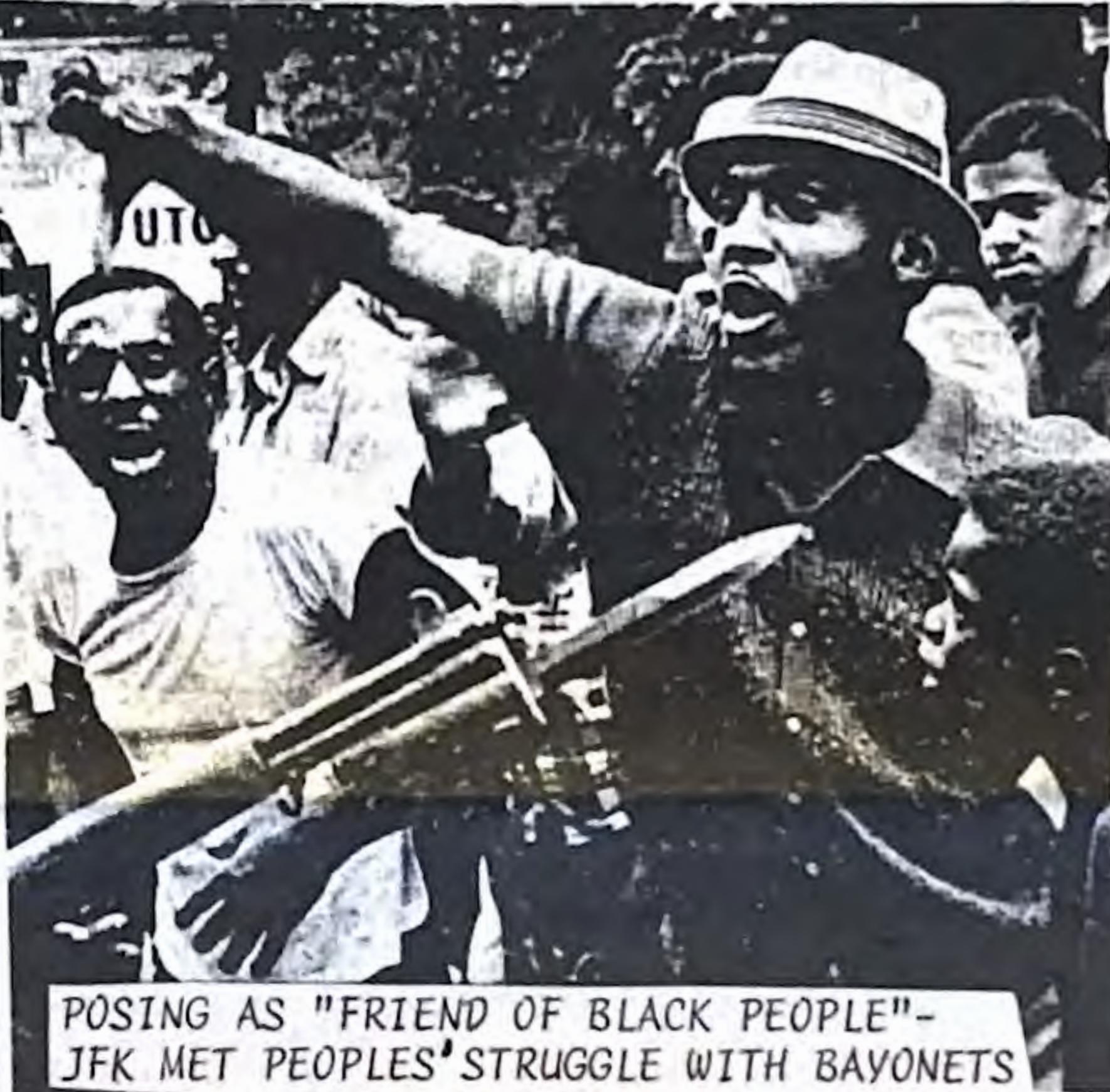
#### THE MAKING OF THE MYTH

Kennedy was the last president who didn't end his term in office hated and scorned by a huge percentage of the American people. Partly this was because he was killed before the full consequences of his policies came home to roost. But even more importantly, the capitalist class was not as exposed and in as much trouble in Kennedy's time as it is now, and was forced to make some concessions to the struggle of the masses. During this time, the rising struggle of Black people in the South was only the tip of the iceberg of a growing feeling among youth and working people in general that somehow things in this country had to change.

The main good thing that comes to people's minds about Kennedy is that "he helped Black and other poor people". His family's millions and rich man's education supposedly made him too wealthy to take a bribe and too prin-

cipled to be influenced by big business or poor "ignorant" people who were supposed to be the racists.

But the blunt fact is that Kennedy spooned out certain civil rights laws, jobs programs and so on only because the capitalist class he served was forced by the powerful mass struggle of the time to yield some or see things get out of hand for them. Nothing makes this clearer than the fact that it was under Lyndon Johnson—not Kennedy—that most civil rights legislation and all the "Great Society" programs were passed. This was not because this much-despised fool was a "finer man" than Kennedy, but because the movement had grown even more militant and powerful. Independent of who was in office, the ruling class had to give in on certain points, while working to sabotage the struggle that had produced these victories.



POSING AS "FRIEND OF BLACK PEOPLE"—JFK MET PEOPLES' STRUGGLE WITH BAYONETS

#### THE CARROT AND THE STICK

Whenever the ruling class has to grant concessions, it always portrays its spokesmen as the leaders of the struggle and the reason for its victories. They do this not just to "take credit" in the abstract, but to put themselves into a better position to sabotage the struggles to come. Taking credit for what the mass struggle has forced out of them, then using whatever support among the masses they can create on this basis as a weapon to attack the struggle—this is the time-honored method of the ruling class. It was the source of the Kennedy myth and the reason it was built. The same thing had been done with Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was made out to be responsible for social security, unionization and unemployment insurance in the 1930s because he conceded some things when the working class had risen demanding jobs and threatened to tear the capitalist system apart.

Kennedy used his fame and power to attack the mass struggles and to try to keep them within the limits the capitalists could tolerate. He worked both sides of the street, beckoning with the carrot and threatening with the stick both openly and behind the scenes. He "supported" the 1963 civil rights march of hundreds of thousands only to promote leaders who would keep it within safe bounds and remove more militant leaders. He worked to turn what had begun as a militant demonstration against oppression into a march to endorse some legislation

he was sponsoring.

Kennedy's wiretaps on Martin Luther King were part of this method. He used the resources of the government to make sure that "responsible" leaders moved into the leadership of the civil rights movement. And he didn't hesitate to bug their phones and use blackmail and other pressure to make sure that they remained "responsible".

While the government put on a big show of "protection" for civil rights workers and Black people in general in the South—which somehow never did protect them from beatings and murder—federal agents were trying to sabotage the movement, and egg on and aid such forces as the Klan, which in many instances was actually organized by the police and FBI, as admitted even in recent Congressional testimony

Kennedy used the same methods in his foreign policy. His image until the recent CIA assassination exposures was that of a man of peace, firm in his defense of America but fair in his dealings with people around the world. Some people still think Kennedy would have kept us out of Vietnam.

Here, too, the Kennedy myth is based on lies and luck. He was dead before the major defeats that hit the U.S. under Johnson and Nixon began to unfold, and before what the U.S. ruling class was really up to all over the world became clear to a lot of people in this country.

The very nature of the system forces the capitalist governments into military measures, wars of aggression and intervention to protect their markets and investments. It was no different with Kennedy. Only his assassination shielded him from the hatred and opposition that developed for his successors and their massive military efforts to crush liberation struggles. He actually was the initiator of many of these efforts. He okayed the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, sent troops into the Congo and, through the CIA, had Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba assassinated. At the time of his death he had sent over 17,000 U.S. troops to Vietnam and was preparing to send more.

#### FINE WORDS, FOUL DEEDS

In everything, Kennedy's deeds were the opposite of his words. He liked to appeal to the needs and aspirations of the American people, to associate himself with people's sense of right and wrong and their desire for change. He did this in order to further the robbery and oppression of the working people of this country and around the world. One of the main props of the Kennedy legend was his image as an honest and decent man, a good husband and father, as deeply concerned with the well being of the people as about his own close-knit family.

Now even this turns out to be as phony as any politician's promises. Like the rest of their class, the Kennedys were willing to do whatever necessary to advance their interests, and even between husband and wife each looked out for number one. To Kennedy his family was a commodity to be sold to the public to increase his political capital, while in private he sneered at the morals he pretended to stand for. His wife was the same, enjoying her position as the "great man's wife" even though it was a farce, then

Continued on p. 11

# July 4th Demo— Build the Fight

(Continued from P. 1)

is a Cadillac Eldorado complete with stars and stripes. You know the saying—"what's good for General Motors is good for the USA."

Every corporation is using the Bicentennial to sell their products. But the biggest item they try to sell us is their theme for the Bicentennial: "Shut up and be happy, we live in a democracy"—it's our patriotic duty to stop struggling against them.

But our struggles are not a luxury that can be sacrificed for the "national interest." In fact, it is only our resistance that keeps the bosses from shoving us into the dirt completely. By demonstrating in Philadelphia on July 4, we will be saying to the capitalists, "We're tired of carrying you on our backs and we mean to fight for our needs."

Of course they're trying to make it seem like the Bicentennial is everybody's holiday. They love to talk about the "Spirit of '76" because, while working people did have a stake in uniting with the young and rising capitalist class to throw off British colonialism, it was a capitalist revolution.

While the common people did the fighting, it was led by the merchants and slaveowners, and at times during the revolution the masses had to fight them to win some basic rights for themselves. The American Revolution was an important historical step forward because it wiped out the obstacles that were keeping industry and commerce from developing.

But times have changed. Now they hate the thought of revolution because it can only mean revolution by the working class against them.

Since 1776, the working class of this country has created great wealth. But the product of our labor had been ripped off from us. The very factories, mines, etc. that we built have become tools in the hands of the bosses to squeeze even more profit out of our hides.

Today the interests of the working class are entirely opposite the interests of the capitalists. Everything we have, from our unions to unemployment insurance has come only through fighting them. The history of the country is the history of the class struggle between the workers and the capitalists.

The Spirit of '76, like the village

blacksmith and the spinning wheel, can only be found in museums. Talk about the "common interests" between the classes in the modern day United States makes about as much sense as talk of the common interest between the colonies and Great Britain did in 1776.

Today there are more than 10,000,000 workers unemployed, men and women who want to work, but who cannot even find a boss to sell themselves to for a crummy wage, because the capitalists can't make enough profit off them just now. Meanwhile their fellow workers still on the jobs are being worked harder and longer than ever. People aren't taking this lying down. There are strikes against layoffs and organized refusals of overtime during layoffs from coast to coast. Last spring 60,000 workers turned out in Washington D.C., to demand jobs. Over a quarter of a million unemployed workers are expected to sign the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee "Jobs or Income" petition by May 1.

Today, less than a year after the final defeat of their aggression in Vietnam, the capitalists are gearing up for war again. This time they are spending billions on weaponry and preparing to put millions of young people in uniform and throw them into a giant showdown, a new world war, against their rivals, the capitalist rulers of the Soviet Union who are trying to replace America's rulers as the number one plunderer of the workers and peoples all around the world. Their army recruiters specialize in hanging around unemployment centers offering "the only job around."

Unemployment and war--both of these are ugly products of capitalism and the capitalist crisis. But in Philadelphia the demonstration will be saying that these are 2 products that we won't buy, even if they wrap them in red, white and blue ribbons.

All across the country the struggle of workers is on the rise. The very nature of the system compels us to fight. The bosses see to that with all of their attacks aimed at putting the burden of their crisis on our shoulders. Not only do we face them on our jobs but in all our struggles--in our communities against police terror, against cuts in education and other social services, and throughout society. In all of these battles we are starting to get ourselves organized. The July 4 demonstration

will bring together all the struggles we are waging, and help build unity among all who have a common fight. It will bring people together from dozens of different battlefronts, from different industries and parts of the country in a powerful demonstration that draws its strength from the fact it represents the daily struggles of millions of American working people. It will show people that they're not alone and isolated, as the bosses try to make us think, but that in all these struggles more and more people are getting fed up with things and looking to deal with the source of their misery. The Bicentennial, as the two hundredth anniversary of the country, focuses attention on basic questions about the nature of the system we live under and what's in store for the future. The capitalists have their answer--more exploitation and sacrifice for us. The Philadelphia demonstration will spotlight the answer of the workers-- "We've carried the rich for two hundred years. Let's get them off our backs."

## JFK

(continued from p. 10)  
after his death putting herself back on the market for another man to sell herself to as a status symbol in exchange for wealth and power.

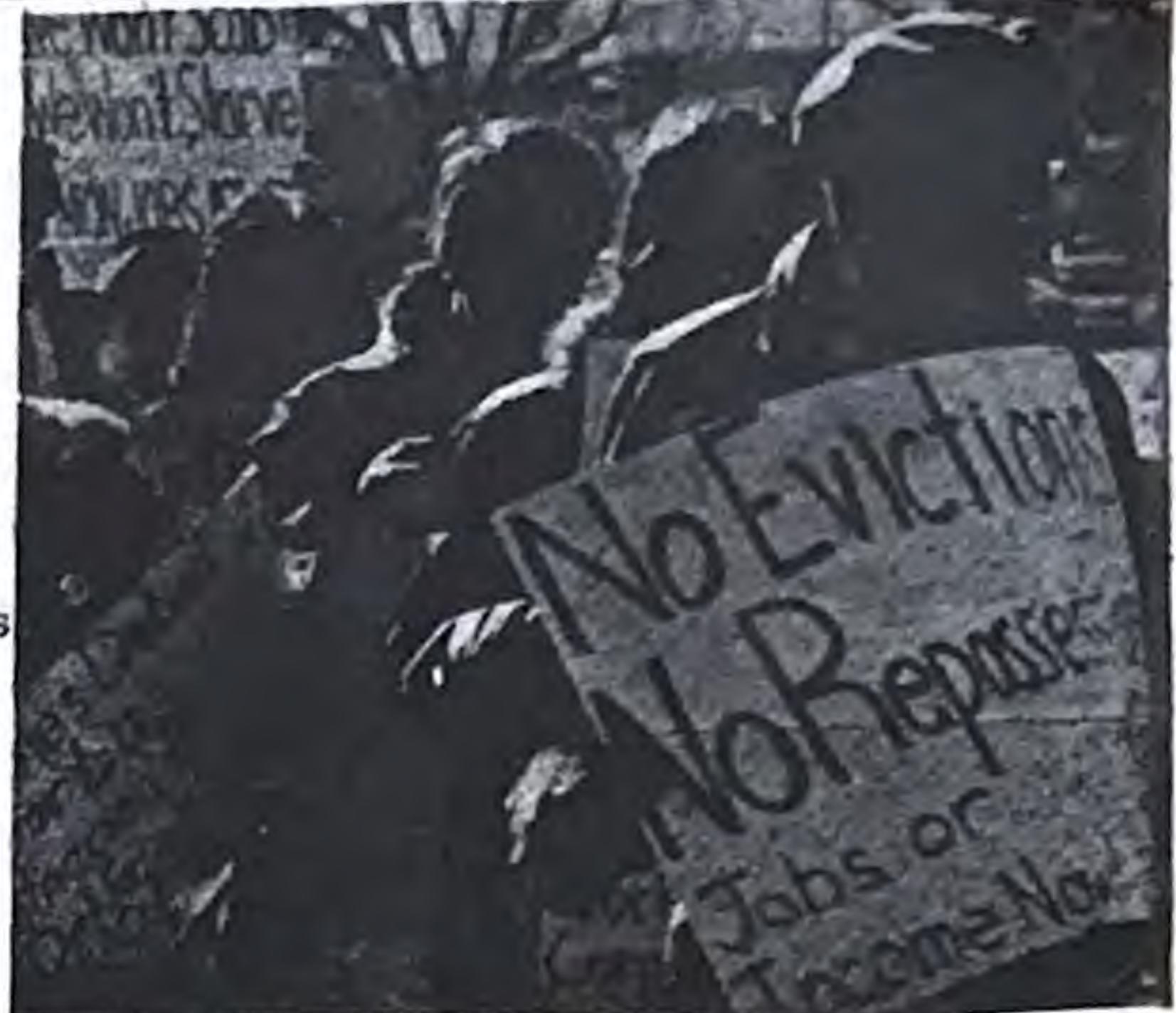
Everything Kennedy did served the needs of the U.S. capitalist class at that time. The political tools he used, demagogic and outright lies, have long been a major prop of capitalist rule. All his "covert actions" in politics and personal life were well known to his ruling class associates, who covered them up and glorified them when it suited their purposes, until now, when some of them think they can feather their own nests by suddenly "revealing" what they knew all along.

The more that comes out about Kennedy and other American presidents, the more the rich and powerful try to reassure us that somewhere there might be someone who could reform this country and give the masses of people what they demand. They still quote us Kennedy's words about "ask not what your country can do for you," even as more and more working people are demanding what's rightfully ours and want to know what's wrong with the system that can't give it to us. They do this to build up people's dying faith in capitalism, and also in hopes of derailing our struggles, to turn them from being struggles against them into campaigns for this or that politician.

But it's too late to turn back the clock to the Kennedy days. The facts of life we see all around us leave us no choice but to struggle. We cannot place our future in the hands of this decadent and decaying class and their condescending saviors, but must rely on our own class of people and our own developing struggle.



1932 - 20,000 WW I VETS WENT TO D.C. TO FIGHT FOR WHAT WAS THEIRS.  
WORKING PEOPLE HAVE HAD TO FIGHT THE BOSSSES FOR EVERYTHING WE HAVE.



**Reading, Pa.**

# Garment Workers Whip Bosses

"These women will never go on strike." This was the dream of Emanuel Gluck, manager of the PJR garment shop in Reading, Pennsylvania. But "these women" made Gluck eat his words when they walked out recently and held strong for two weeks to win most of their demands in the face of the company's schemes.

PJR has long been known as the "horror shop" in Reading. While most garment shops are bad, PJR is one of the worst. Workers were fired at will, laid off without regard for seniority, and Spanish and Black workers were constantly discriminated against. There was forced overtime for straight pay, constant speed-up, harassment and incredibly lousy wages.

When the workers walked out at the end of October, they had worked under these miserable conditions for two years without even a contract. Their union, the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), only had an informal "memorandum" with the company and made no effort to prevent the regular cutting of piece rate pay or any of the other abuses the workers were forced to endure.

When the workers walked out, the union leaders showed no enthusiasm for the demands of the rank and file for higher wages and a real contract with teeth to protect their job security. In fact, these so-called union "leaders" pleaded with the workers not to strike, saying "Give Gluck a break, he's a nice man." Even after the union bureaucrats were forced to authorize the strike and give out strike benefits, they cooperated with the company to confuse people about what the real demands were and tried



HE'S CUT THE PIECE RATE AGAIN!

WE WON'T WORK FOR THIS!

at every turn to end the strike.

The company made good use of the hacks. At one point PJR tried to get Spanish speaking women to go back and break the strike. Promising big paychecks (one woman was offered \$200 a week) and using the real hatred the women had for the sellout union leaders, who had never opposed discrimination in the shop, the company was able to confuse a few of the Spanish speaking workers into agreeing to come back to work. "This isn't your union," the manager told them. The union leadership said the same thing on the other side, telling the strikers that these Spanish speaking women were "stupid" and "hated whites"

and that's why they wanted to go back.

But the PJR strikers successfully fought against these dividing tactics. They saw that most of the women who had agreed to go back could be won over and would rejoin the strike. They saw that most of the women who had agreed to go back could be won over and patiently explained the issues of the strike, taking up the question of discrimination and pointing out where it came from and who benefited from this division. At the same time they firmly maintained their position of not letting anyone into the plant. The workers, especially the Spanish speaking strikers, explained that this was not a question of nationality, but a question of uniting workers to fight the capitalists for a better life.

This unity and spirit built as workers shouted, cheered, clapped and chanted "Obreros unidos jamas seran vencidos" (The workers united will never be defeated), as one after another the Spanish speaking women rejoined the picket line.

This success in uniting the strikers was key in forcing the company to back down. With two weeks of the strike under their belts, the workers were getting stronger and beginning to spread support for their strike throughout the garment industry in that city. Food was being donated by workers in other shops. PJR workers, along with a local rank and file garment workers group were building strong unity and organization.

Finally the company caved in. The strikers won a contract, a wage increase, a 35 hour work week with time and a half for overtime, the

Continued on page 9

## State Calls Health "Non-Essential" WE SAY: NO CUTS - NO WAY

On January 1, the Maryland state government put into effect massive cuts in health services to nearly half a million Medical Assistance recipients. All dental services for adults and foot care have been eliminated except for emergencies. People will now have to pay 50 cents for each prescription and the total cost of non-prescription drugs such as aspirin. Many people, especially those on fixed incomes with chronic illnesses, will just have to stop taking the medicine they need. This cut even hits nursing home patients who in some cases have NO income. The state will no longer pay for patients in hospitals during the period they wait for nursing home placements. Since the cuts, it's impossible to get people into nursing homes. The state will also limit the number of eye exams and eyeglasses people can get.

The state officials who ordered the cuts call these services "non-essential, causing minimal type of hardship for a very minimal number of

## STOP THE MEDICAID CUTS! MARCH & RALLY Tues., Feb. 17, In Baltimore

START AT WAXTER CENTER (861 PARK AVE.) AT 4 P.M.

MARCH TO STATE OFFICE BUILDING (HOWARD AND PRESTON STS.) AT 5 P.M.

FOR INFORMATION CALL 945-3165 or 467-0940

people." These creeps don't give a damn about our living standards. They do away with necessary social services --health, education, libraries-- just as they cut our jobs, all to try to maintain their falling profits. But people are angry and uniting to say, "We're not going to take these cuts. We need these health services and more!"

The politicians are scrambling, proposing bills to restore funds to Medicaid. One says we'll get the money from the lottery. Another says we'll watch doctors more closely so they don't overcharge or write too many prescriptions. While the Medicaid cuts are the major health issue on most people's minds, a Health Issues Workshop was held downtown on Jan. 10. The cutbacks were talked about for only 15 minutes. Hospital administrators and politicians tightly controlled the discussion, trying to get people to support a bill to give \$2.5 million to hospitals with "bad debts."

But in the end the health services we need will not be won by writing letters to congressmen. Medical Assistance was a victory won by the mass movements of the 1960's. We've got to continue to fight in a mass, organized way to get good health services. This is already happening in Baltimore. Over 300 people, mainly Medicaid recipients and health and social service professionals, protested the cutbacks at the public hearing in December. The Medical Committee for Human Rights, a city-wide organization of health professionals and health students is mobilizing people in the schools, hospitals and health centers to join the fight against the cuts. Along with those already fighting the cutbacks, they are carrying out a mass petition campaign to demand restoration of all the services cut and extension of health services. These groups plan a mass rally and march at the Waxter Center on Park Avenue for 4 P.M., Tuesday, February 17th.