

# THE WORKER

For the Maryland - D.C. - Virginia Area

MAY 1976

Vol. 1 No. 8



25¢

## WORKERS FIGHT FOR JOB SECURITY LEVER BROS. ON STRIKE

900 workers at Lever Brothers in Baltimore are on strike. They are fighting against job elimination and the productivity schemes of the bosses. The strike, which also includes over a thousand other Chemical Workers Union members in 4 other plants across the country, has already gone on for a month. The workers see it lasting a while longer too.

The battle lines are clearly drawn. Lever Brothers offered to kick in an additional \$2.00 an hour on top of the raise they already offered if the workers would drop their demands around job security. But like the workers on strike say; "It doesn't matter how much of a raise the Company offers if nobody is left to collect a paycheck."

Workers in factories and plants all over the country are faced with



the same attacks, job eliminations and combination, layoffs and killing speedup. Workers at Lever Brothers are united in facing these attacks head on. Many of the strikers agree with the analysis one of the workers put forward; "Compared to today, 20

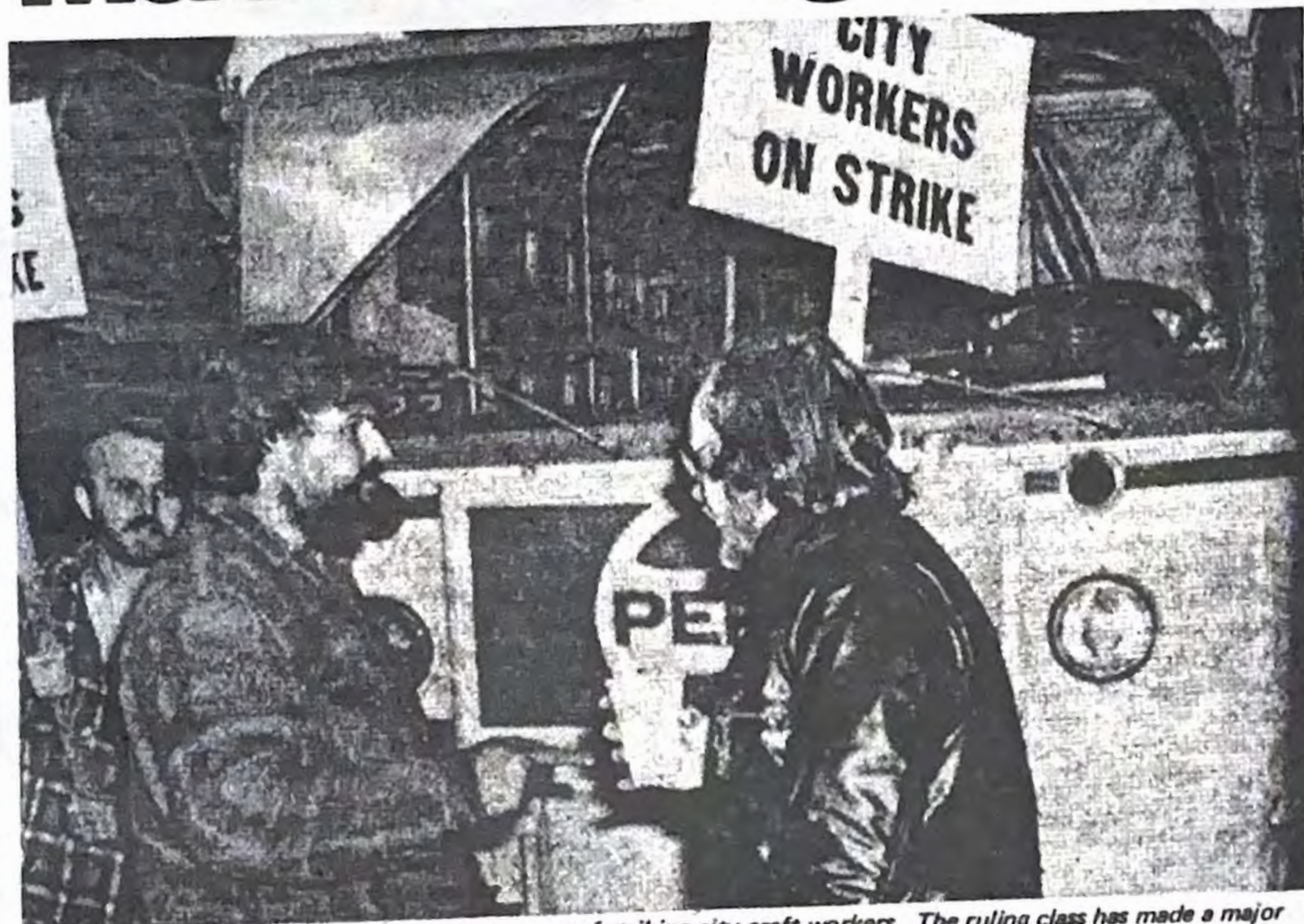
years ago we had it pretty good. But the larger the Company grew and the more competition Lever Brothers got, the rougher things have been for us."

To back this up, the workers point out that there was not one strike in the Company's history until 2 years ago. Conditions have continued to deteriorate. In the past few months 200 workers have been laid off. There are no workers left with under 6 years seniority. Lever Brothers has been trying to put into effect a productivity plan that would wipe out everybody with less than 15 years while at the same time doubling production. By automating several lines they plan to cut the work force down to about 400. It is these attacks and seeing what the

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### Big San Francisco Strike

## City Workers Fight Massive Wage Cuts



San Francisco bus drivers went out in support of striking city craft workers. The ruling class has made a major effort to divide craft and other workers and to pin the blame on them for the city's economic woes.

On March 3, a big strike of city workers in San Francisco broke out. At stake is an all-out attempt to force through massive wage cuts, break the strength of the city employee unions, and put the burden of the "crisis of the cities" on the backs of city workers and the public. Faced with a final "offer" of pay cuts ranging from \$2,000 to

\$7500 a year and elimination of the right to strike and the right to honor picket lines 1,800 craft workers, members of the building trades unions, hit the bricks to a man.

Strikers closed down a water and power supply reservoir, the city water department, all electrical,

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# May Day 1976

FELLOW WORKERS:

TODAY THESE MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS ARE BEING HELD IN TWENTY CITIES AND MORE ALL OVER THIS COUNTRY, INVOLVING SEVERAL THOUSANDS OF WORKERS, JUST AS MAY DAY IS BEING CELEBRATED WORLDWIDE BY MILLIONS OF OUR CLASS.

TODAY AS WE GATHER ACROSS THIS COUNTRY IN MANY CITIES, WE ARE MEN AND WOMEN OF MANY NATIONALITIES AND ALL AGES. WE WORK EVERYWHERE IN MANY DIFFERENT PLACES, AND MANY OF US SPEND LONG STRETCHES UNABLE TO GET WORK.

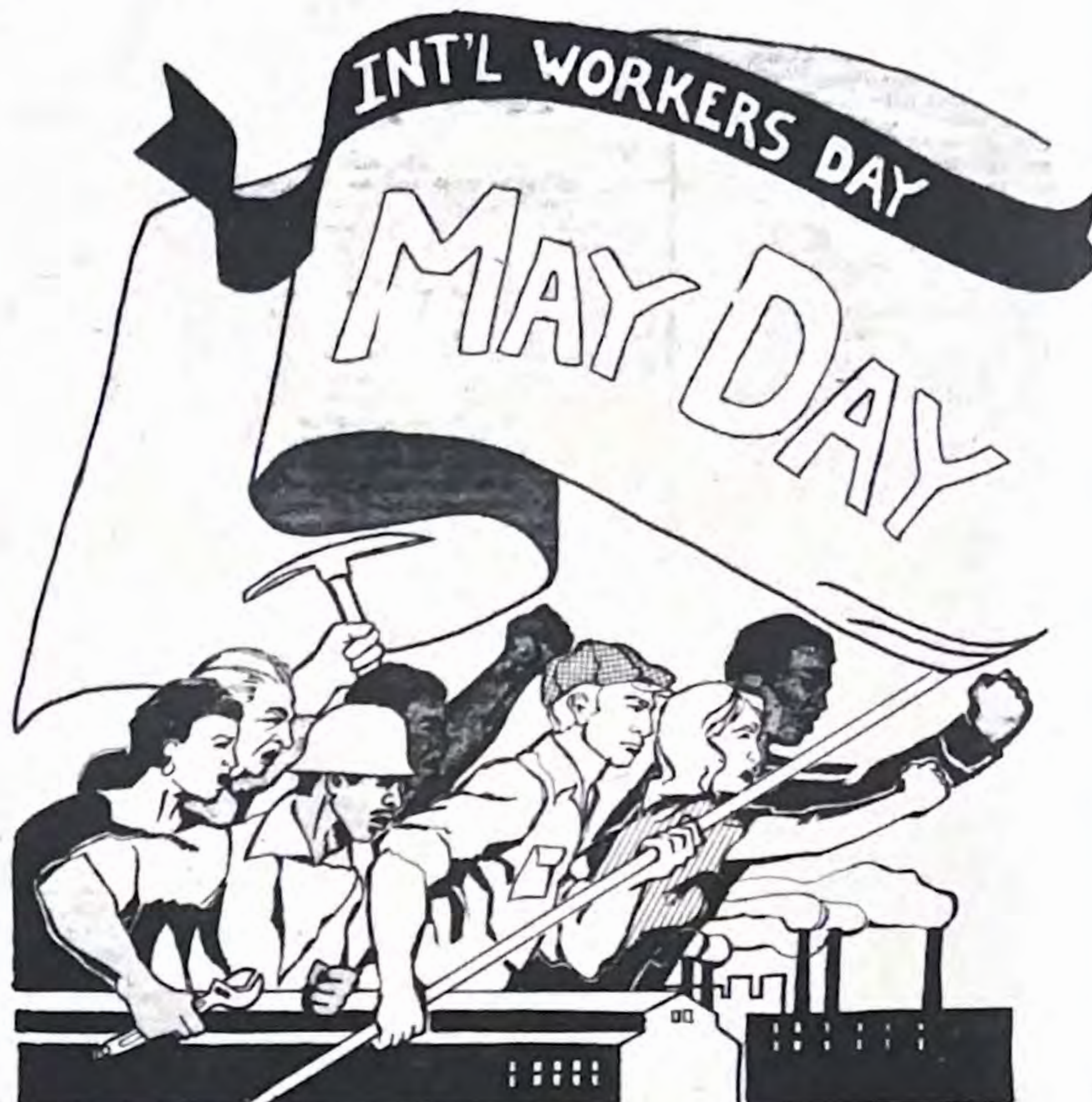
BUT FOR ALL THESE DIFFERENCES, WHAT WE HAVE IN COMMON IS FAR GREATER. WE ARE MEMBERS OF ONE CLASS ABOVE ALL ELSE. IN COMMON WE PRODUCE THE GREAT WEALTH OF THIS COUNTRY AND MAKE IT RUN. IN COMMON WE ARE EXPLOITED AND OPPRESSED. WE FACE A COMMON SITUATION AND A COMMON DESTINY. WE SHARE A DETERMINATION NOT TO BE CRUSHED, BUT TO WIPE OUT ALL OPPRESSION AND BRING DOWN THAT SYSTEM OF WAGE SLAVERY THAT GIVES RISE TO IT.

AND THIS YEAR, REFLECTING THE ADVANCES IN THE STRUGGLE TOWARD THAT GOAL, THE WORKING CLASS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS HAS ITS OWN PARTY, THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY, DEDICATED TO THE TASK OF UNITING THE BATTLES OF OUR CLASS AND LEADING THEM TOWARD THAT AIM.

MAY DAY SUMS UP OUR SITUATION, SUMS UP OUR DESIRE TO FIGHT THROUGH, AND PROJECTS OUR PLAN TO MOVE FORWARD IN THAT FIGHT. AND THIS YEAR, EACH MAY DAY EVENT ACROSS THE COUNTRY IS BEING HELD WITH COMMON DEMANDS AND SLOGANS, AND WILL BE AN IMPORTANT STEP IN BUILDING MORE UNITED AND MORE CONSCIOUS STRUGGLE OF OUR CLASS NATIONWIDE.

MAY DAY IS ABOUT BUILDING OUR WORKING CLASS MOVEMENT. IT REFLECTS AND HELPS TO ADVANCE AND UNITE EACH ONE OF THE BATTLES WE FIGHT AGAINST THE THOUSAND OUTRAGES AND ABUSES THEY HEAP ON US. THIS YEAR, THE RULING CLASS OF CAPITALISTS IS BELLOWING OUT ITS LIES ON THE OCCASION OF ITS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. SO THIS YEAR, WE WILL MEET THIS, JUST AS WE MEET ALL THEIR ATTACKS, HEAD ON, AND DEMONSTRATE JULY 4TH IN PHILADELPHIA, IN AN ACTION THAT WILL ALSO PROCLAIM AND BUILD THE MOVEMENT OF OUR CLASS.

MAY DAY HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN A DAY OF STRUGGLE, WHEN WORKERS PUT DOWN THEIR TOOLS, STRUCK AND DEMONSTRATED IN DEFIANCE OF THE CAPITALISTS. FOR THAT REASON, THE CAPITALISTS HATE IT. THEY HAVE TRIED TO BURY IT, RENAMING MAY DAY AS LAW DAY. THEY HAVE TRIED TO REPLACE IT BY OFFERING THE WORKERS LABOR DAY, WHEN THEIR



SPOKESMEN, THE SO-CALLED LABOR LEADERS, GET A CHANCE TO GIVE BLOW-HARD SPEECHES, PLEDGING THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM.

BUT MAY DAY, LIKE OUR STRUGGLE, CANNOT BE STOPPED. IT HAS BEEN BORN AGAIN AND EXPANDED. AND IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, WORKERS IN THIS COUNTRY WILL BE JOINING OTHERS AROUND THE WORLD IN MAKING THE CAPITALISTS' PROFIT FACTORIES STOP ON MAY DAY AND DECLARING OUR DETERMINATION NOT JUST TO BE MASTERS FOR ONE DAY, BUT MASTERS OF SOCIETY AND CREATORS OF A BRIGHT FUTURE WHERE CLASS EXPLOITATION AND OPPRESSION WILL HAVE BEEN FINALLY ELIMINATED.

--CENTRAL COMMITTEE, REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY, USA

## Support Jailed Miner!

A coal miner who helped lead the recent week-long wildcat over Black Lung benefits has been sentenced to 6 months in jail. (See March article on Black Lung strike) Brother Bruce Miller was sent to jail because he is a rank-and-file leader, active in both the recent Black Lung strike and the month-long right to strike/

anti-injunction strike. He is a member of the Miners' Right to Strike Committee. The "evidence"--- a company mine boss saw him handing a Black Lung leaflet to another Union brother.

The Miners' Right to Strike Committee is building the defense of brother Bruce Miller because workers cannot tolerate the jailing of rank-and-file leaders. Part of the defense includes appealing the decision, which will cost several thousand dollars. Contributions are needed.

Please send to:

Miners' Right to Strike Committee  
Box 807  
Beckley, W. Va. 25801



POLICE ATTACKED MINERS DEMONSTRATION IN CHARLESTON, W. VA. AUGUST 25. BUT RULING CLASS WAS UNABLE TO STOP THE STRUGGLE.

## 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:

RCP, USA  
P.O. Box 3486  
Merchandise Mart  
Chicago, Ill. 60654

or The Worker  
P.O. Box 4449  
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## THE WORKER





CHARLES HOPKINS WAS FRUSTRATED BECAUSE HE SAW HIMSELF AS ONE MAN AGAINST THE SYSTEM. BUT THE WORKING CLASS AND THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE IN THEIR MILLIONS TOGETHER ARE A POWERFUL FORCE THAT CAN CHANGE THIS SYSTEM. ABOVE-3500 PEOPLE MARCH ON PHILADELPHIA'S CITY HALL TO DEMAND THAT PHILADELPHIA GENERAL HOSPITAL BE KEPT OPEN.

# City Hall Shooting

On Tuesday, April 14, a man shot 3 people at City Hall in Baltimore, killing City Councilman Dominic Leone and wounding the mayor's secretary and Councilman Carroll Fitzgerald. Immediately the ruling class's press and TV called for more protection for the mayor - more guards at City Hall and for gun control.

But they were surprised at the sympathetic response that Charles Hopkins got from a great many working people. Hopkins was so frustrated by a system that did nothing to serve him and everything to beat him down, that he went berserk and started shooting up City Hall, which he saw as the source of the problem. He had been evicted from his house and was about to lose his small business. He had gone from agency to agency with little result and a lot of red tape, trying to get some justice.

While few of us would react as Hopkins did, most of us can sympathize with the experience that drove him off the deep end. We live under a system that simply doesn't serve our needs. We watch our paychecks get eaten up by rising prices and outrageous rents for lousy apartments with peeling paint, rats, and roaches. While more and more people are thrown out on the streets with no jobs, the government cuts welfare food stamps, medicaid and public health services. Increasingly people who have worked all their lives find their cars repossessed, their mortgages foreclosed and face evictions.

There is a big cry now from the ruling class for more protection for elected officials and for gun control. They make it sound like Hopkins' attack was an attack on us all. But Hopkins was not directing his anger against the people, but against those in high office who he saw were keeping him down. Dominic Leone (or any other politician) is not just one of us. No matter how they try to hide it Leone was a crook - a machine politician who bought and sold favors and was tight with the powers-that-be on the Block. He was about to come to trial on charges of bribery. But whether obviously crooked like Leone or not, the function of all

politicians is to serve the ruling class. Extra police protection for the politicians who help keep us down is definitely not going to make our lives any better.

Gun control is no solution either. In capitalist society, the dog-eat-dog atmosphere and the real deprivation that people face leads to crime. We need to protect ourselves and our families from criminals. The working class is constantly attacked by the rich ownership class and their cops. Throughout our history working people time and time again have used what ever force necessary - nails, 2 by 4's, water hoses, 12 gauges - in fighting for our class interests. Gun control laws will only weaken us.

What's going to get rid of the injustice we face every day is our organizing to fight every attack

that comes down. We have seen real victories in tenants organizing rent strikes, workers in New York fighting every cutback - from traffic lights to hospitals and jobs through massive demonstrations, blocking traffic, building takeovers, work stoppages. All these struggles are real blows against the forces that oppress us. As we begin to unite all these struggles we are building a revolutionary workers movement that will throw the rich off our backs.

Charles Hopkins was frustrated because he saw himself as one man against the system, but the working class and the oppressed people in their millions together are a powerful force that can change this system and build a decent life for ourselves and our children.

## Crown, Cork & Seal Printers On Strike

The Graphic Arts International Union Local #18-L has been on strike at Crown Cork & Seal since March 29. Although they are only 100 out of 1500 workers there represented by three other unions, they are waging a militant battle.

The Lithographers print the cans produced at the plant. The initial issue in the strike was wages, with the workers demanding a big raise to catch up with the cost of living. But now the Company is threatening to close down their department and send the cans out to be printed. They have already begun to move out the art department. The workers response has been strong. They are keeping trucks from taking out cans with strong picket lines and there have been a lot of slashed tires. The company has been forced to keep a tire repair truck in the parking lot all the time.

At the start of the strike, the strikers frustration that workers in the other unions were still inside the plant, boiled over and they were puncturing tires of all the cars in the parking lot--including those of other workers. There are 4 different unions at Crown Cork &

Seal--the International Association of Machinists (IAM), Steel Workers, the Graphic Arts Union and a clerical workers local. Many workers want to support the lithographers strike and don't like crossing picket lines. In the past, there have been sympathy strikes for other unions at the plant but in recent years, much to the company's delight, the unions have been pitted against each other and don't honor each others lines. Union leaders argue about who crossed whose line first while the need for unity grows by the day.

The ownership class uses divisions between different unions to break down unity between workers. Like at the Washington Post strike where the Post was able to use divisions between the unions there to cripple the struggle.

All of the workers of every union at Crown Cork & Seal are facing attacks by the company and are fighting those attacks, as are workers everywhere.

On the inside, members of the United Steelworkers union walked out recently over harassment of a worker,

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# Rubber Workers Hit "Big Four"

The current national rubber strike is important to the whole working class. The powerful push by the rank and file which forced the strike, and the many militant actions which workers have waged in the course of it, are a real challenge to the bosses' plans to push us even further down. Rubber workers are standing up and fighting for what they need, and this strike is an example which many workers will have in mind in the many upcoming contract battles in auto and other industries.

68,000 workers at 47 plants of the big 4 rubber companies—Goodyear, Firestone, Uniroyal and Goodrich—went on strike April 21. It was the first time all four have been struck together. Up until the last minute, Rubber Workers International President Bommarito left it up in the air as to whether all four companies would be struck. Official word didn't come until 11:40 p.m. Eastern time but already some workers had made the strike a fact by walking out.

## ISSUES OF THE STRIKE

Workers are determined to make up losses from the 1973 sell-out contract,



STRIKING UNITED RUBBER WORKERS BLOCK ENTRANCES AROUND THE FIRESTONE PLANT IN AKRON, APRIL 21.

with an increase. Historically, rubber has been up to auto workers' wage levels, but lately it has fallen drastically behind. They insist on an unlimited cost of living that keeps up with inflation. Also at issue is workers' opposition to company proposals to pay non-tire workers less than tire workers.

Pensions are also a big issue which was sold out last time. A petition demanding no sell-out this time on pensions got 2,000 signatures just in Akron. Plant closings, job elimination, layoffs and dried-up SUB funds have hit rubber workers hard. They demand job security.

The other key demands are against company attacks, either already in effect or proposed, in the areas of schedules, work rules, speed-up, job combination, seniority and health and safety. Company proposals for changes in figuring pay for down time would eat up even a big pay raise for many workers. Piece rates, which are constantly being changed, have workers caught between drastic pay cuts and killing speed-up. It has just been publicized that benzene, which is widely used by tire builders and others in the industry, has caused deaths from leukemia. Yet these are the issues that the least has been said about in official negotiations.



UAW PICKET LINE AT BF GOODRICH. RUBBER WORKERS AROUND THE COUNTRY ARE TAKING ON THE BIG 4'S SPEEDUP PLANS.

## RANK AND FILE ACTION

From the beginning, the strike was weakened by the refusal of the officials to organize strong picketing and a blackout of information concerning negotiations and the strike. Still the strike has been marked by rank and file militance. Workers prepared for it in some plants with slowdowns, overtime refusals, a rash of machine breakdowns and running bad tires and scrap. In Akron and Topeka, Kansas, Goodyear workers wore T shirts emblazoned with strike slogans at work before the strike and are continuing to wear them.

Picket actions have been strong. In Akron, many pickets formed spontaneously when the deadline hit at midnight. At Firestone, workers didn't even go in for the 10 p.m. shift. The next morning the plants were completely blocked off. No salaried employees or trucks were allowed in. The International headquarters offices of Goodrich, Firestone and Goodyear were shut down by pickets. At Goodyear, shoving matches broke out when gungho executive types tried to get in. At Goodrich, the workers carried a telephone pole to block a gate. The cops jumped them, hospitalizing several and arresting six. The mass outrage was so strong that the county was forced to suspend one deputy sheriff for hitting a striker with a flashlight. At Goodyear, in Marysville, Ohio, mass pickets prevented sheriff's deputies from getting through. A company shanty was burned down. In Salinas California, there were mass pickets at the Firestone plant. At other plants there were reports of early walkouts and militant pickets.

## GOODYEAR IN AKRON

The companies, in areas of militant struggle, quickly got injunctions rubber stamped to reduce pickets to

pickets) joined the official pickets at each gate.

Pickets at Goodyear's Akron rim plant blocked and shut the plant gate. Although they let traffic come in after the cops read the injunction, later in the day at the Goodyear plant two pickets stopped coal trucks and later even a freight train coming into the plant. This was only the beginning. Later, the strikers honored the injunction by keeping four "pickets"—50 gallon drums—blocking the way, saying, "Those are our official pickets," while having 20 "visitors" off to the side.

When union officials came to plead with them to cool it, workers told one, "You're telling us the same thing as the Goodyear police, just using different words. What the hell is a picket line for if it's not to stop people from going in?"

But while the Plant 2 strikers were holding firm, the other gates were not adequately covered and trucks and cars with salaried people got through. This was largely due to sabotage by union officials who discouraged the mass pickets and blocking of traffic, and actually called large numbers of workers to picket at another plant, pulling them away from the Goodyear rim plant.

The 30 pickets at Goodyear Plant 2 took a valiant stand and fought tooth and nail, but these workers weren't able to mobilize adequate forces to win this immediate battle and keep the plant sealed off, and lack of a solid organized unity enabled the union officials to divide those taking a more militant stand and eventually smash the struggle for the time being.

## OVERALL SITUATION

This illustrates the overall situation facing the strikers. A burning



IT IS THE LABOR OF TEN'S OF THOUSANDS OF RUBBER WORKERS WHICH PRODUCES ALL THE WEALTH THAT THE RUBBER COMPANIES REAP AND COMPETE TO CONTROL.



a token two to four per gate, and to keep workers from blocking or harassing anyone going in. The union officials pushed acceptance of the injunctions. But while things calmed down in some places, in others resistance began immediately as large numbers of "visitors" (unofficial

determination to fight to win exists among the workers, and there are advanced forces that are trying to put this stand into practice and saying, to hell with the injunction. But the lack of organization to mobilize all the strikers and concen-

(CONTINUED ON P. 5)



# Angry Auto Workers Slam Ford On Safety, Speedup

With the auto contract coming up in a few months, auto workers are stepping up their resistance to auto company attacks. In March, workers hit hard at the Ford Motor Company at two different plants, one in the Detroit area and the other in New Jersey. This vigorous resistance helps to heat things up and strengthens the hand of the workers as the contract expiration draws near.

Safety conditions were a key issue at the Ford Sterling Axle Plant in Sterling Heights, Mich., where five workers have lost their lives in the past few years. The most recent was just a few months ago when a new hire was run over by a train because of bad lighting and bad brakes on his forklift. Stacked up safety violations combined with other issues--foremen working, messing with job classifications, etc.--led to the strike.

A foreman on midnight shift in Dept. 16 threw a heavy metal gear housing at a worker, hurting his legs so badly he is still on crutches. Enough was enough. The department walked, staying out for two nights. The union committee stood by the workers.

At the next union meeting on Feb. 29, nearly 400 workers jammed the hall! They made clear that they would strike--with or without the local leadership. On March 9, the workers voted 3461 to 441 to strike, setting a deadline for Wednesday, March 24.

Meanwhile, UAW International leaders stepped in to take over negotiations. On the Tuesday before, the officials broke off negotiations with Ford, intending to give them an extension.

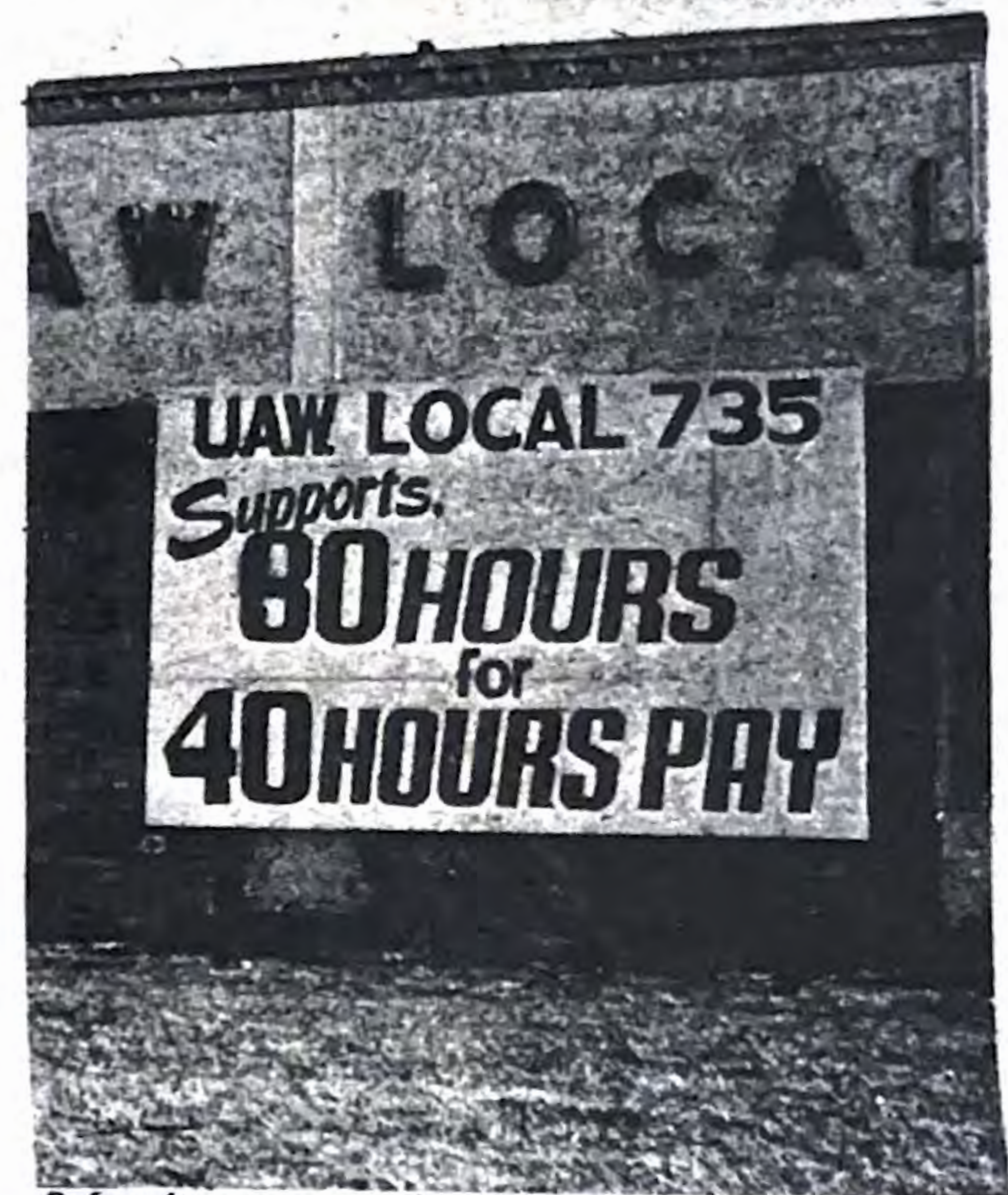
Ford workers had seen this re-run before. They had a better idea--day shift walked at 10 AM Wednesday, with the union officials running behind them saying, "Oh, I guess we're on strike". After six days, and some sellout maneuvering by the union officials, the strike brought some results. Workers forced Ford to hire on 80 more workers for production, clean up and maintenance (including 22 skilled workers to repair machinery), more frequent inspection and repair of forklifts and other safety measures. The company has 60 days to show improvement or the workers can give 5 days notice and take another walk, an important clause that will have real meaning only if the rank and file can keep the initiative they developed in the strike.

At the Ford Pinto operation in Metuchen, New Jersey, things blew after Ford laid off 400 workers the last week of February. When overtime was scheduled for the first day after the layoffs, March 1, a couple of dozen workers punched out after 8 hours and headed for home. The next night, they spread the word and pretty much everyone was ready to walk after 8 hours, saying "If Ford wants more production, well, hell, let them

hire back the guys they laid off."

Ford backed off quick--scheduled work was cut from 9 hours to 7.9. Disciplinary hearings against the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)



Before it was spray painted by an angry worker, this sign said "30" instead of 80. This corrected version spells out the real situation auto workers face--the outrage of forced overtime at the same time many are on lay-off. This, union officials refuse to deal with, while they blow smoke about short work week schemes.

## WOMEN IN JESSUP PROTEST INHUMAN CONDITIONS

On April 13 & 14 about 1/2 of the 200 prisoners at Maryland Correctional Institution for Women in Jessup staged a series of protest against the conditions of the prisoners. The guards were brought in, the women were tear-gassed and beaten with nightsticks and now 50 women are on lockup.

The protests were sparked by intolerable conditions in four main areas:

**Food:** The portions are ridiculously

small, and are often spoiled--rancid butter, rotten coldcuts.

**Medical:** A sick prisoner could die before getting care. There is no medical staff at the prison after 5 pm or on weekends. The guards decide if a prisoner is "really sick", and also dispense medication carelessly.

**Sanitation:** Prisoners are not given soap and other cleaning supplies to

keep their living quarters sanitary. The cottages are filthy, with rats, bugs and even snakes common.

**Mail:** The prison "loses" outgoing mail to lawyers and courts, and then blames other prisoners.

The prison warden, Harry Traurig, has been "Unavailable" to the women to discuss these grievances.

He first refused to meet with the women at all, then he called a meeting but refused to make any commitment to change. He ordered the 100 women at the meeting to choose 30 representatives. The women said no, because last year Traurig had done the same thing when women demanded medical care for a sick prisoner--and the 30 representatives were put on lockup.

Instead, this time the women left the meeting and sat on the lawn, demanding a commitment from Traurig. A busload of guards was called. The women were ordered to disperse. While they were getting up, the guards charged with gas and rounded the prisoners up. 50 women were charged with "mutiny" and other charges and have received up to 9 months lockup.

The women say - "Our demands are just. The harder they come down on us, the harder we have to fight back." But especially now the women need support. One thing people can do is write to warden Harry Traurig, Maryland Correctional Institution for Women, P.O. Box 535, Jessup, Maryland 20794, demanding the women be released from lockup and that their demands be implemented.

## Rubber Worker's Strike

(CONTINUED FROM P. 4)

trate their forces and overcome the divisions among the workers, and isolation of individual plants and areas, has worked to keep things largely in the hands of the officials--at least for now. So despite the power, fighting spirit and unity of the workers, there exists a real possibility of Bommarito and the companies engineering a sellout.

While they talk tough and say they will call worldwide actions, these officials have told the workers

that "the companies' pot is only so big", setting the stage for giving up the key demands. They try to play up divisions among the workers, between younger and older (saying that they can only win on wages or pensions), tire and non-tire (by saying that the only choice is wage hikes for tire workers or maintaining the same wages for both), between those in Akron and those elsewhere (by claiming higher wages will drive plants out of Akron), and so on

But there's also the possibility for a tremendous victory as the struggle of the rank and file builds. And however it turns out, the strike has dealt a blow to the enemy and more clearly exposed both its face and the needs of the workers' struggles. The workers have greatly added to their strength, unity, understanding and beginnings of organization.

As the strike goes on support from the rest of the working class will be important. A boycott of Firestone has been called. Firestone also makes Ward's and Penny's tires. Solidarity statements and financial contributions will help out the strikers whose strike funds are low. The ruling class is already saying the rubber workers will cause layoffs, inflation and hurt "recovery". It is important for us to answer this with a militant show of support for this struggle which is advancing the interests of all workers.

VICTORY TO THE RUBBER WORKERS!



# Rich Gear Up For New War

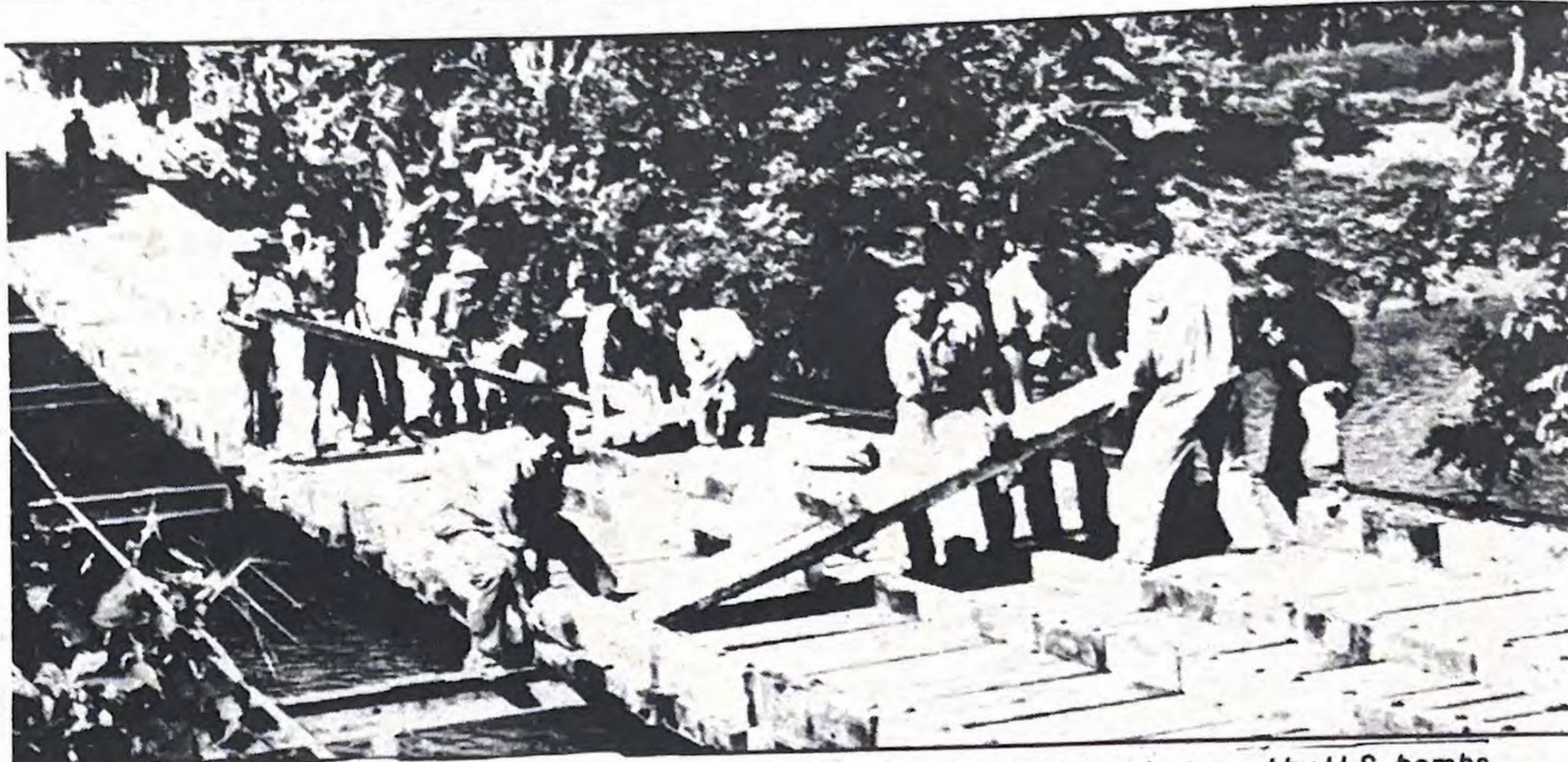
## ONE YEAR AFTER VIETNAM

The war in Vietnam finally came to an end just a year ago this April. The working people considered the war a nightmare, because we were paying for it in blood and saw no reason for it. But the rich ruling class of this country, who gave orders but did no fighting or dying has different kinds of nightmares about the war. Vietnam exposed alot about them, and alot of people's anger about the war became focused at them.

This country's rulers would like to forget how much they lost in Vietnam, both in the war itself and in the eyes of the American people. When they do talk about it, they like to say that it was all some kind of mistake—a noble act of "concern for others' freedom" in which they somehow got "bogged down". For them, the mistake was that they lost. When they talk about "avoiding another Vietnam", They mean that they don't want to lose again.

What they don't want to talk about is why they went there in the first place, or what the real nature of the war was, or even to remind us too much of how it really was. The fact is that the masses of people in this country came to hate the war, and that sentiment is a real obstacle to their efforts to try to sucker us into yet more aggression and war to defend the interests of the rich. If there is another war, they say, this time it would be "to defend our interests", and this, they claim, would be something totally different from Vietnam.

The very fact that such a little country could defeat such a big one raised questions about what the whole thing was about. When they first started shipping American troops there in the early sixties, they also began bombarding us with tons of propaganda about how they were doing the Vietnamese a favor by fighting to keep the country "free". But the more GIs they sent over there, the more people came to see that the common people of Vietnam wanted the Americans out, and in fact were fighting to be free of U.S. domination, while those who supposedly "welcomed" U.S. intervention were a



Rebuilding Vietnam: workers construct suspension bridge replacing old bridge destroyed by U.S. bombs.

handful of rich businessmen, gangsters and pimps. That's why the so-called enemy could never be wiped out, and eventually nearly the entire country became the target of the U.S. "search and destroy." They became still more desperate as they faced defeat. In many ways, their whole war strategy was summed up by an officer who said, "We had to destroy the village in order to save it."

And what were this country's rulers out to save Vietnam for? Certainly not for "democracy". Every ruler the U.S. supported there ruled by open and naked force and terror. What was "lost" when they finally got booted out of Vietnam was their investments and their profits and their efforts to make an example of Vietnam to keep down other people who might revolt against them. For this they didn't hesitate to throw away the lives and limbs of GIs and Vietnamese alike.

### JUST AND UNJUST CAUSES

All their lies and appeals to patriotism could not keep more and more people from seeing that the cause of the Vietnamese was just, and the war this country was waging was unjust. Millions of people marched and demonstrated against it. This had never happened before in U.S. history on such a huge scale. A lot of GIs refused to fight. Many vets threw their medals away in a protest on the Cap-

itol steps. Instead of fading away after a few speeches about what "good and loyal" soldiers they were, a tremendous number of vets came to hate the whole system that sent them to Vietnam.

This was also true for a great many other people, who came to question the whole system through the course of the war and the movement against it. The mass movement against the war became so large and powerful that it played a big part in preventing the U.S. ruling class from carrying out their aggression in Indochina even longer.

The victory of the Vietnamese and other Indochinese peoples in kicking out the U.S. was a turning point in history. It had alot to do with bringing about the present situation in the world.

After World War 2, the U.S. was the undisputed number one imperialist power. The capitalist rulers of the U.S. could not rest content with what they could squeeze out of workers here. Their investments spread everywhere, including Indochina, as the Chase Manhattan Bank and Standard Oil signs in Saigon showed. By dealing such a staggering blow to these parasites, the revolutionary victories of the Indochinese peoples were victories for all the world's people, including the working class in the U.S.

Even before their total defeat, their aggression in Vietnam weakened the U.S. capitalists' hold on their empire, fueled inflation and accelerated the development of the economic crisis that now grips them. Today the way their crisis has led them to try to take more and more away from the workers in this country had made it even clearer what the real relationship is between those who own this country and those who slave for them, here or anywhere else.

### SHARPENED COMPETITION BETWEEN SUPERPOWERS

At the same time, this economic weakness and being tied up militarily in Vietnam gave other imperialist powers, especially the new capitalist rulers of the USSR, a chance to step up competition with their U.S. rivals over colonies, markets and areas of investment all over the world. Economic crisis and increasing competition—each of these factors feeds into the other, and this is what is driving the two superpowers more



NO APPEALS TO PATRIOTISM BY THE U.S. COULD HIDE THE FACT THAT THE CAUSE OF THE VIETNAMESE WAS JUST AND THE WAR WAGED BY THE U.S. UNJUST.

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# STEELWORKERS STRUGGLE GROWS AGAINST CONSENT DECREE

"If they think this check is enough to buy me off, they're crazy! I was down there before they put rubber wheel barrows and I won't be satisfied until everything down there is straightened out." This statement by a retired worker typified the stand of the 300 steel workers who attended a rally in Baltimore on Easter Sunday to protest the peanuts back pay settlement the steel companies offered Black, Latin and women workers under the Consent Decree. Many workers brought their back money checks with them to the rally and turned them in and called on other workers to do the same. Under the Consent Decree workers sign away their rights to file suits over past discrimination.

Many workers from the rally, went back into the mills to convince their fellow workers not to accept the company's offer. So far almost 300 workers have turned their checks back in to Bethlehem Steel.

Refusing the checks is a very significant act by workers, showing that they will not be bought off and it goes further than this, because the Consent Decree is an attack on all steelworkers, Black and white.

One of the basic demands of workers fighting discrimination has been plant-wide seniority. The practice of department seniority meant that the company could keep Black workers in low-paying units. The Consent Decree pays lip-service to plant-wide seniority, but doesn't really provide it. Where workers do move-up on the job, however, it is at the expense of their fellow workers. This has caused some divisions among the workers and serves the company's purposes to take the heat off them by getting us to fight each other, Black against white. Any spark of resistance to any part of this Decree can help us to pull together to fight every attack the company launches on us under the cover of the Decree, like job elimination plans in some departments. This resistance is going on in the plants.

So far the company has held off on combining jobs in the millwright department under the cover of the Consent Decree. Certainly not because they don't want to go ahead with this plan, but because of growing threats by "their" workers that the company can't get away with it. In the 42" tractors



THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE CONSENT DECREE IS GROWING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. HERE, STEELWORKERS IN SAN FRANCISCO DEMONSTRATE, 1975.

dept. a recent grievance against long-standing discrimination has been tied to the fact that the Consent Decree never really changed things there as the company claimed it was "supposed" to.

The recent back pay rallies and the issuing of the checks has been the subject of much discussion in the mills every day. While the company hopes to keep a lid on any kind of organized activity against the Decree--the wind is blowing the other way!

All over the country a storm is brewing against the Decree. In Los Angeles, when workers first heard what they'd get from the Decree they started refusing the checks. In Pittsburgh, 150 workers attended meetings that were called to file a suit to get a better settlement than the Decree. Workers from several steel mills in the area showed up. When some steelworkers from Cleveland showed up with copies of the STEELWORKER, a new national rank-and-file newsletter put out by steelworkers, almost everyone bought a copy. They were anxious to see the battle built nationwide. Like one worker from Homestead said: "Are we just fighting Homestead or Jones and Laughlin--Hell No--We're fighting against how all the big steel companies are doing us."

More and more, the need to get steelworkers together in different departments, plants and across the country is being felt and steelworkers

are moving on making it a reality. But to really pull that off we've got to overcome some obstacles. One of the biggest is the fact that some of the groups and individuals involved in fighting the Decree want to narrow the fight down. While Steelworkers For Equality in Baltimore or the NAACP in Pittsburgh have called large meetings, rallies etc, they are trying to steer the workers into only fighting for the back money and to limit the struggle to filing a court suit. The demand for full back pay is a righteous one and one that all steelworkers should support, but the steel companies are using the Decree to hit us in many other ways and we've got to pull together and meet those attacks. And while we have won some concessions thru court suits, we won those not because the rich man's courts give out justice, but because many, many people were determined to accept nothing less. And gains we've made have come thru hard fought struggle--rallies and actions right on the job.

Our strength lies not in searching for the "right" judge or the "right" politicians. We've had experience with such false prophets and saviors before. In each new battle our unity grows stronger, our ranks pull together tighter. This is the source of our strength--our working class unity. This is what's going to right the wrongs and make the bosses pay.

## SHIPYARD WORKERS FIGHT DISCRIMINATION

In early April about 50 Sparrows Point shipyard workers met to discuss and make some plans around continuing the fight against Bethlehem Steel's discrimination. At the recent meeting, the workers brought out strongly their anger against the countless outrages and abuses that the company has tried to pile on them. the #1 topic was back money, that Black workers lost by being put into lower paid units like the Labor Dept., or not getting a share of the bonus or incentive jobs. Many spoke out that the struggle wasn't just over past injustices, but "a fight for the future, for our children so they won't have to put up with this". And several saw that while the fight for back money was of particular con-

cern to older men, many workers (especially younger) face discrimination daily on the job, and that the group that was being re-constituted, Shipyard Workers for Equality, should take that up too.

Shipyard workers at the Point have a long history of fighting the company's discrimination; in the middle of World War II, sharp struggle broke out over (and won the right to) transferring and training in riveting and welding; in the mid-sixties coming off the Civil Rights struggles, as many young Blacks were hired on, the struggle picked up again. Jim Crow was hit hard as Black workers literally tore down "white only" signs (bathrooms, locker-rooms, water fountains were segregated). In May 1969, bus-

loads of steel and shipyard workers went down to Washington and picketed the Labor Dept. demanding action. This forced some concessions out of the company. So-called "testing" for job transfers was fought and stopped. Some Blacks were promoted to clerical and office jobs. One of the biggest and most significant victories was for Blacks locked into the Labor Dept. to keep their department seniority when they transferred to more skilled departments. A group was formed out of these battles called Steel and Shipyard Workers for Equality. Through these many battles and through the whole civil right movement, unity was built among workers of all nationalities to see what we can accom-

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# Boston Tea Party Shows 1776 Clears Way For Capitalism

Everyone but a total hermit is being bombarded by all of the Bicentennial business going on. The government, the corporations and the media are seizing on the 200th anniversary of the American revolution to talk about "the American heritage of freedom won in battle" and to say to the people in effect: see how much we Americans, workers and capitalist alike, have in common--going back 200 years. No wonder the Bicentennial smells a little funny. It just doesn't square with reality right here in 1976, where tens of millions of working people in this country slave every day just to keep our heads above water and a small handful of bankers and corporation heads own what they have never built and take it all.

What was the American Revolution all about? The 1776 revolution brought the capitalist class to power--which is why they celebrate it today. Yet at the time it occurred the Revolution was an advance. A look at the famous Boston Tea Party in 1773, which helped trigger the Revolution, shows something of what the Revolution was about, what the interests of different classes were in it and how it set the stage for society to develop to where it is now.

## COLONIALISM: A CHAIN ON PROGRESS

The basic issue over which the Revolution was fought was independence from Britain--to break the stranglehold British colonialism placed on the development of the colonies. For the British merchants, nobility and government, in the words of a high British official, "The two great objects of Great Britain in regard to the American trade must be: (1) to oblige her American subjects to take from Great Britain only all the manufacture and European good she can supply them with; and (2) to regulate the foreign trade of the colonies so the profits thereof may finally center in Great Britain, or be applied to the improvement of her empire." In short, to plunder the 13 colonies for all they were worth.

To do this, the British actively discouraged the growth of commerce and even small scale manufacturing by the Americans. Laws forbade trading many goods, such as beaver hats, even from colony to colony, so that raw materials like beaver pelts, would be shipped to England, turned into hats by London firms and shipped back with British merchants raking it in all along the line. The manufacture of steel was legally prohibited, and so on.

## AMERICAN CAPITALISTS DEVELOP

Despite British attempts to prevent it, a capitalist class was growing up in the colonies. Merchants grew rich in the slave and sugar trades, and by smuggling goods like tea from France, Spain and the Netherlands where they

were cheaper than Britain.

To regain control of the situation, the British parliament passed various tax laws, "Stamp Acts," intended to raise money from American commerce.



THE SONS OF LIBERTY--WORKING MEN FIGHTING TO END BRITISH RULE AND DEVELOP THEIR OWN CAPITALIST ENTERPRISES.

The colonies refused to honor these and the British let them lapse only to make, in 1773, a test case of one commodity only--tea.

In 1773, the British East India Tea Company, a vast private monopoly with British government backing, was in economic trouble. Parliament passed a law permitting it to sell tea directly in the colonies, cutting out merchants and other middlemen, and setting a tax of 3 pence per pound of tea to be paid to the British government.

## TEA LAW HURT PROFITS

For the Boston merchants, and especially wealthy tea smugglers like John Hancock, this spelled disaster. Even with the tax, removing middlemen in Britain and the colonies would per-



# We've Carried the Rich Let's Get Them Off 0

mit the Company to sell tea cheaper than their own smuggled brew. Of course, the masses of colonists were not particularly concerned about the merchants' fortunes, so they could not rally the population under the slogan, "Save our profits." Instead they appealed to people's hatred of British tyranny and "taxation without representation."

For their part, the majority of the colonists, who were small farmers and "mechanics" (craftsmen of various sorts), could not be bribed by cheaper tea to permit the tax to go through. It was a symbol of the British oppression that hindered trade, forbade settlement of new lands and forced people to buy expensive imports instead of developing production in the colonies. Meetings were held in cities all along the coast vowing to stop the tea.

## SONS OF LIBERTY DUMP THE TEA

When three ships full of tea came into Boston harbor, the Sons of Liberty, a revolutionary group made up mainly of laborers and small craftsmen, posted guards so they could not unload. Determined to break this resistance, British authorities threatened to seize the tea from its owner if it were not taxed and sold, and to fire on the ships if they left without unloading.

On December 16, 1773, the day before the tea was to be confiscated and sold, 8000 people, the largest mass meeting ever held in the colonies, assembled around Old South meeting house to denounce the tea tax. At the end of it, about 80 Liberty Boys disguised as Indians marched to the harbor followed by the rest of the crowd, hacked open the tea chests and dumped their contents in the water.

When word of this act of rebellion reached Britain, King George III declared, "The die is now cast. The colonies must either submit or triumph." Parliament passed the so-



# Forces Gather For July 4th Demo

Recently over five hundred people attended two important conferences in the East and Midwest to help plan for the big demonstration in Philadelphia on July 4. A conference for the South will take place in May. These conferences are called by the July 4 Coalition (composed of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee, and Revolutionary Student Brigade and the Revolutionary Communist Party).

Workers came from steel and auto plants in the Midwest, from the garment sweatshops of the East, from the coalfields of West Virginia and Kentucky. People came out of the thick of numerous struggles of veterans, young people, the fight for jobs. Everyone left the conferences more determined than ever to organize thousands of people to go to Philadelphia under the banner, "We've Carried the Rich for 200 Years--Let's Get Them Off Our Backs!" and to hit hard at the rulers of the country around two of the most important issues facing the people: the fight for jobs or income now and the fight against new war preparations.

The kickoff speaker at the East Coast conference in Philadelphia spoke about why people had come, "Why are we going to Philadelphia? Just look around. It starts with ten million of us being unemployed and walking the streets--cast off like garbage, like used up machinery. But it doesn't end there. Look in our schools and factories--backbreaking speedup, chained to machines. And more, cities falling apart, schools closing, discrimination, thousands of abuses that slap us in the face!"

People came to the conferences because they are involved in struggles against attacks like these, and want to build these struggles, to tie them closer to one another, to link them into a powerful force with the growing workers movement at its center, a force strong enough to take on our common enemy. They came because the demands of the demonstration--"We Won't Fight Another Rich Man's War" and "Jobs or Income Now"--are crucial concerns of millions of people. And for sure the workers and others at the conferences wanted to shove all the Bicentennial propaganda about how great the country is for the workers right back in the

Constitution as amendments.

Even these gains were limited. The slaveowning planters of the country, like George Washington, would not have taken part in the Revolution unless they had been insured their "rights" to own slaves and made sure the Constitution guaranteed continuation of the slave trade and counted slaves as 3/5 of a human being.

For the wealthy merchants and planters who led the colonial forces, freedom from British rule had an additional meaning--the freedom to accumulate and increase their wealth. They wanted the wealth of American "and the profits thereof" to center not in Great Britain but in their own hands.

## SHAY'S REBELLION

From the beginning, the desire of

bosses' faces. As one young worker put it, "I've been thinking about these Bicentennial minutes on TV and they always end up 'And that's the way it was.' That's all they can say. So we're going to Philadelphia to say 'This is the way it is.'"

At the conferences, workshops were held of participants from different battlefronts (unemployed workers, veterans, etc.) At the workshops it was discussed how to build the demonstration to be as big and powerful as possible, and how to link the demonstration with the struggles millions are presently involved in. The unemployed workers decided to organize a Tent City in Philly for the weekend of the Fourth. Other actions will take place for three days before the Fourth around the two demands of the July 4 Coalition.

Leaflets, posters and buttons are being printed up in the thousands and



300 PEOPLE, EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED WORKERS, VETERANS AND YOUTH ATTENDED CONFERENCE IN PHILLY TO PLAN FOR THE 4th OF JULY.

thousands to let everyone know about the July 4th plans. The word is going out in every region of the country.

People left the conference determined to go all out to make the July 4th demonstration a big step forward in building a nationwide movement of the American people against the ruling class of this country with the struggle of the workers at its core. As the closing speaker at the East Coast conference put it, "What will July 4 do? Think about it. We'll be standing up, the working class united, saying no, saying that the rule of the rich doesn't cut it, saying get off our backs. We'll be speaking with one voice, loud and clear across the whole country, thousands strong."

the masses for a better life and the drive of the new ruling class came into conflict. Where things were heading became clear in a struggle that took place within three years of the treaty with Britain, the Shay's Rebellion of 1786.

Small farmers in western Massachusetts, many of them veterans of the Revolution, had gone deep into debt to merchants and bankers. With the war over there were more farmers and the army was not purchasing lots of food, so agricultural prices plummeted. Facing evictions and starvation, the farmers armed themselves and rose up, led by Daniel Shays.

They stormed a courthouse demanding a moratorium on debts and the end of debtors' prison. An army was quickly dispatched, almost as large as the

(CONTINUED ON P. 14)

## 200 Years ur Backs!

called Intolerable Acts, aimed at closing down Boston as a port, making the Massachusetts government a stronger tool of British rule and providing for the quartering of thousands of British troops in Boston to "keep order," the same troops who would march out to Lexington and Concord the next year.

### MANY MERCHANTS BACK DOWN

In Boston and elsewhere, the merchants became panicky at the intensity of the British response. Many suggested paying reparations and compromising.

The revolutionaries of the time, including some of the merchants, set about organizing a boycott not only of tea but all British goods. As a member of the Boston Sons of Liberty wrote, "I fear New York will not assist us with good grace, but she may be ashamed to desert us: at least if her merchants offer to sell us, her mechanics will forbid the actions."

King George had been right--the die was cast. British rule imposed great barriers to the further development of production and society. The small farmers and craftsmen had a common interest with the merchants and plantation owners in getting rid of it.

### "FREEDOM" IN 1776

The freedom that the revolutionaries fought for and won was not an abstract ideal (as the Bicentennial minutes say) but was the fight for rights that grew out of the actual conditions of the time. For the farmers, blacksmiths, cobblers, fishermen, escaped slaves and so on who made up the bulk of the colonial forces the goal was freedom to live their lives out from under British tyranny. In the course of the revolution they won guarantees against manifestations of that tyranny--free speech, press and religious freedom, extension of the right to vote and so on--in many state constitutions which were later forced into the federal



# REVOLUTION CONTINUES IN CHINA

Sharp struggle is now going on in the People's Republic of China. Mass meetings are being held in factories, agricultural communes and schools. Big character posters, signs and slogans are being put up in public spots. Demonstrations and counter-demonstrations are being held, in one case at least, leading to the outbreak of fistfights and the burning of several cars and buildings. Former Deputy Premier Teng Hsiao-Ping, who has been the focus of much of this struggle, has been dismissed from all his posts.

All this is just the latest battle in a massive struggle which has been going on over there for years. Ten years ago the Cultural Revolution broke out in which hundreds of millions of people from every corner of the country rebelled, kicked out Liu Shao-Shi, who was the President, and greatly changed the face of China. A few years ago there was a big movement against Lin Biao, who was the former Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party and also led a coup attempt.

What does all this tremendous ferment and turmoil mean?

For thousands of years the Chinese people were enslaved by first one set of rulers, then another. Imperialist countries plundered the people, leaving China a backward country. Things were so bad that in many cities carts made their rounds in the early morning to pick up the dead bodies of those who had starved the night before. Drought ravished the countryside, followed many times by massive floods. Millions were unemployed.

## WORKERS AND PEASANTS RULE CHINA

The Chinese people were told by these rulers, "This is the way things were meant to be. Misery and starvation are your lot. Things will never change."

The revolution brought the working class into power. The masses of people seized control and ownership of the means of production--the factories, mines, railroads--and the land. They set up their own state, one which meant real democracy and power for the masses of people for the first time, while at the same time enforcing a dictatorship over the old exploiters to prevent them from regaining their rule.

Standing kneedeep in the backwardness left by the capitalist world the Chinese working class led by the Communist Party, set out to transform all of society. Their goal was to overcome all the ulcers left over from capitalism, to establish a communist society, community of workers, where class distinctions are a thing of the past.

Moving step by step towards this great goal, the working people in China have made tremendous advances in the last 27 years. Unemployment and starvation have been wiped out. Prices are stable, there is no inflation. Schooling is universal. Where once there was drought, there are irrigated fields. Agriculture is becoming mechanized. Industry is growing up everywhere. The working class is the master of its own destiny and proudly produces, for the betterment of all humanity and not for the enrichment of a handful of parasites.

But do all these tremendous changes

mean that the capitalists have been eliminated? Not yet. As Lenin, leader of the workers' revolution in Russia, once said, "When a revolution takes place, it does not happen as in the case of the death of an individual, when the deceased person is simply removed. When the old society perishes, you cannot nail the corpse of bourgeois society into a coffin and lower it into the grave. It disintegrates in our midst; the corpse rots and poisons us."

Although it has come a long ways, the Chinese revolution is still not



CHINESE SHIPYARD WORKERS DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR OUSTER OF TENG HSIAO-PING.

complete. And there is even the danger of socialism being overthrown and replaced again by capitalism. This is what happened in the Soviet Union. At the same time the working class moves forward it must still clear out the corpse of the old society. And the problems left behind include more than poverty and backwardness. There still remain the force of old habits, ideas and the division of labor by which things were produced and organized in the old society. In China there was a saying, "Those who work with their minds govern, while those who work with their hands are governed", that reflected the way the exploiters ran things.

An example of the continuing revolution against all this was the big struggle that broke out in the early 1960's at the Anshan Iron and Steel Company in China. The managers and technicians at this company were using their so-called expertise and position to lord over the workers, holding them down with all kinds of work rules and restrictions. It was the kind of situation where a set of highly "educated" engineers came up with a new way to rearrange the bricks, supposedly to improve production in the open hearth furnaces, even though the workers told

them that their plan wouldn't work. Sure enough it failed. Then when the workers, without consulting the plant managers, began to produce the steel, devising their own way of improving production by regulating the temperature in the furnaces, these "experts" rushed out of their engineering offices, halted production, and threw the steel out because the workers weren't following the "proper procedures".

Guided by the Communist Party the workers revolted against this view that only the "experts" can run things. After a big struggle in which they defeated this line and re-educated many of the technicians and engineers at the plant, they wrote their own charter, which still stands as the basis for running the plant and is a model throughout China.

Under this charter, administrators are required to work in the plant and workers participate in administering the plant. Outdated work rules have been tossed out. The gap between wages of the rank and file workers and managers has been progressively reduced, and workers hold mass meetings to criticize the mistakes of the administrators and come up with new ways to improve production. As a result, workers in the plant now make technical innovations on a wide scale, inventing machines, taking what had formerly been considered scrap and waste and manufacturing whole new products. These concrete steps are examples of what it means for the working class to continue its revolution by clearing out the corpse of the old society, step by step.

This revolt at the Anshan Iron and Steel Company became one of the sparks that ignited the Cultural Revolution in the mid-'60s, in which hundreds of millions of people in every factory, agricultural commune, and school rose up and hit hard at those who were going down the road of becoming new exploiters of the working class.

## CONTINUE REVOLUTION

This kind of struggle, of course, meets resistance. Each inroad against the old way of life, each advance in the struggle of the workers to break down the old society's division of labor is opposed by a few of those who see the revolution not as a continuing struggle to eliminate oppression, but as a way to find a new and comfortable position--a way to feather their own nest.

In fact, as long as there are left-over traces of the old society, they constantly give rise to a new capitalist class from among some of the managers, intellectuals, richer peasants and a few bad leaders of the Communist Party who try to protect and add to their own special position. It is this group that people like Liu Shaochi and Lin Biao and today, Teng Hsiao-ping represent and defend. It is against this that struggles are waged like those going on now in China.

This capitalist class is not the same in form as the old one in China or like today in the U.S. Today in China, the working class holds power and controls the factories. In fact everyone, including the manager and Party members, must work. So "capitalist roaders" don't come right out and say, "I'm for capitalism" or openly advocate speedup and layoffs. They don't own the factories, and even more important, if they spoke out openly for a return to the old society, they would find almost no support anywhere from the people, who remember very well the miseries of capitalism.

So in China's socialist society,

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# Gert Alexander

## A Great Loss, A Great Example

The Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party announces with deep grief the death of comrade Gert Alexander, who died early April 17 at the age of 60.

Gert Alexander had been militant in the revolutionary struggle of the working class for 40 years and more. Her death is a great loss to the working class and its cause of communism.

As a youth, she joined the Young Communist League at the time of the last great depression and later joined the Communist Party. When the Communist Party betrayed the struggle of the working class and gave up the goal of revolution, she continued to organize and give leadership to the ongoing struggle of the working class and to work toward the formation of a new Party that would represent its revolutionary interests. She was a founding member of the Revolutionary Communist Party, a leading member of the Central Committee and headed its work among unemployed workers.

Twice in the last six years, comrade Alexander suffered heart attacks but she refused to allow that to stand in the way of her contribution to the struggle and, in fact, each time threw herself even more vigorously into the thick of the growing battle.

In this militant revolutionary attitude, as well as in all her life, comrade Alexander is an inspiring example for us to learn from:



A determination to learn from the masses, without being a condescending savior.

A burning desire to master Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought, the revolutionary science of our class, to return it to the workers to guide the struggle forward, and a deep belief that the workers can grasp this science and on this basis change the world. A hatred for revisionism and all other forms of betraying the working class, seared deep through years of fighting them.

A fierce determination always to advance the struggle toward its revolutionary goal, and an unshakable belief that the cause of communism will eventually triumph.

Never wavering or fearful in the face of hardship or difficulty, but instead persevering in fighting to break a way through; never complacent or smug with any gain in the struggle, but always determined to build on it to make further advances

Always putting the interests of the working class as a whole and of its Party above narrow or personal interests.

It is for these qualities that the working class and the Revolutionary Communist Party will always cherish the life and memory of comrade Gert Alexander, and which fire us with even greater dedication to fight for the great goals to which she dedicated her very life.

## Chinese Revolution

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the main form of their attack on working class rule is to push political lines and policies aimed at holding back the class struggle of the workers, which is the main force in continuing the revolution. Instead, they push policies aimed at keeping and increasing their privileges. All this, of course, is dressed up in fancy talk about "modernizing" things, and making them "efficient"—according to capitalist standards.

But the working class in China isn't putting up with these new "capitalist roaders" either. They aren't about to let their country be restored to capitalism, like happened in the Soviet Union, where a new exploiting class now rules. Just like they dealt with the old landlord and capitalist classes to win liberation, they are dealing with these new capitalist elements to keep liberation. This is what the cultural revolution was about. And this, too, is what's behind the current struggles against Teng Hsiao-ping.

Teng was a leader of the Communist Party in the 1960's. He was kicked out during the Cultural Revolution, and then restored to leadership after he had criticized his previous mistakes and said he would struggle to serve the working class. But instead, Teng and other counter-revolutionary leaders, under the guise of "modernization" and "good management" tried to reverse the decisions of the cultural revolution.

For example, Teng said, "It doesn't matter whether it is a white cat or a black cat, any cat that catches mice is a good cat". What he meant was that it didn't matter if socialist or capitalist policies were followed—just as long as they got results in increasing production. He used this to attack

the new, socialist ways of doing things that the workers and peasants themselves had created.

### UNIVERSITIES

What did this mean? One focus of the struggle right now is at Tsinghua University. Through the Cultural Revolution the students and teachers at this school made great strides forward in turning the school into a real weapon in the hands of the working class. Students must work at least two years in a factory or peasant commune before attending. They are then recommended by their fellow workers and peasants. At school the students study the actual problems faced in production and have even built a small factory, which they operate at the school. After graduation students return to the factories and communes to put their learning to use in moving the society forward.

Under Teng's influent, one of the main administrators at this school was completely opposed to these changes. His attitude was: "We're not training enough experts. It's a waste of time having these students in the factories all the time." He wanted to return to the old system, struggled against during the Cultural Revolution, where the school trained "professional experts" and generally separated theory from practice. He also wanted to reintroduce rigid "academic" entrance exams which would have filtered out the majority of the sons and daughters of the working people. His line would have led, like in this country, back to a situation where professors who had rarely, if ever, seen the insides of a steel plant, and who certainly had never worked there, would lecture on the process of making steel.

This administrator wrote a letter to Mao Tsetung, the leader of the

Communist Party, complaining about the failure of the Cultural Revolution reforms and advocating a return to the old system. Instead of answering this letter, Mao sent it to the students at the University, which sparked widespread criticism and struggle against the line of "reversing the correct verdicts of the Cultural Revolution". This led to renewed struggle at Tsinghua University against those taking the "capitalist road" and has led to even further advances in dealing with the divisions between "experts" and workers.

This kind of struggle going on at Tsinghua University has broken out all over China. The fact that this struggle has broken out so broadly is a good thing. Reactionaries like Teng have to come out more openly with their anti-working class lines and policies. In doing so, they have become even more isolated from the masses of Chinese people, who through the struggle have raised their understanding and determination to march forward to eliminate the remnants of capitalist society and achieve communism.

This struggle of the Chinese working class has very important implications for workers in the U.S. The capitalists in this country try to pound it into the heads of workers about how dumb they are and how smart the rulers are. Workers must rely on us if they want a job, a raise, anything. And don't think for a moment you can change things, especially by making a revolution—this is what they want workers to believe.

But the working class in China is disproving all this. Not only have they overthrown their old exploiters and struggled to remake the face of China. But led by their Communist Party, they continue to deal sharp blows to new exploiters and build toward a society free from all the miseries of capitalism.



## STUDENTS WIN CO-OP FIGHT

There comes a point where you just won't take any more. That was the feeling among students at the University of Maryland the first week of April as they fought to defend a non-profit food co-op run by the students.

The school administration had refused to renew the co-op's lease, clearly trying to stop competition with the school food service. The administration, which represents the interests of the capitalists, could give a damn about the students needs. While not a life and death issue, students saw no reason why the co-op, which provides a service to many, should not be allowed to continue. What's more, they saw that this was something they could fight and win.

400 rallied April 7 demanding "Sign the Lease!" Marching to the administration building, they fought to get in, breaking open a door and fighting campus cops. When one student was picked off for arrest, the demonstration demanded and forced his release with no charges. The following Sunday, fearful of plans for another demonstration, the administration agreed to sign.

Every day we see a hundred injustices and though we can't fight every one of them, sooner or later it's time to draw the line and say "We've had enough!" The victory at University of Maryland at College Park, though small, shows what can happen when people organize to resist attacks.

## SHIPYARDS

(Continued from page 7)

plish organizing and fighting side by side against our common enemy.

With the recent paying of back money to Black steelworkers at the Point and other steel mills under the Consent Decree, shipyard workers are demanding that they get what's justly due them, knowing that these big companies will surely try to get off the hook if we sit back quiet. Most of the shipyard workers knew about the Consent Decree, and understood that while they wanted back money, they didn't want anything like the Consent Decree. The Consent Decree was an insult and a kick in the teeth—a few hundred dollard for years of discrimination and then workers are expected to sign away th their rights.

At the meeting, there was unanimous agreement not to accept any kind of Consent Decree, that they've been fighting too long to have their struggle sidetracked like that. One big advantage that the shipyard workers have is that they have already won the basic demand around seniority so that it will be a lot harder for the government and company to split the workers by "bumping" without compensation.

The experience of steelworkers and others will help shipyard workers to unite all workers, black and white, in the fight against discrimination. Using all kinds of schemes, the big companies, the courts and the sellout international union leaders work

overtime to take the heat off themselves. One way they've done this in steel is to pay for back money partially out of the union treasury, making us workers pay with our dues money for the company's discrimination. No doubt, the company will be looking to do the same things in the shipyards. Our answer has to be to hold the company responsible for its attacks, not our fellow workers.

Two steel workers were invited to speak at the recent meeting; both active in the struggles at the Point. They gave enthusiastic support to the brothers and sisters in the shipyard. Copies of the March issue of THE WORKER on the Consent Decree were posted in the yard and were well-recieved at the meeting itself.

Shipyard workers at the Point are in a good position to advance the fight against discrimination, along with every other battle to defend our job rights and standard of living. There is growing understanding in the yard that the company is responsible for discrimination—not other workers. That discrimination weakens our ranks making it difficult to unite against the company. It is the company's drive to squeeze more profits out of us all, Black and white, that is responsible for all the injustices and abuses—from discrimination to the murderous working conditions.

Right now Shipyard Workers For Equality's efforts center around raising funds for a court suit to win the back money; the meeting also elected new officers and trustees from all departments. While a suit may in fact win some concessions, we all know that real justice will not be won in the rich man's courts—and it's clear that this battle must go on right in the yards, uniting both Black and white workers, building our unity and strength, which we need so much in all the battles we face against the bosses. As Bethlehem's productivity drive picks up more steam, the growing unity of the workers against discrimination can come to strengthen our side in each and every battle.

## Lever Bros. Strike

(CONTINUED FROM P. 1)

workers on its "McKetchon Plan" for layoffs, automation and speedup. ownership class has in store for the future which has forged the militant unity of the strikers.

Months before the strike, the Company was trying to sell the Workers were shown movies and lectured by Company "production experts" on their lunch hours. Like one worker with over 20 years at Lever Brothers said, "The Company pays these guys hundreds of thousands of dollars to convince me that my well being rests with how much richer the owners get. They're telling me that if I want my job to be secure, I've got to support them cutting half the workers in the plant loose.

The strike is the workers response to the Company's bull. The strikers say that when they struck before in '74, it was the first time most had ever struck. They were out for two weeks and just won a few of their demands. But they say, "We've learned alot, we know what picket lines are supposed to do, we see that the guys at Maryland Drydock had to be out for a long time before they won. And most of us have prepared to stay out for a good while."

The workers are united around their demands which include the right to grieve any change in job classification immediately, the right to early retirement with full pension, SUB pay, job retraining and relocation expenses.

At a time when the profit crisis of the bosses' is bringing down heavier and heavier attacks on our class, the importance of the Lever Brothers strike grows. Like the workers themselves see it: "We

can't let them get away with this stuff. If we don't fight back they won't stop until they've pushed us all into the ground."

## Rich Gear Up For War

(CONTINUED FROM P. 6)

and more towards war.

For a while after the Vietnam war, because the people of this country were so sick of it, the capitalists and their pet politicians made a big deal about sounding more peace-loving. But already this is beginning to break down, and all of the presidential candidates and other such types are talking about the need for military strength, increasing the military budget and so on. Already, indirect skirmishes between the U.S. and the USSR, such as in Angola, show where all this is leading.

Their drive to squeeze profits out of everyone in the world they can get a hold of led them to the last war, and the same thing is driving them toward war again—this time with their imperialist superpower rivals in the USSR, since today each superpower is the main obstacle to the other's plans to maintain and expand its empire.

Such a war would be very different from Vietnam—and our rulers shamelessly try to use this fact to make it appear that their battles with the rulers of the USSR would be more just. They claim that this time such a war is in our interests, since the Soviet rulers clearly are aggressive and armed to the teeth. And when nothing

else works, they fall back on the old argument that there always have been wars and there will always be, that's just the way it is—and after all, to youth and others they advertise the services as "the only job around".

But while the nature of the war now threatening has changed since Vietnam, the nature of the ruling class and their system has not changed. Vietnam was a revolt of those they wanted to enslave. The war they're now preparing for and trying to prepare us for would be a war bet between two sets of slavemasters—another war to make the rich richer at our expense.

Vietnam shook up this country. It helped awaken many of us to what was really going on. It helped expose that war is not just something that happens. The wars our rulers drag us into are true "rich man's wars"—for the profit of a few and the survival of a system which is the cause of all our misery.

And as much as the high and mighty who rule this country were shaken by Vietnam—by the hatred for their war and by the final defeat they suffered—all this is a very little compared to what is in store for them at the hands of the people of this country if they and their counterparts in the Soviet Union launch another, still more destructive war.



# Drydock Strikers Win

On April 4, after being on strike almost 5 months, the Maryland Drydock workers, members of local 31 of the International Union of Marine and Shipbuilders, voted to accept the contract by 780 - 150. The strikers thru their determination and unity, forced the Drydock's owners, the Frueheuf Corp., to come up with wage and cost of living parity with the Bethlehem yards.

The following is an interview with a Drydock worker.

The WORKER: What was the outcome of the strike?

Drydock Worker: We broke him (Frueheuf) in. Because we didn't stay out long enough in the last strike, we didn't get the cost of living then. That was the reason we were so far behind the Bethlehem yards. This time we got it; it's not as much as we would have liked, but it's a start. By the end of the contract (1979) we'll have 57¢ total COL.

The WORKER: You got him to give you 83¢ immediately, you all wanted more in the second year than he said he was going to give.

Drydock Worker: Yes, we got 25¢ after one year, then 3 months later 5¢ more, after 2 years, 25¢, and 9 months later, 11¢ more. That was important, getting more money earlier in the contract.

We got an increase in the pensions totalling \$8.50 per year of service per month by the end of the contract. We had wanted more, and we probably could have gotten it if we had stayed out more. 150 people did vote to stay out, but there were too many fellows who had run out of money and wanted to go back to work.

We also got Frueheuf to recognize our strike time toward our vacation time; you need at least 750 hours work a year to qualify for your full vacation--we got 500 hours for the time we were out on strike.

The WORKER: How was this strike different from the last one?

## Crown Cork & Seal

(CONTINUED FROM P. 3)

and there's lots of struggle against forced overtime and rotating shifts. The Steelworkers contract expired in February, so the workers are especially concerned about how the lithographers strike is going. Last fall, the IAM local went out over a cost of living clause and expressed plenty of anger at the hundreds of hours of overtime forced on them. IAM workers on the picket line talked about how much stronger they would be if everyone stayed out together.

The lithographers strike at Crown Cork & Seal is a good opportunity for the workers there to begin to link up their struggles and build some unity among their ranks in order to pit their full strength into their common fight against the company.

The Graphic Arts workers are fighting an important battle for their wage demands and to keep their jobs. A victory for them will strengthen all the workers struggles.

Drydock Worker: First off, we knew Frueheuf would try what he had done the last time, try to hold us off until we'd go back with nothing. We knew we'd have to stick it out this time. And all the support that we got from all the other locals really helped.

The WORKER: How did the rally (in February) help the strike?

Drydock Worker: I was down there that day and it was beautiful, all those unions backing us. I think it really helped a lot. And there was another one just a few days before we voted on the contract, when some union people came down and walked the line. If any of those guys ever need any support, they can count on us.

The WORKER: What's it like in the yard now?

Drydock Worker: Well, only 600 - 800 are called back, the 3rd shift hasn't been started up yet. A lot of water pipes had busted and had to be repaired. My leader came up to me right after I came back and said not to leave the job early to eat lunch or punch out --They've been coming down on people for things like that for about a year now.

The WORKER: I noticed in a strike bulletin back early in the strike, and in the final contract, that now new laborers and trainees will get paid 50¢ less an hour during their probationary periods. That's a big issue that the New Orleans ship-

yard went on strike around. What do you think?

Drydock Worker: A laborer's got to eat too, and inflation hits him just as hard as a welder or ironworker. And how can you control inflation when there are these judges and politicians wanting \$15,000 raises, when they're already making \$50,000! And we're the ones who pay their salaries!

The WORKER: Not only do we pay for the politicians, but without the workers, the bosses wouldn't have a penny of profit.

Drydock Worker: That's right, they pay us just enough to eat and live so we can work for them. When the Drydock bids on a job, they estimate a welder's value at \$100 a day (they say a first class one, but they use a 3rd or 2nd class) -- but they don't pay him near that much. As long as the system goes on this way, the working people are going to have it worse and worse. We need some big change.

In the course of the strike the workers faced down the company's wide-spread propaganda campaign urging them back to work and threatening to shut down for good. In spite of a news blackout, support from other locals and other unions was built.

The strike serves as an example to other workers facing contract battles this year and to all of us building the fight against the bosses.

## Unemployed Win Big Victory In Seattle

A victory has been won in the months long battle to stop the State of Washington from cutting off unemployment compensation for tens of thousands of people. Senate Bill 2373 was killed for this session of the legislature by the action of angry, militant workers. A statewide campaign, spearheaded by the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC), and widely publicized by THE WORKER for the Northwest, mobilized thousands of people and prevented the bosses from sneaking their bill through.

Employed and unemployed workers were united to fight this robbery. 20,000 leaflets were passed out at unemployment and food stamp offices, factories and shopping centers. A march was held in the streets of Seattle on January 31. People went on radio and got TV coverage of rallies blasting the bill. Workers got resolutions passed in their unions. UWOC linked the struggle against SB 2373 with the nationwide petition campaign for Jobs or Income Now.

The capitalists are not likely to give up on their efforts to slash benefits in Washington. The same kind of attacks are being made on unemployment in state after state. Georgia has already pushed through their version of SB 2373 and the Federal government has cut off second and third ex-

tensions in 19 states.

But the mass movement against these cutbacks is also growing across the country. Workers are not sitting still while the same people who throw us out of our jobs try to steal the little income we get from unemployment compensation to feed, cloth, and house our families. They are still able to get through some of these measures,



but not without a hell of a battle. No longer can they get over with this robbery quietly, without resistance. The victory in Seattle is important--and it demonstrates the kind of strength and organization of our class that's on the rise and the growing strength of the struggle for Jobs or Income Now.



# San Francisco Strike

(CONTINUED FROM P. 1)

plumbing and runway maintenance at the San Francisco airport and heating, plumbing repair, and electrical maintenance in city facilities all over town. The strikers immediately went out to shut down the Muni, the city's extensive bus, streetcar and cablecar system. Hundreds of city workers honored picket lines at General Hospital, city schools, the city court and police complex, City Hall and elsewhere, in spite of orders from their union bureaucrats to cross the lines and keep working.

Pickets kept moving to extend the strike. They shut down construction at the airport for a day, until the San Mateo County Labor Council ordered the pickets off. They shut down Golden Gate Transit, a commuter bus service, for half a day. They closed airport cargo terminals for a day, stopping most large truck deliveries. The strike was hurting the capitalists bad.

One of the main ways the capitalists have tried to bust up the strike is to try to get the Muni drivers back to work. They have been spreading the lie that the Muni drivers want to work and it's only their union leaders who want them to honor the picket lines.

Twice the Muni drivers have voted to stay out, the second time the drivers had a division of the house to make things clear. Over 700 lined up on one side of the room, to continue the strike, and only 20 or so on the other. The drivers broke into wild cheers.

For several years the capitalists, spearheaded by the Chamber of Commerce, have been waging a campaign against the city workers, focusing on the craft workers. They are go-

ing all out to divide craft workers from the rest of the working class. They waited until after they shoved the worst contract ever down the throats of 18,000 various city employees to launch their attack on the craft workers. Shoveling out story after story, the bosses' newspapers have tried to give the impression that the craft workers are overpaid to turn public opinion against them.



San Francisco city workers fight against wage cuts amounting to thousands of dollars a year and severe restrictions on union activity.

The San Francisco strike is getting nationwide coverage by the capitalists' press. They are hoping to be able to trumpet a big defeat for the workers in San Francisco, which has a big reputation as a "union town" due to the history of militant struggle going back to 1934 general strike, and use this

defeat to pave the way for further attacks on city workers throughout the country, whose jobs, wages and working conditions are scheduled to be "sacrificed" to help bail the cities out of their financial mess.

For most of the city workers, this is their first strike, most of the unions have not been out for 20 or 30 years. Their leadership has put no resources into the strike and has preferred to wage the struggle in headlines rather than on the picket lines. They made a widely publicized call for a general strike, then turned around

and discouraged the workers from going on the offensive to extend the strike "until we (the bureaucrats) get it all together. It's all or nothing."

San Francisco labor "leaders" have a long tradition of talking tough, including making noises about general strikes, while, like all labor hacks, they end up sending the workers down the river in a blaze of fiery rhetoric.

Despite the "leave the driving to us" appeals of union leaders, the militant determination of striking craft workers has pushed the strike forward and extended it step by step. Repeatedly, the workers have leaned on the official strike committee and forced it to sanction moves by the rank and file. But the bureaucrats still possess enough authority to confuse and discourage many of the workers, which makes it all the more important for the workers to break through this stranglehold, despite the difficulties.

A committee called City Workers Fighting Back has been active in helping to organize, extend and build support for the strike. A recent leaflet from the Committee entitled "What's It Going To Take To Win?" pointed out that "whenever the workers have taken matters into their own hands, jammed the strike committee to do an effective job and go on the offensive, real gains have been made. We can't afford to wait for orders that don't arrive, wait for business agents, wait for a breakthrough in negotiations, wait for a general strike or wait for anything."

As we go to press, the strike is still continuing. As one worker at a Muni bus yard put it, "If we really organize this strike, we'll shut the city down tight."

## BOSTON TEA PARTY

(CONTINUED FROM P. 9)

one that defeated Cornwallis at Yorktown, financed by massive contributions from wealthy merchants to crush the uprising. The farmers were defeated. The fear this rebellion struck in the hearts of the new rulers of America gave a big push to the development of the Constitution and the establishment of a strong central government instead of a loose confederation of states that could not provide the capitalists with sufficient control over the masses or defense against other nations.

### FACTORIES AND MODERN WORKING CLASS

Firmly in the saddle, the capitalists began squeezing more wealth from the people all over the country. In the South the back-breaking plantation slave system expanded. With the capital they accumulated, they were able in the 1800s to set up the factory system. This made possible the production of goods and basic machinery on a scale undreamed of before. It made possible an end to log cabins without running water, to working 16 hours a day to scratch crops from the soil at the mercy of drought or flood, to many of the particular hardships of the colonial era. But developing to serve the profit of a few capitalists, all this took place at the price of great hardship and oppression.

In creating modern industry the capitalists created something else--the working class. Factory production re-

quired not the craftsmen of colonial days winding rope or blowing bottles individually or with a few apprentices and laborers, but hundreds and thousands of propertyless workers, laboring together cooperatively for the capitalists, because we have no other way to survive. It is the working people who created the great wealth since colonial times, and who have never ceased to fight the rich and powerful who steal for themselves the fruits of our labor.

The capitalists speak of the freedom won in 1776 and they really mean their freedom to exploit us. As for the workers, we too are free--free to work to make them richer or to starve, and even this "freedom" exists only when there are jobs to be had. They hark back to 1776 to talk of "national unity," but the only thing we share with them now is a battlefield, and we stand on opposite sides!

The masses of people took part in the Revolution to overthrow the British colonial system, because it was a roadblock to the development of production and society. But in the 200 years since, the capitalists with whom we united then, have ridden our backs and today it is they who are the roadblocks! They like to talk about their revolution, but today the very thought of revolution frightens them, since revolution today could only be against them and their system.

We've carried the rich for 200 years. Let's get them off our backs!



# No Film & Book Can Hide Our Real Enemies

(CONTINUED FROM P. 16)

But it's pretty obvious to everyone that the backing of corporations, bankers, and their TV and financial contributions made him President.

It was no accident that Nixon got into office—he was bought and paid for so he could serve the interests of his backers, like Kennedy and Johnson before him, and Ford today.

## FIGHTING AMONG THIEVES

But the capitalists aren't sinking millions of dollars into promoting a book and film, or running cover stories in *Newsweek* and *Time* because they want to expose their own system. Far from it, *All The President's Men* and *The Final Days* try to make the capitalist system come through smelling like a rose. Woodward and Bernstein, two *Washington Post* reporters who wrote the book and are portrayed in the movie, are made out to be the heroes who dumped Nixon through their painstaking investigative reporting.

Investigative reporting or not, it didn't take too long for most people to guess that Nixon was involved in the Watergate burglary or coverup. And for sure the reporters didn't find the facts of the Watergate scandal or Nixon's freak-out by combining through garbage cans and playing Sherlock Holmes. The movie shows that the key source for the "Watergate story" was a high unnamed government official referred to only as "Deep Throat." It looks like nearly every who leaked the story about Nixon and Kissinger's private conversation that they swore to keep secret to themselves. People know from their own experiences that the press suppresses and distorts news all the time—like the way they lied about Vietnam for years, and how they constantly distort every strike and struggle workers are involved in.

The point is all the dirt dug up in the Watergate investigations was dirt that the various capitalists knew about all along and just decided to sling at each other once it served their interests. For while all the

top politician poured out material for the authors of *All the President's Men*. And it isn't too hard to guess capitalists can unite when it comes to cracking down on the workers, the dog-eat-dog nature of the system leads them to use every weapon in their hands

continue to try to grind more profits out of our hides; the courts continue to faithfully issue injunctions against picket lines; the FBI continues to spy on anyone they think might be a threat to the bosses' rule; the police continue to serve and protect the rich;



to pull apart their rivals—from stealing industrial secrets, to having competitors busted for various crimes, to pulling down politicians through exposures in the press and media they control.

Whether a story appears in the papers has little to do with reporters digging out "hard facts" that *All the President's Men* glorified and everything to do with who the news (or their distortion of it) will benefit.

Nixon's departure to the San Clemente beach was a good thing for the American people. It showed that the ruling class is not as all-powerful as they would like us to think. The whole Watergate scene turned up the lights on the whole stinking mess of their capitalist political system. But a change of occupancy in the White House can never mean that the government and the politicians are anything other than the tools and servants of the ruling class. The capitalists

and the politicians continue to take as much as they can, and dance to the tune of the big corporations and banks.

The main efforts of the *Washington Post*, that great protector of the freedom and rights of the masses, in the last year have been directed to breaking an eight month old strike by the pressmen at the *Post*, busting their union and replacing them with a bunch of scabs. The *Post* and the rest of the bosses' media praises the courage and determination of Woodward and Bernstein to the skies, but they have nothing but contempt for the really courageous struggle of the *Post* pressmen who are waging a bitter fight for their jobs and who have now called for a boycott of the film.

The final days of Richard Nixon were great to witness as one of the high and mighty got pulled down. But we won't be satisfied with just that. No film and book will convince us that Nixon was the only maniac who runs this country. We can't and won't be content until we've brought them all to their knees.

## FIGHT BUILDS IN AUTO

(CONTINUED FROM P. 5)

people who walked out the first night were dropped. The company agreed to stop using part-timers while full-time workers were on the unemployment lines.

Now instead of a big all-out attack, Metuchen management is trying to chip away a little here, a little there. Extra work has gotten added to jobs bit by bit but the workers are fighting it. Overloaded jobs go down the line incomplete. In one department, the foreman got so desperate he stopped the line for a pep talk: "Work harder for your paycheck." He got that slammed right back in his face: "I only get one paycheck. Why the hell should I do two jobs!" Two fulltimers were called back on that line.

There are those who think the companies can be sweet-talked out of what the rank and file needs come contract time. But the workers at Sterling and Metuchen have been talking the only language the companies understand. When they stood up, they pushed ahead the struggle, unity and strength of the rank and file.



"Auto Workers United to Fight in '76" demonstrates to put forward the real demands of the rank and file outside the UAW Special Bargaining Convention in Detroit on March 18.



# POST PRESSMEN CONTINUE FIGHT PICKET WATERGATE FILM

As *All The President's Men* opened with much fanfare at the Kennedy Center in D.C., April 14th, the politicians, movie stars and other celebrities attending, were greeted by 400 angry pressmen and supporters, who demonstrated to protest the real nature of the *Washington Post*. The pressmen have been on strike against the *Post* for over 6 months and are now locked out of their jobs.

The pressmen asked people to support the strike and boycott the movie, which glorifies the *Post* as "people's hero" for its role in exposing the Watergate mess (see article below).

Despite the near-freezing weather, the picketing was full of spirit and militance. The crowd sang "Hard Times are Fighting Times" and carried signs demanding "Who's gonna investigate the *Post*'s union busting coverup?" Owner Katherine Graham made her grand entrance sneaking in the side door in order to avoid the angry workers. After the movie-goers settled inside, the pressmen moved into the lobby to leaflet after the Robert Redford-sponsored party. Police warned the pressmen they would be arrested if they made any noise, but the workers sang a spirited "We Shall Overcome" as people filed out. There was much commotion and many people asked questions about the strike and took the leaflets.



400 pressmen and supporters demonstrate at opening of "All the President's Men", showing their fighting determination.

The demonstration showed the determination of the pressmen to carry on the fight against the union busting activities of the *Post* management. The demonstration also launched a national campaign to expose the American Newspaper Association's role in breaking newspaper unions around the country.

The locked out pressmen are not letting up in their fight against the

*Post*. In addition to the demonstration at the Kennedy Center, they have been keeping up around the clock picketing at Katherine Graham's house and are keeping up their picket lines at the *Post*. The strikers are seeing some results from their efforts. *Post* owner Katherine Graham has been quoted as saying the picket lines and support the pressmen are receiving are making her afraid to step outside.

## Nixon Takes Rap For Ruling Class

# "ALL THE BOSSES' MEN"

Two years after Nixon's resignation, the Watergate pot is boiling again. Millions of dollars and countless magazine and newspaper articles are making a new movie, *All the President's Men*, into "The movie of the year" and turning a new book, *The Final Days*, into an instant best seller. The movie shows the corruption, shady deals, lying and thievery of the Watergate affair and *The Final Days* paints a vivid picture of Richard Nixon walking the White House halls talking to paintings and Henry Kissinger taking Nixon confessions on presidential rugs.

Most everybody is ready to believe anything bad about Nixon, who

gave the American people a million reasons to hate him, from his slimy crookedness to the wage freeze and his role in the Vietnam war.

But what's hard to swallow is that Nixon was any different from the other politicians in Washington. And this is exactly the point of the book and movie and all the hullabaloo that has accompanied them. Nixon is supposed to be the super-villain who singlehandedly is responsible for everything evil, while "courageous newspaper reporters," millionaire newspaper publishers, and a host of "honest politicians" come through as knights in shining armor for helping to dump Nixon.

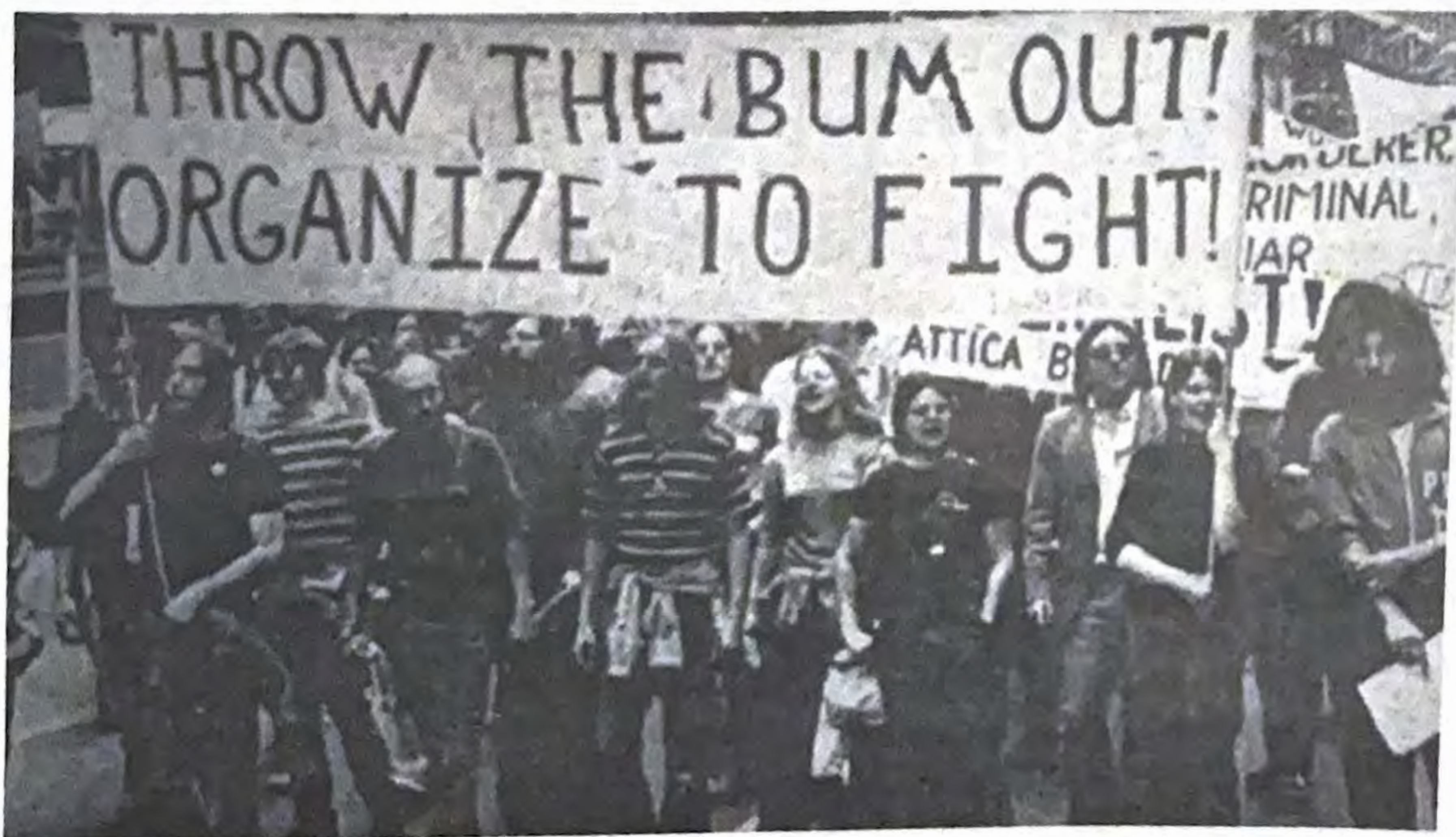
### NIGHTMARE OR EDUCATION

After Nixon's resignation of '74, Ted Kennedy declared, "the nightmare of Watergate is over." A nightmare it may have been for the politicians and capitalists whose system was sinking in everyone's opinion. But for millions of Americans, nightmare was the wrong word: education was a lot more like it. We saw former Attorney General John "Law and Order" Mitchell indicted for obstructing justice, a Vice President forced to resign for taking bribes and learned that Kennedy and Johnson had both done their share of "dirty tricks" like wire taps on Martin Luther King.

What Watergate showed was not how "unique" Nixon was—but how corrupt the whole system really is. We sat through twelve months of endless procedures as Congress looked for "evidence" when the whole country knew he was guilty. And when Nixon finally resigned one of the first things Ford did was pardon him and appoint Nelson Rockefeller, one of the biggest billionaire capitalists in the world, Vice President. With Nixon gone we're supposed to believe that the slate was wiped clean, but the whole affair just underlined the truth that millions of workers had known all along—that the rich own the government lock, stock and politician.

The image of Nixon as a lone, alcoholic weirdo is being dredged up in a clumsy attempt to pass off the whole Watergate affair as the result of one maniac getting into the White House. And then they even try to blame the American people for Nixon, saying that we put him there.

(CONTINUED ON P. 15)



It was the mass movement of millions of people that forced Nixon out, not some slick muckrakers