

THE WORKER

For the Maryland - D.C. - Virginia Area

November 1975

Vol. 1 No. 2

ISSN 0018-8825

25¢

"POST" STRIKE GOING STRONG

On October 1, the 220 pressmen at the Washington Post walked out in a fight to keep their full time jobs.

The left the pressroom a shambles— presses wrecked, glass shattered. Then they marched outside and set up a mass picket line. When the Post tried to bring in scabs they fought them and when the company guards and cops attacked they fought them too. The cops arrested 16 in the battle.

Members of nine unions, nearly 2,000 workers in all are on strike or are staying out in solidarity with the pressmen.

BOSSES OUT TO BREAK UNION

The pressmen walked out when the Post refused to negotiate a new contract and wouldn't even talk about extending the old one. As one pressman said, "They're trying to break our union like the big papers have done in other cities."

Right after the pressmen walked, the Post immediately set up a steel curtain between the presses and the front windows of the building to protect their precious equipment, beefed up their private guards, got an injunction limiting the number of pickets to three per entrance, called in extra metropolitan police and



(CONTINUED TO P. 15)

TUG STRIKE-LOSSES IN MILLIONS BUT THE TUGS WON'T RUN

Since October 10th 125 tugboatmen, members of the Inland Boatmen's Union (AFL-CIO) have been on strike against the Curtis Bay and Baker-Whitely Towing Companies. One of the main demands of the strike centers around wages. The towing companies are presently offering a 25% raise over the next three years. This offer figures out to an 8.33% raise a year, and if inflation continues at the present rate of 12%, the tugmen in reality will be losing ground under the company offer. The strikers are not accepting it and are holding out for a 15% raise each year.

Besides wages, working conditions are also a key issue in the strike. Tugmen presently work as much as 80 hours a week and 13 days in a row and as a result are demanding shorter working hours. One tugman summed up the situation by saying, "It's cheaper for the towing companies to work us to death than to hire more workers which the company would have to pay wages and benefits to." It is around this demand for shorter hours that the tugmen expect the greatest opposition from the towing companies. But the strikers are especially united around this demand and have prepared themselves for a long strike. As one tugman put it, "It looks like '67 all over again, but this time we're more

prepared." It was in 1967 that the last strike took place and it lasted for six months.

The companies are not alone in their efforts to break down the unity and spirit of the strikers. They have been getting plenty of help from the



press. News reports were initially saying that the strike was not having an impact on the port's economy. The newspapers were full of stories on how ships were docking without the assistance of the tugs, so the tugmen could stay on strike forever without having any effect. But this lie was smashed when on October 23rd a ship attempting to dock at Dundalk Marine Terminal's Berth 11, rammed into the dock putting it out of service until January.

Since then, the press had made a 180 degree turn and is now crying about how the strike is costing the city \$2 million a day, causing layoffs in related industries, and hurting everyone from railroad men to Apple growers. But we can expect the press to play this kind of role since they are owned by the same small class of people who also own the companies and whose interests are directly opposed to those of the workers. But the present propaganda from the press raises the question that if the tugmen are so damn important to the port's economy, then why can't the towing companies afford a wage increase, better working conditions, and hiring new workers so the tugmen wouldn't have to work 80 hours a week. The answer to this question, as any striking tugman will

(CONTINUED TO P. 11)

INTRODUCING 'THE WORKER'

The Worker for the Maryland-D.C.-Virginia area is one of many such newspapers for various regions and areas around the country. It is a working class newspaper. It exists to advance the struggle of the working class against the monopoly capitalist ruling class--the cause in this country of all exploitation and oppression, the cause of all the hardships that the working class must face every day.

The working class carries on its struggle in thousands of large and small battles daily--against murderous speed-up and harassment, against layoffs, against discrimination, against attacks on our standard of living, against the ruling class' drive toward another war to protect and increase their sacred profits.

The Worker unites with the working class in every such battle in the class war and will be a weapon in these struggles--helping to build them, link them and spread their lessons, helping to further develop the growing strength and unity of our class.

Such battles throw a sharp light on what is happening in this country, on what is facing workers, our families, our whole class. More and more workers are questioning the whole setup, the whole capitalist system, and seeing more clearly that we have a common enemy--the rich ruling class of bloodsuckers who live off the wealth we produce.

The Worker like the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA, whose political line and programme it puts forward, stands for building this overall struggle of the working class and for its great historic goal--the destruction of capitalist rule and the establishment of socialism, the rule of the working class. Articles in *The Worker* will focus on these battles of the class, and the paper will also analyze every social movement of the American people against the evils of the monopoly capitalist system. Art, poetry and all forms of working class culture will also be used, because they, too, are powerful weapons in the hands of the class in its revolutionary struggle.

HISTORY OF THE PAPERS

The Worker for the Md.-D.C.-Va. area and each of the other *Workers* around the country grew for the most

part out of local worker' papers with a variety of names. For the past several years two newspapers, *On The Line* in Baltimore and *On The Move* in D.C. had been published. These 2 papers recently merged to form *The Worker*. These papers were begun by revolutionaries and communists who developed and grew in number during the late 1960's and early '70's. They joined in the rising tide of working class struggle, bringing to it revolutionary ideas and learning from the working class more about the true nature of the struggle.

This all took place at first on a relatively local and isolated level,

any Communist Party (RCP) has been made possible by the struggle of the working class and the experience gained in that struggle in recent years, and this great step forward for the working class will bring about further advances in what were once local workers' papers. All these papers now share the name *The Worker* and all are guided by the stand and viewpoint, the line and programme, of the RCP, the Party of the working class.

LINKING THE PAPERS NATIONALLY

The guiding role of the Party links the papers together nationally, so every month each *Worker* will run centrally distributed articles on



"THE WORKER unites with every battle of the class war"

and the papers reflected this. But as the young communist forces developed stronger ties with the working class, the papers became important factors in the growing struggle in their localities, taking up strikes, wildcats, organizing drives and on the job struggles; rent strikes and fights against police repression and deportations; and many others.

As the revolutionaries and communists began to develop closer contact and nation-wide organization, the local workers' papers were better able to take up broad issues affecting the whole working class. The papers, for example, were important in building the nationwide campaign of support that helped win victory for the striking Farah workers in the Southwest. They fought consistently to end U.S. aggression in Indochina. Last month, they took up the miners' wildcat when it broke out, spreading the work on the walkout's importance and collecting money for the miners' relief fund.

Now the formation of the Revolution-

important struggles in other areas of the country and key issues facing our entire class.

At the same time, *The Worker* for the Md.-D.C.-Va. area and each of the other *Workers* will continue to be produced locally and will continue to focus on the key local struggles of the class. This way each of the papers can best serve to expose the daily attacks and help fuel the daily resistance that occur in every workplace, in every city. These battles are very important and must be built in every area and linked together as part of the over-all class struggle.

The Worker is a tool to build the struggle of the working class and a weapon to strike at our enemies. Like any tool, it exists to be used, so *The Worker* will be out there--in the shops, on the picket lines, everywhere the Party and other workers can bring it to fan the flames. And the more it is taken up and used, the more powerful a tool it will be for advancing 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 on *The Worker*
P.O. Box 3486 P.O. Box 4449
Merchandise Mart Balt., Md. 21223
Chicago, Ill. 60654

SUBSCRIBE

THE WORKER

\$4/ye r

name _____

address _____

city _____ state _____ zip _____

THE WORKER PO BOX 4449 BALTO. MD. 21223

IF THERE'S A STORY YOU'D LIKE US TO COVER ... CALL US

PHONE (301) 947-3070

CROWN CORK & SEAL

TIMES GET TOUGH, SO DO WE!

Nearly 1000 workers at Crown, Cork and Seal, IAM Local 1672, voted unanimously to go on strike Monday, Oct. 6. After 3 weeks of not talking, the company started coming up with a new proposal every other day. The second offer which was essentially the same as the first except with a cost of living after one and a half years was rejected 2 to 1. The third offer which came a day later was almost unanimously accepted on Oct. 25. This marked a big victory for the workers at Crown, Cork and Seal - the end of the second strike in the history of the company, the last one being over 20 years ago except for a more recent wildcat. In a few weeks they were able to force the company into a contract that was considerably better than the first offer, including a cost of living in the first year, dental plan and wage increases of 25% over the next three years. This only goes to show that as times get tougher so do we.

The enthusiasm and determination of the strikers was impressive. They shut the place down tight with 24 hour picket lines set up at all 6 gates. Managers and foremen worked around the clock in a desperate attempt to use the machinery that cost them thousands of dollars a day to let lie idle. The cops played the role they usually do - siding with the company and protecting the scabs. In the first week of the strike 4 workers were arrested for attempting to stop a truck from crossing the line. 2 were immediately released but the other 2 are facing trial, one on a felony charge for carrying a hunting knife. However, the picket lines remained strong and the great majority of truckers showed real class solidar-

ity by turning around as soon as they saw the picketers. Truckers from as far away as Philadelphia went back with empty trucks and the teamsters even refused to service parts of the company which weren't on strike.

A big issue was a cost of living allowance. In their last contract 3 years ago they demanded one but didn't win it. This time they stood firm until they got one. Their contract actually expired Wed, Oct. 1, but because the company hinted it might include the cost of living in exchange for a 3 day extension during which the workers had to bust ass finishing machines and moving inventory, they didn't go out until the following week. One worker commented that giving into the 3 day extension was "a little like locking the barn after the horse got out." There was also plenty of anger about wages and forced overtime. One of the top grade machinists, grade 16, who's been there for 11 years still makes under \$6 an hour. And although the company has recently laid off 47 people, the workers there have been working up to 1000 hours overtime a year! Last Thanksgiving 4 workers walked off at quitting time and were immediately fired for not working their overtime even though by Thur. of that week they had already worked 38 hours. They were reinstated. "It's ridiculous," one striker said, "you make alright money working 60-70 hours a week but forget seeing your wife and kids much less doing anything else."

The strike was hindered somewhat because the 3 unions there, IAM, Steelworkers and Lithographers, didn't support each other. Early on in the strike



Workers at Mass. factory stop scabs

IAM asked the Steelworkers to go out with them. But they didn't go out, the same as a few years earlier when the Lithographers were on strike IAM workers were forced to cross their lines. Future actions will be a lot stronger if all the workers act together with the knowledge that they're working for the same company, fighting for the same things and part of the same class. "We should work together," one striker said, "because if we had all gone out this strike would have been over in no time."

With the first strike in over 20 years, workers at Crown, Cork and Seal showed what unity can achieve and they see the need for even greater unity in the future. They put their anger into action but they're not stopping here because workers at Crown, Cork and Seal know that getting a good contract is only part of the fight; it's got to be put into effect and there are more battles to be won.

LETTER FROM MINERS

SUPPORT OVERWHELMING!

The whole history of the working class of people shows that the companies seek only profit—more and more profits—and that the working people have had to fight them for every gain we ever made. We dig and clean the coal and make billions for them, yet, we must fight them for safety and decent working conditions, higher wages, and job security. We must even fight them for the very air we breathe. They constantly tear up the contract when it suits them, and they constantly try to weaken our union.

Between us and what we need to live on, and then with their drive to make more profits is only our organized power. As working people our strongest weapon is the strike. That is why the month long strike against the injunctions and for the right to strike is so important and that is why it scared the companies so bad.

The demands of the strike were just. Miners came out from Alabama to Pennsylvania, from West Virginia to Illinois, and stayed out because, like other workers, we hate the injunctions and know without our power to strike we have nothing. The companies attacked the demands every way they could. We demanded they re-open the contract. "It's not legal", they cried! "We bought a contract and expect it to be enforced."

Almost to a man miners supported this strike, but by the end of the 4th week it became clear we, the rank and file, were not in a position to



Striking miners battle police during August 25 march through downtown Charleston, W. Va.

see it through to victory. It was necessary to call off the strike, pull back, re-group and continue to organize and build the struggle.

A week after the strike, Arnold Miller, president of the Miners union, issued a 10 point program. The Inter-

national Union officers can now bring to trial brothers who lead strikes and kick them out of the union. There are threats to suspend district and local autonomy—the very victories that the rank and file reform movement won when it put Arnold Miller into office 3 years ago. We are not about to sit back and let them take back these victories that took years of struggle to win. Here in the coal-fields, we the rank and file don't yet control our union, but neither does Arnold Miller or Tony Boyle before him, control us!

The support for the strike from working people across the country has been overwhelming. Messages of solidarity came in from every section of the country. Many workers told of struggles they were waging against firings, speed-up, job rights, and for the right to strike. Contributions taken up at plant gates and those sent by individuals make possible the printing of thousands of leaflets which spread and built the strike. The money has also gone to pay for legal defense and court fines as well as for relief for strikers families. These messages and contributions were not only inspiring and a tremendous help to us but also testified to the growing strength and unity of workers all over the country.

MINERS COMMITTEE TO DEFEND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE, BOX 807, Beckley, W. Va.

MINERS RIGHT TO STRIKE COMMITTEE, BOX 24, Madison, W. Va.

FASCISM IN SPAIN ON DEATHBED WORLD'S WORKERS SUPPORT SPANISH PEOPLE

The Spanish dictatorship's days are numbered, whether the reportedly very ill Franco dies or not.

On Sept. 27 the Franco government executed five men accused of killing police. The men were convicted in military trials and taken out and shot without even the pretense of justice. With this ruthless act the Spanish regime tried to throw terror into the people, and show its determination not to give an inch to the struggle against the government which is coming to a boil.

But this only set people against the government more than ever. Strikes and demonstrations against the death sentences rocked the country throughout September. After the executions, hundreds of thousands of workers across the country closed the factories, mills, mines and shipyards, defying police gunfire to march and demonstrate, drawing in students, housewives, small storeowners, peasants and many others in a huge wave of protest even greater than before.

These actions inspired demonstrations of solidarity all over Europe. In the Netherlands and West Germany, millions of workers held a two minute work stoppage. Greek workers stopped for 10 minutes. In Italy, Britain and Scandinavia, workers refused to handle Spanish ships and planes and cut off telephone and telegraph communications. Huge demonstrations took place in Paris, Rome, Frankfurt and elsewhere, as workers and others in these countries in many cases battled the police who tried to stop them.

This international working class solidarity was so strong that over a dozen governments were forced to temporarily withdraw their ambassadors from Spain in protest against the executions. The U.S. government, however, responded by agreeing on Oct. 8 to supply Spain with another \$750 million worth of arms. This is on top of \$3.2

billion already given to Franco, in return for U.S. bases in Spain and to prop up the Franco regime which has kept wages extremely low and created huge profits for GE, Ford and other U.S. companies.

The Spanish workers movement, which has a long and militant tradition, has grown tremendously in the last year. Despite the repression, the illegality of unions and so on, the workers are increasingly fighting as a single united class. For instance, when miners in the Northern town of Pamplona sat down in February to demand an end to layoffs, workers all over the city struck and closed the town down in support.

Since then there have been general strikes in several cities and regions, organized by illegal workers' organizations (called workers' commissions), to fight for higher wages and against layoffs and speed-up and all the other effects of the capitalist crisis facing workers around the world.

At the same time, these strikes and demonstrations have put forward demands which unite other sections of the people in the fight against the repression of the Franco regime, and for elementary democratic rights such as for the Basque people, an oppressed nationality in the northern, more industrialized part of Spain who are forbidden even to use their own language.

Franco came to power in 1939, when after a fierce 3 year civil war he overthrew the Spanish Republic to "stop communism". In this he was



Frankfurt Germany-Workers demonstrate solidarity with Spanish workers against Franco Regime

backed by Spanish monopolists and the armed forces of Hitler and Mussolini, while other major capitalist countries, including the U.S., pretended to be "neutral", blockading Spain to keep the Spanish people from getting arms. Nevertheless, over 50,000 volunteers from all over the world, including about 3000 Americans, most of them workers, fought side by side with the Spanish people against Franco.

But even with the nearly two decades of open terror, the Spanish regime has never been able to put an end to the workers movement, which is now surging forward once again despite

difficult conditions. And once again, workers in other countries are standing in class solidarity with the Spanish working class.

NEW YORK CITY BROKE BUT THE WORKERS AIN'T

Almost every day we have been hearing about the financial crisis in New York City. The City is having trouble because it doesn't have enough to pay off the money the banks lent to New York last year. The banks have been making a half billion tax free dollars a year from these loans to the City. And now the banks are afraid the City will default on the billions of dollars of notes and bonds and will not lend the city any more money to pay themselves off.

It all sounds very complicated and it is almost impossible to keep track of all the different proposals and schemes to bail the City out. They all sound crazy because they all are crazy. The capitalists are trying to make the City work. Each and every scheme just digs the hole a little deeper. They complain about the giant welfare budget; but then they lay off thousands of workers. The result, more people on welfare.

Every politician from Mayor Beame to Governor Carey to President Ford has offered a solution to New York's problems. President Ford, who has refused aid to the City, say that New York's bankruptcy can be solved by "sound fiscal policies". What kind of fiscal policies does Ford mean. Hell, they have already resulted in 21,000 workers losing their jobs with more layoffs planned. Those still working face 4 day weeks or pay cuts. Schools have been closed down, as have hospitals and fire houses. Other cutbacks include garbage collections, health care and road repair.

What does all of this add up to?

The politicians, bosses, and bankers don't give a damn about the people. For years they have promised us a better life. But all the gains which the people won in New York City came through hard struggle, nothing was given to them. Out of struggle came the schools, free tuition, open admissions, and many welfare programs. The ruling class gave only what they were forced to, and now they are trying to take it all back. They are doing this not out of choice, but out of necessity. There is no profit in providing services for millions of working people when the whole economy is falling apart. So the capitalists must cut every ounce of unprofitable fat, even if it is services which the workers need for a bearable life.

The crisis in New York is coming at a time when the whole economy is in trouble. What is happening in New York is not just a local problem. It is typical of problems which are happening in cities across the country. We are all experiencing increasing unemployment and cuts in our social services. And just as New York is being the hardest hit at the present time they are also pointing the way forward to workers in other cities. The working people of New York are saying to the politicians, bosses and bankers, "We won't pay for your crisis, you won't get away with it!"

When 3,000 sanitation workers were laid-off in the City, all the sanitation workers wildcatted to save the jobs. And when the proposed closings of 5 hospitals were announced, thous-

HOPKINS HOSP. STOP LAY-OFFS

When the bosses at Johns Hopkins Hospital laid off 60 workers in the dietary, housekeeping and maintenance departments, they found themselves with a real fight on their hands. The workers remaining there are determined to win back their co-workers' jobs, and to prevent any future layoffs.

On October 16, between 50-75 workers, members of District 1199E National Union of Hospital and Health Care Workers, held an informational picket line during their lunch break to build support from the patients at Hopkins. They handed out leaflets titled, "It's Your Fight, Too!" As the leaflet pointed out, "It's obvious that Johns Hopkins Hospital under the pretext of keeping costs down, is actually cutting services. Instead of paying less for Health Care, you will be getting less Health Care."

The workers were joined in the picket by several members of UWOC (Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee).

Many workers see the need to step up the fight against the layoffs in order to win. As they told their union leaders, "The union should shut the whole place down!"

SPARROWS POINT DON'T GIVE THE BOSSES AN INCH

At Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Pt. plant, workers are stepping up the fight for every job. In many departments, we are refusing overtime and in some there have been slowdown, sickouts, etc. connected with the layoffs. We can't sit back and wait for "better days". Some departments are cut back to 1947. Many workers have already been laid off for over 6 months. Some of them aren't entitled to any SUB pay. And in other departments like the Pipe Mill, we're working a week on and a week off. More and more we have to unite the different battles which we're already waging into an organized campaign to FIGHT FOR EVERY JOB!

STEEL UNITY, the rank and file group at the Point is building this campaign. Recently we circulated a petition in the mills and at the bars against an International Union By-Law which throws workers out of the union after we've been laid off for a year. The petition also called for building an Employed/Unemployed Committee in both our locals. A lot of workers signed the petition and came up to the union halls to back it up. "Like one worker said: 'It's not bad enough that you work a mess of years only to get thrown out on the street by the company. Now the union you look to for support, kicks you in the ass, too.'"

Both locals 2609 and 2610 went on record against the International By-Law. Also at the 2609 union meeting,



workers strongly put down a proposal to increase expense money for union officials. Worker after worker, including several shop stewards who would have gotten some of the increase, took the mike to lay out that the union is there to fight the company, not to pad the union representatives' pockets.

WORKERS' STRUGGLE RISING

This represents a victory in our fight but we can't stop and rest on it. We have got to get down on building the fight against the company. To fight the layoffs and job eliminations is going to take some strength. We have to unite workers in the plant with those of us who are laid off to build a strong fighting union. A union that will call rallies, slowdowns, walkouts and other job actions every time the layoffs or any other company attacks hit. And when the company or any of their flunkys in our union get in the way, we'll roll over 'em.

While we fight for our jobs, we also aren't giving the company any slack when it comes to the conditions we are forced to work under. At a recent 2610 local meeting, the head of the grievance committee said that since a local paper (STEEL UNITY) did a write up on how we could use Article 14-3 of our contract in our fight there has been a sharp increase in Article 14's filed. (under this article we have the right to SHUT DOWN a job where we find an unsafe condition.) This hack went on to say that he thought that workers should quit using this right that we fought hard to get.

The bosses plan is clear. They want more work from fewer workers and our health and safety be damned. But our plan is coming clear too. Don't give them an inch and fight like hell. And with this plan we're sure to strike greater victories for ourselves and workers everywhere.

PAYING!

ands of workers from every major hospital in the City marched on City Hall. Firemen and residents have defended numerous local fire stations to keep the engines from being driven off into storage. These scenes are happening daily in New York. The workers are fighting for every job, they are fighting against every cut in City services. They are showing us that only the working class can turn things around, and every fight makes our class stronger and more ready to turn things around for good.



TB RATE UP ROTTEN SYSTEM TO BLAME

As many headlines have recently said, the Tuberculosis rate has gone up in Baltimore, making it the city with the highest TB rate in the country. What are the reasons for this and what do we do about it?

City officials' explanation for the high rate is that large cities have so-called derelicts (winos & bums), living in overcrowded conditions, who are alcoholics and who refuse to come in for testing and treatment and wind up giving TB to one another.

But that's not where the blame lies. The real causes stem from the current economic crisis. More unemployment means poor health for working people. There is less money to buy the right kind of food-poor nutrition. Families have to move into more crowded quarters. Alcoholism increases sharply in times of depression. All these are circumstances where cases of TB develop.

The crisis also contributes to the rise in TB by wiping out preventive medical programs and testing which were funded by the government. 3 years ago TB tests were done widely in Baltimore factories. One set of statistics from this testing showed that almost 30% of Black factory workers under age 30 had positive skin tests for TB, meaning that they had the TB germ in their system and stood a good chance of getting a full-blown case of the disease.

These government screening tests no longer exist--a victim of cutbacks in

health care.

To curb this outbreak of TB, skin tests and treatment (mainly pills) must be made available to all working people. Both could easily be done right at work so no time would be lost. The programs that have been cut should be restored and expanded.

Why are these cutbacks in programs happening now when TB and other contagious diseases are skyrocketing? One reason is that under capitalism, health care, especially preventive care, does not make a profit. When the economic system is in crisis like now, the government cuts its costs by cutting services and health programs. The only way to keep the health programs we have and to get more is to fight for them. We also need to demand TB screenings at work.

But testing programs just find the disease and control the spread of it. To really fight TB we have to fight the causes--rotten crowded housing, wages that make it impossible to eat right, jobs where we're sped-up so much we get run down. In fact we have to fight the whole rotten system!

Diseases like TB, which thrive in conditions of poverty, are a result of the capitalist system. In socialist countries, like China, where the working class is in control and people's needs are top priorities, the conditions that cause these diseases can be eliminated and TB is a thing of the past.

TWO OCTOBER REVOLUTIONS PROGRAM

CELEBRATES VICTORIES OF OUR CLASS

In mid-October, in many cities around the country, including in almost every industrial city, workers and friends attended events celebrating the victories of the working class, including and especially the recent founding of the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP)—a product of the class struggle and representing a great advance in the struggle. The celebrations, sponsored by the RCP, were on the occasion of the anniversaries of two of the most historic victories of the world's workers and oppressed peoples, the Russian Revolution of October 1917 and the establishing of the Peoples' Republic of China on October 1, 1949.

At each of the events, a message from the Central Committee of the RCP was read. This message brought out that the millions of workers in this country make up one powerful class that shares common struggles and a common great future. That this working class, through its struggle, and for the first time since the betrayal of the old Communist Party USA about 20 years ago, now has its own Party. The Party represents and fights for the revolutionary interests of the working class, as part of the class; and that this Party is firmly based on one line and strategy, and on a programme, a battle plan, for leading the struggle forward and to victory. The message also emphasized that the founding of the Party is a great victory for the class because it makes possible still greater advances in the future and complete victory over the enemy, and stressed the need and determination to intensify the struggle against the enemy and organize the working class and masses in their millions.

"They tell us we've never been nothing, never done nothing and never will be nothing. But we know better, we know its our class, the working class, that's responsible for everything that's been produced in a factory or mined from beneath the ground." This is the way a speaker from the RCP put it at a dinner program in Baltimore October 19th. The program drew a full house of workers, students, and others in a joyous celebration of our class struggles and victories, about 70 in all.

The working class of this country has a long and proud history of



Mayday in Baltimore 1975—thousands across country united saying "Workers unite against all oppression!"

in 1886 to the miners' strike last month to the demonstrations at unemployment and strikes that today break out frequently our class has been fighting back. All these struggles throughout our history show us that the working class is the only truly revolutionary class as Karl Marx said over 100 years ago, "Workers of the world unite—You have nothing to lose but your chains."

All our history is the history of class struggle; of the oppressed hatred of its oppressors and of the peoples' struggle to get out from under. This is why the lessons of the 2 October revolutions are so important to working people. They show us where the class struggle ultimately leads to—the seizure of state power by the working class and the abolition of class society.

A speaker talked of the earth shaking events of the Russian Revolution—how the toiling masses of the world looked to the victory of the Russian working class with admiration, solidarity, and gained a stronger direction of where our own struggles should lead. The speaker laid out how while the Russian Revolution was raging in 1917, longshoremen in Seattle were refusing to load arms on ships which the U.S. bosses were sending to fight against the Russian workers. And like the speaker said, "They didn't do this because they 'felt sorry' for the Russian workers, they did it because they saw it as being in their class interest; out of hatred for the rulers and towards building for revolution in the U.S.!"

FIGHT AGAINST REVISIONISM

While our class has won great victories, we have also suffered setbacks. In Russia, the working class lost state power to a bunch of traitors

being watched closely and enthusiastically. Off of the experience of the Russian Revolution and the experience of many other struggles of the working class, the Chinese Communist Party and people are proving that the slide into "revisionism" isn't inevitable and workers and oppressed people have learned much from them and are applying the lessons to our own situation.

But the set-backs in the Soviet Union and with the CP-USA can only be temporary. The class struggle continues—the working class in the Soviet Union is certain to take back the power they once had and will wipe out the remnants of the old society. In the U.S., the Revolutionary Communist Party has been formed and is guiding forward the struggle of the working class.

The last speaker of the evening, a brother with much experience in the working class and Black liberation movement, spoke from his own experience of how he became a communist and what the founding of the RCP means. His own experience in the civil rights movement, the Black Panther Party and the rank & file workers' movement reflected some of the great mass movements of the past period. He showed how groups he had been in like the Panther Party and rank and file caucuses in shops had taken up the struggle against the ruling class, but they came up against a roadblock, an obstacle that held them back. That was the lack of a vanguard Party that could sum up and lead the struggles based on the scientific outlook of the working class. Only such a Party could unite all the struggles, particularly the workers' movement and the struggles of the oppressed nationalities in a single revolutionary united front led by the working class. At the same time these great struggles provided the basis on which tremendous advances were made, lessons learned, many people came forward to become communists and the formation of the Party and its Programme were made possible.

STRENGTH AND JOY

Thru it all, the speeches, the dinner and the singing that followed, there was a feeling of strength and joy. At least one worker said, "I have never been prouder of my class". And this was true at the celebrations all over the country. Though the RCP is young, there has been much experience gained. There were many true leaders of the class struggle present throughout the country. Although, the bosses paint these times as dark and gloomy, these celebrations pointed the way forward to the light of the future—to rule by the working class—to socialism!



fightback when they try to cutback Workers

struggle. The speeches pointed out that 2 working class holidays celebrated around the world, May Day and International Women's Day were born out of the struggles of the U.S. working class. The struggle for unions, for unemployment insurance, had millions of people in motion. From the struggle for the 8 hour day

and now the capitalists are back in power. The once revolutionary CP-USA has changed sides and now is a tool of the bosses in holding the struggle of the working class down. These scum have "revised" communism to the point where it has turned into its opposite.

This is one reason why the experience of the Chinese Revolution is

WORKERS HIT UNION BIG SHOTS

WHO SPEAKS FOR THE WORKERS?

From October 2-8, the AFL-CIO top brass held their annual national convention in San Francisco—instead of, as usual, in sunny Miami Beach. But they didn't escape the heat. As usual, they put themselves forward as the spokesmen for "the working man", and the capitalist newspapers, TV and radio obliged them by beaming this nonsense from coast to coast.

A number of workers' organizations came together to challenge this, calling for a demonstration October 3, outside the place where the AFL-CIO brass were meeting, to put forward the real demands of the working class. To build for the demonstration, thousands of copies of a leaflet were passed out inside the plants in northern California, with word spreading all over the west coast.

The leaflet clearly put forward the demands of the class against the bosses, demands that the AFL-CIO big shots were clearly not making and fighting for—Fight the bosses: wage cuts, speed-up and layoffs; Jobs or Income; No more sell-out contracts; and the right to strike. This leaflet received a tremendous response: "Right on!" "These parasites don't speak for us" and "The demands are right, just what we need".

Several hundred workers turned out for the demonstration. The main speaker was from the May 1 Workers' Organization, an organization of rank and file fighters from different industries around the Bay Area, who said: "And what about the dressed up gentlemen inside, our so-called labor leaders. What are they doing besides drawing their fat salaries? They tell us take it easy, don't rock the boat. Don't do anything drastic. Just let us handle everything. Then they go play golf with the bosses and do nothing. And when we tell them to go to hell, they do everything they can to sabotage and destroy the fight. Who the hell's side are they on? In this fight there is no middle ground. You're either on one side or the other. Ours or the bosses!"

A COMMON SENTIMENT

"We are the rank and file in the unions!" the demonstrators and their organizations proclaimed, as one after another spoke to the real demands and needs of workers. A common sentiment was: "We're here today because for millions of workers, conditions are intolerable. We face the crisis of their capitalist system and their attacks on us. They put us out of work in the millions, threaten more layoffs, cut our income by wage cuts and rising living costs, overload and speed us up, endanger our very lives on our jobs—as they squeeze harder to get their companies to pay off profits."

"But the real voice of labor is the working class. Our unions belong to us. We built them. We are the unions and without us these pie-cards are nothing! We take leadership from those who really represent us. We fight that our unions will serve our needs. Not the needs of the bosses. Not to keep us from fighting. We built them for that purpose. These misleaders will not stand in our way and run interference for the bosses!"

The Unemployed Workers' Organizing Committee (UWOC) reported that UWOC organizations are growing nationwide.



"WE ARE THE RANK AND FILE IN THE UNIONS" Oct. 3 rally of workers at recent convention of AFL-CIO big-wigs in San Francisco.

The UWOC speaker said, "Is there a for this fight to grow?" and pointed out that unemployment is faced by millions more as layoffs increase. And with all their talk in general about unemployment, what Meany and his like actually do is to advise the bosses: 'go ahead, make it work, just do better and try harder'."

"By raising a phony issue like 'Buy America' and 'protectionism', this pretends to say something about workers' unemployment. But they know full well that the companies take their business anywhere—anywhere at all—for the cheapest labor. And no matter what words they use, the companies and the bosses aren't able to—and certainly won't—do differently. They can't! They're in business only for that profit."

"Workers know that if we want to make them produce jobs—or income—and not let them get away with putting their crisis on us, the only way we can do this is to fight them every inch of the way. Employed/Unemployed, all of us in our unions or out of work unite together. It's the same crisis, same fight. But do these phony misleaders ever come to us and say 'fight'? We workers are enraged and despite these phonies, we won't take their crisis on our backs. We won't be without. We are organizing for Jobs or Income, now! We mean to get them!"

STRUGGLE AGAINST OPPRESSION

Along with this exploitation there is oppression and we have the same enemy. It's our unity and strength that's going to beat them. The demonstrators said: "Black, Raza (Mexican-American), Asian, White — our class, one fight!"

A rank and file auto worker from On The Line and an Employed/Unemployed Committee of a UAW local, recounted the struggles they've waged trying to make the union leadership take up the demands of the rank and file. The workers are now in the process, the demonstration was told, of battling double-loaded jobs, speed-up, forced overtime, and layoffs—and the UAW rank and file, employed and unemployed, are uniting in this battle.

Postal workers from Uprising and the Committee for a Good Contract told how the International unions had sold out

their demands in the recent contract struggle. As they were speaking, Filbey, American Postal Workers president, walked out of the hall, to a loud chorus of jeers and sneers from the demonstrators. The postal speaker ran down that postal workers would not allow these sell-outs to continue, and they were damned angry. With all other workers they said: no more sell-out contracts!

Electronics workers, mainly women, raised the need to organize the electronics industry and all unorganized workers, a fight which the Electronics

Workers Organizing Committee, which spoke at the rally, is taking up.

Other organizations attending were Warehouse Victory, bus drivers from Draggin' the Line, steel workers and many others.

RESOLUTIONS OF SUPPORT

Resolutions of support were received and read to the crowd. Garment workers, fighting for a good contract in Seattle and Los Angeles sent their greetings, with a visiting steel worker running down how they were taking on the company in an on-going struggle against layoffs and making some progress.



Ninety-one aluminum workers from L.A. signed a statement of solidarity, passed from hand to hand inside the plant, and a good number were at a phone booth to call it in to the demonstration, which greeted it loud and long. The workers told of the murderous point system that forced overtime—and killed a fellow worker. The aluminum workers in L.A. looked to the S.F. demonstration as a part of their fight. Other workers spoke about the crisis conditions that are killing many workers.

As the main speaker said: "For those tens of thousands who are injured and killed every year on the job, we demand safe working conditions. And more. We demand that the right to strike against intolerable conditions be written into contracts. But even if it isn't, we will take that right."

A muni bus driver sort of summed things up: "When we workers get together, we're going to shake the very foundations of this country. There's no power on earth strong enough to stop us."



D.C. DRIVERS PUT BRAKE ON METRO

Metrobus drivers in D.C. staged a slowdown October 29 to demand unsafe buses be repaired, and for throwing out a new discipline code.

The drivers refused to take buses out of the garages that had broken mirrors, no horn, broken speedometers, no lights, bad brakes or other safety hazards. In all 407 buses out of 1800 stayed in the garage.

And those drivers who did take buses out ran strictly according to the book--no running red lights, no speeding, pulling into the curb at stops, waiting to move the bus until all passengers are seated. Many drivers that made their runs ran 1/2 to 1 1/2 hours late.

WHY THE SLOWDOWN?

The drivers had been talking slowdown since Metro came down with a new discipline code early in October. Unsafe buses have plagued drivers and riders for years, but recently the buses have deteriorated to the point where it's almost impossible to find a bus in good working condition.

Many drivers had given up reporting defects because when they did, they were given buses in worse con-



dition. And the next day they'd get the original defective bus back again--with no repairs made.

The new "Discipline Code" would have increased the time period for violations" from 1 year to 3 years and stiffened some of the penalties. Many of the violations are the result of unsafe buses and unrealistic schedules. For example if you were caught running ahead of schedule 4 times in a year under the old code, you'd be fired. Under the new code, if you were caught ahead of schedule 4 times in 3 years you'd be fired.

This trash from Metro was designed to intimidate and harass drivers since the contract expires April 30 and Metro is going to try and take a lot of things away. But their attempt to scare drivers backfired.

GETTIN' IT TOGETHER

The drivers were ready to fight when the code came out and SLOWDOWN was the word on their lips. Everyone expected George Davis, president of the 4500-member ATU Local 689, to call a special meeting to deal with it, but he refused despite the urgings of the rank and file.

But the rank and file showed how they wanted to deal with it when the regular union meeting was held a week and a half later. Three times the usual number of workers showed fighting mad.

The drivers put Davis up against the wall over the code. He talked about Metro's right to set the rules and when he said that he would negotiate to get the code set for a 2 year period instead of 3 the drivers told him that the whole book had to go and that a slowdown had to be

"GET IT ON" AT G.M.

At GM the company recently opened a new parking lot. Supposedly for our convenience. However, this lot has only one entrance and exit. This has created a tremendous problem as far as getting into and out of the lot. There have been several accidents already and now not only do we have to work overtime but it also takes us hours to get home. The traffic light onto Holabird Avenue only lets a few cars through at a time. It wouldn't cost GM much to change the timing on the light as well as provide more exits and entrances. Not with all the profits GM is making off of our labor.

A petition demanding more exits and entrances was passed out at the plant and was taken up enthusiastically as workers rushed to sign. Workers are angry. They want something done about the situation. However, when the bosses heard about the petition, they got scared because people were getting together and threatened the workers circulating the petition, saying it was illegal to "pass out literature on G.M. property".

Some of the workers suggested that

the petition be taken to the Union Hall. This was done and the Union President said the union would look into the matter and if it felt action should be taken, it would be one of the 1976 contract demands. It's now up to us to put pressure on the Union to fight the company.

The kind of unity we built in fighting around the parking lot must continue to grow. And there's plenty to get together to deal with.

G.M. is getting ready to layoff more workers. The company has been stockpiling trucks and now will be laying off 350 workers.

This is only a start. As the economy worsens, more and more workers from G.M. will be laid off. Many will not be called back. At work, the lines are continually being sped up and more work is being added to jobs. And our union leaders aren't doing anything to stop any of this.

We must take up the fight on the shop floor around the overtime, speed-up and layoffs. We must begin now to build for our contract in '76 so we can really put it to the bosses and win what we need.



organized.

By the evening meeting, Metro had agreed to drop the five major disciplinary rules back to 1 year and negotiate the others.

But drivers continued to demand the whole situation under Metro be changed. Many cited the problems with rules other than the 5 major ones. Many voiced grievances they personally had, most of which dealt with the safety issues. One driver summed up everyone's feelings when he said "Metro can shove this code up their ass!" He then tore the book up and threw it on the floor.

UNION LEADERS ROLE

A week and a half later, union officials and stewards showed up at 1/2 the garages and announced a slowdown. A good number of drivers weren't told and took out defective buses as usual. And since the officials gave no reasons for calling it, many drivers were confused as to what was being demanded. But nearly everyone was upset enough at Metro to stage the slowdown.

In early afternoon, when Metro threatened to get an injunction, the union officials ran scared and called off the slowdown. The rank and file, without organization and with confusion over the demands, weren't able to carry it on.

WESTERN ELECTRIC W FIGHT FOR ST

Workers at Western Electric Local 2395 who don't meet their quota are many times told, "If you don't shape up you'll go work the line in the warehouse."

One of the main issues in the shop and one taken up at the October union meeting centered around the new lines W.E. put in to up their profit. The new lines are in an unheated warehouse where workers have to stand up in one place all day. Workers previously worked in an air conditioned shop and had chairs to sit on. Right now no quota has been set and you'd better believe the company is working double hard to set it as high as possible with two bosses for about 8 'experimental' workers. They're moving the workers too fast and when workers work at a pace where they can do a good job they're harassed and pushed to work harder.

This latest attack on the workers, along with many seeing the need for a fighting union, brought about 50 W.E.

ot in Service



CONTRACT AHEAD

The recent upsurge of struggle by the drivers against Metro resulted in some victories—although more could have been won. The code has been drastically modified—and Metro fixed many of the minor repairs on the buses when they were trying to get them on the street October 29.

And it showed the power the drivers have when they get together to fight for what they need—Metro runs scared and do-nothing union officials start moving.

The main thing ahead of the drivers now is the upcoming contract in 6 months. The drivers strength is in their own organization and the support of other working people. The time is now to organize a committee for a good contract to deal with Metro's attacks and make sure the union leadership fights for the drivers not against. A committee that will be able to organize and lead a strike if a walk out is needed.

The forms for contract proposals are out now. Its necessary for all the drivers to get together and submit common proposals. And its necessary to make sure that the people who are elected to the union committee that reviews contract proposals are tight with the rank and file demands and will stick by them. Metro look out—the workers are moving!

WORKERS
STRONG UNION

and C&P warehouse workers to the last union meeting to see if the newly elected officials would stand up for the workers. Most workers voiced the need for a strong, fighting union. One worker put this quite plainly when he said, "I was in a CWA local and we walked out over a shortage of toilet paper. What we need is an aggressive union." Workers saw a real need for unity and it was decided that union officials should see to it that these attacks didn't continue. Workers are also organizing to get shop stewards in each section to build workers' unity in fighting these attacks.

Well, as far as most workers know these officials told the company to stop this harassment, but their words weren't enough. This same harassment continues and it's obviously going to take more than a few officials talking to stop it. It's going to take workers organizing!

WORKERS WIN UNION
AT LIBERTY TV

Liberty TV has been forced to recognize the United Electrical Workers Union (U.E.) as the bargaining agent for the workers there. Also 13 workers who had been fired, laid off, or forced into quitting for union activities won reinstatement and backpay. This victory came just as the workers began to take initiative and show their strength. On the weekend before the company agreed to recognize the union and give the backpay, the workers organized an informational picket at the shop. When people going down Liberty Road saw signs such as "Union Shop Now!"



and "The Workers United Will Never Be Defeated", they showed their support and several stopped to see what was happening. According to a worker on the inside, the picket helped get more discussion about the union going. The presence of other workers from *The Worker* and the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee showed Liberty TV workers that they weren't alone in the struggle. The picket line had, as one worker put it, "a definite effect in forcing the company to recognize the union."

All of this happened in the face of 5 months of continued harassment and firings by the owner Mr. M. "Monster" Lippman. For a while it seemed to the workers that the whole thing had gotten bogged down at the National Labor Relations Board. But rather than sit back and wait they organized the picket line and made other plans to continue the union drive.

Now that the workers have won union recognition they aren't resting on their laurels but are going to step up their organizing even more. Winning union recognition is only the first step. Now they must get a good contract. Also there are several workers who have not yet won reinstatement. The workers are planning to hand-out information regularly at the shop and get the workers together around a set of good demands. One of the main demands is a union shop. As one worker put it, "Only by having the workers really together will we be able to get a good contract."

SHIPYARDS SLOW DOWN -
HIT INCENTIVE

In the Beth Steel Shipyard bosses' continuous drive for higher and higher "productivity and profits", they're increasing "discipline" ("new absentee program", insubordination suspensions, etc.) and incentive rip-offs—trying to get workers to bust their asses, with the lure of "good bonus from incentive contracts". All over the Sparrows Point Yard, people are getting messed over on the incentive contracts. In one part of the yard, workers have been taking some action against the rip-offs.

For quite some time, the fitters who "regulate" large units onto the boat in the Graving Dock have had one of the lowest paying incentive "contracts" (so-many hours allowed to do the job; bonus coming from doing the work in less time) in the yard—yet the work is very difficult. Complaining had gotten them nowhere—action was needed—would everyone

stick together?? "Let's give it a try". People did stick together and slowed down, refusing the overtime—and putting out "quality, not quantity", even though the bosses removed a supposed "ringleader" from his job to another part of the yard. The workers' unity and action has forced the company to back off a little and say they would "look into it" (around allowing the workers more time on the contract). There are plenty of other things around the shipyard that need "looking into" and CHANGING! These 18 workers got the ball rolling for all workers in the yard. Their struggle shows us we don't have to put up with "No Pay" (bonus) on contract slips, being cheated out of "dayrate" or being "disciplined" for "lack of production, insubordination, being off the job". The only language the boss understands is "PRODUCTION". The regulators have shown us how to use that language to the WORKERS BENEFIT. And as "Unite and Fight" the rank and file organization at the shipyards says, "We must pick up the fight they kicked off and then we will really see some changes around here."



MILWAUKEE MEATCUTTERS FIGHT BACK

On Jan. 25 this year, 700 meatcutters struck nine Milwaukee packing houses. Workers in Milwaukee, a strong union town, face the same kind of attacks that are hitting workers all over the country—speed-up, falling pay, layoffs, lousy contracts, high unemployment, the works. They have responded with strikes, which in the last two years have hit almost every major plant in the city. This year these battles have been long and bitter as the bosses, trying to get out of their crisis of profits, come down more and more viciously on the workers.

For nine months now the Meatcutters Association has failed in its attempt to cut the wages of the meatcutters and destroy their union, Amalgamated Meatcutters Local 248. As this bitter battle has raged, workers throughout the area have increasingly taken it up as their own.

The attack on the meatcutters has been underway for a long time. Their last contract ran four years with no cost of living raise until the last two weeks and more than 100 jobs "reclassified" to a new, low-paying "general production" category. While the workers in Milwaukee were losing ground, members of Local 248 in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin lost their union after an 18 month strike was won by Packerland Packing. This increased the determination of the Milwaukee meatcutters, and many began saving up long before the contract expiration to be ready for a long walkout.

As the expiration approached, the Association made it clear that they were out to bust the union. Their offer was no cost of living, more jobs, now paying more than \$5 an hour—to be switched to \$3.70 an hour "general production," and a miserable ten cent an hour raise."

Before the strike, the bosses placed help wanted ads for skilled and unskilled packing house workers throughout the Midwest and told workers, "You walk out of this plant and you're walking out of a job." The workers responded with a slowdown and intensified strike preparations.

LIFE OR DEATH STRUGGLE

This strike is a life or death struggle for both sides. The packing house owners, like the rest of the capitalist class, are in a severe profit crisis. The Milwaukee firms are also relatively small beasts in the capitalist business jungle where the number one commandment is "expand or die." They fear being devoured or driven out of business by the larger, more efficient outfits like Packerland.

The only way they can be sure to survive is to up their profits by making the workers work harder for less pay. For the meatcutters, it is a question of survival, too—their answer to the companies' attempt to make them bear the burden of the crisis is "No way!"

From day one, the strike has been a blow for blow battle. The Association hired a law firm that handled scabherding chores in several recent Milwaukee strikes. Taking advantage of the 16% unemployment in Milwaukee,

the bosses set out to hire enough strikebreakers to keep production going to some extent. If they can just break the strike, they scheme, they can hire back the meatcutters one by one with no union and no seniority.

The workers dealt with the strikebreakers as they deserved and many were unable or too scared to cross the militant mass picket lines. The Association ran to the courts for a set of injunctions to protect their scabs. The workers honored the injunctions, and the leaders of Local 248 told the rank and file not to worry, the union's lawyers would get the injunctions killed in court.

Meanwhile, protected by the ruling class' courts, the scabs went to

in the fight against the use of scabs. They joined the picket lines and organized unemployed workers to honor and support the strike around the slogans, "We won't scab and we won't starve", and "Employed/Unemployed, Same Crisis, Same Fight."

Both public agencies and private firms recruited scabs for the packing houses from Milwaukee's big pool of jobless workers. Demonstrations by UWOC and meatcutters at unemployment centers put a dent in these scabherding efforts, and built broader support for the strike.

Pressured by the growing struggle and support, the Milwaukee County Labor Council, made up of the heads of AFL-CIO locals in the area, reversed their early position of ignor-



"Greeting" scabs at June 4 rally of 1,000 workers in support of striking Milwaukee meatcutters. The meatcutters' 10-month strike against union-busting has inspired and drawn together workers throughout the Milwaukee area.

work unmolested. The workers saw how respect for the injunctions was handcuffing their strike, and first a few and then more strikers rebuilt strong picket lines and started slamming the scabs harder than before. The promised courtroom victory never happened and the injunctions stayed in force, but the meatcutters now ignored them and battled the cops sent to enforce them.

In May, the determination of the strikers was put to the test when two of the smaller companies actually went bankrupt and shut down. Although the closings carried the threat of even more jobs being lost if the strike continued, the alternative was to submit to further enslavement to save the bosses. The meatcutters wanted no part of this; they kept fighting, fighting to win. (In fact, the two packing houses were later bought up and reopened by one of the larger companies in the Association.)

SUPPORT FOR STRIKE GROWS

As the strike went on, support for it grew throughout the area. Meatcutters at a packing house that wasn't struck wildcatted rather than handle scab beef. One hundred and fifty machinists marched out of their plant to the picket lines after work one day. "Buck-a-month" support clubs were started in different industries to collect contributions.

The Unemployed Workers' Organizing Committee (UWOC) provided valuable help

ing the strike and announced their support. To try and keep on top of the growing movement of solidarity, the Labor Council called a support rally June 4. Over 1000 workers showed and the size and strength of the rally sparked a real upsurge in the meatcutters' picket lines in the next weeks.

The Local 248 hacks didn't like the mass picketing and particularly the fact that the rank and file had taken matters into their own hands. They badmouthed and undercut the mass picket lines and came up with a "short cut to victory" through which they could try to control the struggle more readily.

The County Labor Council got a bill put up in the Milwaukee Common Council, the city government, that would "outlaw scabbing." The Local leaders vowed that this law would stop scabs and hurt the bosses more than anything the strikers could do. The Local leaders started a petition campaign in support of the bill. But this sidetrack could only last so long. By August the bill was so watered down as to be meaningless and, even in this soggy form, stood no chance of being passed.

For all that the hacks tried to show that "the system will work for us if we pressure it", the meatcutters' experience kept proving that relying on the capitalists' government was a dead end and that their strength grew when they relied on themselves

(CONTINUED ON P. 11)

17 JOBS WON BACK AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

The month-long struggle of University Hospital dietary workers against the firings of 17 workers on trumped-up charges has ended in victory. All workers have been reinstated with back pay. Dietary workers have been the constant target of attacks by the private contractors that replaced the state four years ago in running the food service. This latest attack brought out the length the ruling class will go to in preserving its profits--with Servomation (the contractor), its Pinkerton undercover agents, the hospital administrators, and Governor Mandel all levelling attacks at these workers. At one point Mandel stated on television that these workers had ripped off \$100,000 worth of food!

But the workers weren't about to take any of these lies and attacks sitting down. All the fired workers, (members of AFSCME, Local 1694) and fellow union members joined forces quickly and in great numbers. They organized a boycott of the hospital cafeteria and wrote up a leaflet exposing management and asking for support from hospital employees and students. This leaflet and later ones were distributed widely and helped cut further into Servomation's profits, weakening its position. Support for the boycott

was strongest among other union members in the hospital, with support coming also from students and professionals. This show of strength certainly contributed to the victories won by all fired workers.

But this victory was a great advance. Union members overall, felt their strength growing out of collective action. Management's moves were seen clearly as attacks on the union, which has been growing in University Hospital as in all other public institutions. They learned that these attacks are the result of the goal of all corporations--profit--and that they'll continue as the imperialists' crisis worsens. Workers involved in this struggle are now back on the job building the struggle. This fight reflects the growing unity and militancy of the working class all over the country. Two years ago a strike by AFSCME at University was defeated in one day after the state government threatened the strikers jobs. When asked why things had changed over the two years, one dietary worker said, "Since then, the union has grown in numbers and strength at University. We're learned that we must be prepared to fight these attacks."



District 1199E-National Union of Hospital & Health Care Employees and RWDSU, AFL-CIO demonstrate at the Washington Home for the Uncurable. After a brief strike, they won full union recognition.

MILWAUKEE MEATCUTTERS

(CONTINUED FROM P. 10)

and their class brothers and sisters. PETITION CAMPAIGN DUMPED

The workers dumped the petition campaign and went back to building fighting demonstrations and picket lines. Some of them worked with members of the Revolutionary Communist Party to develop a program for carrying on the battle. As part of this, a city-wide Meatcutters' Solidarity Committee has been formed, joining meatcutters, UWOC members, and workers from various plants in Milwaukee. With the new surge of activity and solidarity, the Labor Council was forced to call another big rally Oct. 24. Meatcutters and the Solidarity Committee actively built for it, leafletting the main plants in the city with a special issue of the *Milwaukee Worker*.

The determined fight by the meatcutters has the packing houses worried sick. Even with scabs, production and profits are suffering. They have begun "firing" striking workers, calling for "elections" to decertify the union, and, to counter news reports on the strikers' actions, the Association put their top legal eagle on T.V. to announce that the strike is "over for all practical purposes."

This little trick backfired--the lawyer got the surprise of his life when a picket line appeared in front of



Sept. 19 rally at Wisconsin Packing Co, called by striking Milwaukee meat cutters and the Meatcutters support Committee

his house to put the lie to his "victory announcement".

The strike is far from over, but it is the meatcutters who have already won a significant victory on their way to winning the strike. In their nine month battle they have provided an example and an inspiration for other workers and they have built unity and organization among the working people of Milwaukee.

They have taken the proud stand of the whole working class: "It's not our crisis and we won't pay for it!"

LOCAL 1231 RAISE HELL NOT DUES

The leadership of local 1231 of the Laborers International thought they could get over with a dues increase. They called for a union meeting on a weekday night figuring that those who had to work days wouldn't come because they had to get up the next morning, and those who worked at night--well they would be at work so they could ram-rod the deal through. But that wasn't the way the deal went down.

Workers came from as far away as Aberdeen Maryland. There were so many workers there they filled the union hall and there were people waiting outside to get in.

The pitch the union leaders were giving was essentially "We haven't had a dues increase in 2 or 3 years and if we don't get one we will close down."

The workers' reply was "Close down--you aint done that much for us anyway." Then one of the negotiators said something to the effect that "Some of you people would just take the money and spend it on booze anyway". The workers' response was "We can spend our money anyway we like so later for that."

When it came down to the actual voting the union wanted a closed election, but the workers wanted an open election with representatives from all the different areas of the local making sure that the election was run honestly (local 1231 has different places among them Johns Hopkins U., Goucher College, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Fort Meade). The workers won that round. And when the final vote came they voted down the dues increase 99-9.

This was a victory for the rank and file of 1231. But it can't stop there. This should be the stepping stone in a struggle to win back the local from the hacks. We need unions that will fight for us and in order to get them to fight --some of that deadwood has got to go!

TUG STRIKE

(CONTINUED FROM P. 1)

tell you, is that the Baker-Whitely and Curtis Bay towing companies don't want to cut into the profits that they have been making off the backs of the tugmen.

Besides fighting the company and the press, the striking workers have also come up against federal mediators who are trying to sow pessimism in the workers by saying that the company is prepared for a long strike and is going to attempt to starve the workers out. But the tugmen are holding strong and are preparing for a long fight. As one striker said to his buddy, "Six months is going to fly right by."

The determination of the tugmen is a lesson for all workers. And support is growing for their strike. Workers at Sparrows Point shipyards are digging on how the tugmen have put the shipping companies backs up against the wall. There is also some talk among the longshoremen about taking some actions to support the strike. Show your support for the strike. Stop by their picket lines at the foot of S. Broadway in Fells Point.

WORKERS GET SET FOR VICTORY

Workers at General Electric in Columbia are gearing up for the union election which will be held on November 21.

On October 27, as most workers expected, the NLRB ruled in favor of the company to exclude the 900 laid off workers from voting. This vicious attempt of the company to weaken the union drive won't work. The in-plant organizing committee is planning a demonstration at the GE range building entrance over this ruling challenging our right to vote. Workers at GE know that employed or unemployed we're still fighting the same company. We're getting organized now to build this demonstration really big so when the time comes we'll be ready.

We're going to show the GE bosses our determination to fight for a union and beat back whatever attacks they try to bring down on us. Spread the word in every department and among those laid off. Let's show GE that we really mean business.

GE has been trying to cool down the fight to rehire the laid off workers by telling us in the plant that the laid off have up to a year recall rights, but that's sure not what they told the government. At the same time there have been speed-ups and forced overtime all over the plant. We need a union to take up our battles—against speed-up and overtime, and to rehire the laid off workers.

BUILD FOR THE DEMONSTRATION!

VOTE USWA!

BUILD A STRONG UNION!

U.S. LABOR PARTY

CREEPS COVER FOR BOSSES

Almost everyday workers at the Unemployment Office, at several plants and in different shopping centers are subjected to the insults and crazy talk of a small group of creeps that call themselves the "U.S. Labor Party". While most everyone ignores these jerks, they do provide a real service to this country's rulers. One thing is that alot of people are looking for answers as to why we're always in the mess and are looking for solutions. Labor Party says they're Communists and then proceed to blow a lot of nonsense which does nothing but

confuse people about what communism really is. Some examples of the crap they run is their analysis why people don't have enough to eat. They say its because the big 4 auto makers are too busy making cars to produce more tractors. "Tractors", they say, "that's the answer". Everybody should write their congressmen to support some bill giving millions of dollars to the auto company bosses to make more tractors. Forget that enough food to feed everyone is already being produced but the capitalists are storing it away to keep prices and profits high—the Labor Party creeps say give millions more to the automobile millionaires.

Every week they've got a new "campaign" going. One week they want everybody to defend Gerald Ford from being attacked by Nelson Rockefeller. More recently, they're saying that some Baltimore city politicians are the working class' worst enemy. Ridiculous!

Another thing they do is try to stand in the way of people fighting back. Everything working people do, in their eyes, is a CIA plot. At the sanitation strike in July '74 and at many other picket lines where workers are on strike, Labor Party tells them they're fools—that they should go back to work. If some foreman tells one of these Labor Party creeps they're having trouble with their workers, the Labor Party puts out a leaflet calling on the workers to turn in anybody doing any agitation, to the bosses.

You can tell just who these turkeys are by who they call on to help them. When people get angry at their bull and turn on them—Labor Party calls the cops! According to the sick way these fools look at things, the cops are friends of the people while workers who are fighting back to set things straight are the enemy—CIA agents.

These Labor Party punks are always saying Rockefeller this, Rockefeller that. But where does the Labor Party get its money? Rockefeller's main bank, the Chase Manhattan just gave them almost \$50,000.

A worker at the unemployment center told a member of the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee that he went to a Labor Party meeting looking to link up with people into fighting back. "They're into upholding the bosses and their system. Yeah, they turned me off", he said as he joined UWOC, "but sick people like that just make me want to fight all the harder to change this whole damn system."



6,000 SHUT DOWN MASS. G.E. PLANT IN FIGHT FOR JOBS

Last summer, 2 days before a scheduled shutdown, a walkout of 30 workers grew to a plant-wide strike at General Electric in Lynn Mass. against

the company's productivity drive and layoffs.

The 30 walked out when 3 workers in one section were fired for refusing to work outside their classification. The walkout quickly grew to 600. Job elimination and safety were the key issues.

When GE announced a layoff of 500, these workers also joined the strike. Later, GE threatened to layoff some maintenance and engineering personnel, telling them if they wanted to work they had to scab on the striking workers. But the maintenance and engineering workers weren't about to scab; they called the company's bluff and joined the strike too.

Last year GE workers, members of the United Steelworkers, fought for and won the right to strike in their contract and they didn't hesitate to use a strike to get their demands. Single department walkouts often escalate to other departments or a plant-wide shut down. This is what workers aimed to do this time.

After a month, the strike of 30 had grown to 4700 but local 201 president Farnham still had not authorized the strike. It wasn't until 6000 workers were out that he changed his tune and declared the strike "legal". The union called a strike vote but still no picket lines were set up. The workers had to rely on the Boston Globe for information on what the strike was about and the Globe, like all capitalist papers, tells the bosses' side of the story—not the workers.

When the vote came down, many workers were unclear about the issues in the strike and the vote was to end the strike. Even so GE had to give in to some of the workers' key demands. The 3 fired workers were reinstated and there will be no job elimination due to automation. These are demands the union "leaders" had been unable to win in over a year of negotiation.

Patty, Squeaky - Off Target

THE WORKING CLASS MAKES REVOLUTION

Recently, quite a series of events has been paraded across the papers and on t.v.

First, on September 5--Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, a member of the "Manson family," attempts to assassinate President Ford, but there is no bullet in the gun's chamber.

Then, on September 18--Patricia "Tania" Hearst, a member of the Hearst family and heiress to its millions, and three other members of the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) are captured by the FBI. The press starts making a big deal out of the adventures and antics of Patty Hearst both before and after her arrest.

A few days later, on September 22--Sara "Sally" Moore, an informer for the FBI and "close friend" of the San Francisco Police Dept., attempts to assassinate President Ford and fails.

Since September, the stories of these events have, of course, continued to be publicized and built up. There have been spectacular feature articles, and there has been an unending stream of comments by politicians and other upper class authorities.

USEFUL TO THE RULERS

Why the big buildup? It's certainly more than just a way to sell newspapers. It's more that this series of events is useful enough to the rich class of rulers that, if they didn't stage large parts of it, they sure have been playing it for all it's worth.

While Ford, the rest of the politicians, and the big capitalists they represent have earned the hatred of large sections of the American people for all they have come to stand for, they realize that the working people have no use for this bunch of stupid acts and the well-off "alienated" types who are involved in them, and view the whole scene with a healthy amount of disgust. So they've done their best to use this to take some of the heat off themselves and to further their attacks on those they really fear and hate--the workers of this country and their growing struggles, organizations, and revolutionary understanding.

They are moving both openly and indirectly on this. Once again they've stepped up their demands for gun control, or control over the masses of ordinary people who own them. And they are taking advantage of the situation to push the need to beef up

their army of scabby spies, stool pigeons, and snoopers that fell into such disrepute during their Watergate fiasco. And along with all this, they are demanding the strengthening of the various armed police forces, the FBI and all the rest.

Right alongside this immediate attack, there has also been a real barrage of propaganda from the ruling class press about what revolution and revolutionaries are all about. And needless to say, they've been telling us that it's all about weird kooks and spoiled well-to-do types, totally alien to the people.

From the ruling class' point of view, it makes good sense: when the struggle of the workers is growing because there is no choice by the way they force us to live, when in the course of this people are questioning what the hell kind of system this is and does it have to be this way, when still small but growing numbers

call "Squeaky" Fromme a "revolutionary": "I tried to kill Ford," they quote her as saying, "to save the trees." Then they make a big deal about some supposed assassination list of corporation heads and an "International Court of Retribution," all of which are part of the fantasy world of some drug-ravaged brains.

Alongside "Squeaky" and her pals, the ruling class is parading around their stories about the so-called "convert to Marxism," Sally Moore--a bored suburbanite turned police informer who was on the FBI payroll when she took a shot at the President and missed. And the day after this informer's attempted "assassination," Chicago Mayor Richard Daley goes before the TV cameras to announce that all this proves the need for more infiltrators and informers. The commentators and the rest of the politicians and rich types, of course, nod approvingly.



The masses of people make history--not a handful of heroes

of workers are organizing to build revolutionary struggle against the system, why not try to toss a little sand in the eyes of the masses and try to confuse the picture of what revolution is all about?

WHAT THEY REALLY FEAR

They never tell the truth about the things they really fear. That's why around the country they both hid and lied about the recent strike of 80,000 miners. That's why the truth about the year and a half long strike of the Farah workers in Texas, and about the workers around the country who took up that battle as their own was hardly to be found in their papers.

Neither was the fact that revolutionary communists have been involved in building these struggles, and in spreading the understanding that the strength and determination shown in these battles pointed to the day when the workers would rid themselves of the exploiters they were fighting. All this they wrote about only in their journals like Business Week or Fortune, where the capitalists are writing to each other about what to watch out for.

But when it comes to Fromme, Moore, or Hearst, they write endless pages of "inside scoops on the revolution" to spread confusion and to divert hatred away from themselves.

They really have to stretch it to

MODERN DAY MAID MARIAN

As for Patty Hearst, the capitalist press can try to portray her as a "revolutionary," but in reality she is more like a modern day maid Marian who flees her family's castle to join Robin Hood and his merry men in Sherwood Forest in order to steal from the rich and give to the poor. It is true, of course, that anything she may have done seems downright admirable compared to the crimes of her newspaper tycoon father. But in spite of her noble ideals, in the final analysis she's been acting like a spoiled bourgeois kid who finds playing with a gun and "going underground" a titillating substitute for holidaying in Europe.

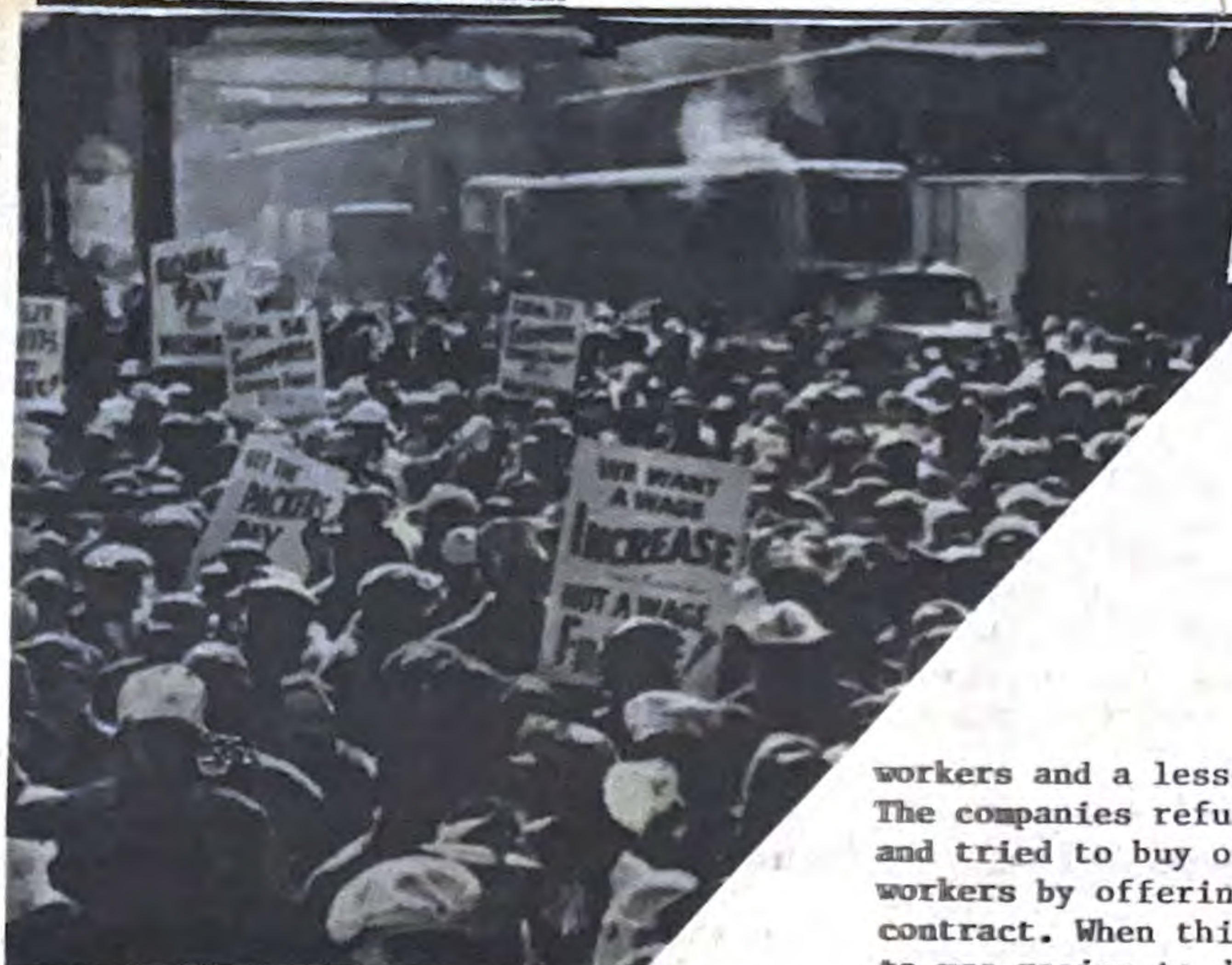
Although Patty left her family, she brought along with her to her underground life a lot of their bourgeois ideas toward the millions of working people in this country. In fact, her whole idea of "revolution" had the masses playing the role of spectators and grateful beneficiaries of the SLA's heroic acts, occasional pawns in their exploits, or even obstacles to their guerilla life.

But while Patty Hearst and her friends were running back and forth across the country, it was the workers of this country who were really taking on the capitalist rulers, against their layoffs, speed-ups--against

(CONTINUED ON P. 14)



Maid Marian in the hands of the law



MEATCUTTERS HAVE FIGHTING HISTORY

The history of the Meatcutters and Butcher Workman of America, like the history of other unions, is one of the struggle of the whole working class to attain its freedom from the yoke of the bosses. The struggle of working people in the late 1800's for the 8 hour day and union recognition sparked the struggle of the meat industry workers for their union.

The stockyards and packing houses of Chicago and other large centers of the late 1800's were the scenes of some of the most brutal and unhealthy conditions ever known to the American worker. In the summer months the stench of dried blood and decaying flesh filled the air of the working class districts bordering the yards. Rats, flies and diseases of every type plagued these neighborhoods causing death, sickness and misery for thousands. In the winter, the workers were forced to thrust their hands into the still warm bodies of slaughtered cattle to keep from getting frostbitten fingers. A false step on an icy catwalk caused many a worker to fall into a boiling caldron of lard or into a hash mixing machine.

The big six meat companies, Armour, Swift, Morris, National Packing, Swartzchild and Salzberg (S&S), and Cudahy, all of which still control a sizable portion of the industry, kept a close check on the workers and especially on the unions. Together they did a gross yearly income of 700 million dollars, quite a sum for 1885. They controlled between 75% and 80% of the market in the Eastern states and 20% to 25% in the West. Up to this time they had been able to keep down the rising anger of the workers mainly by coercion and threats and by playing immigrants off against native born and Blacks off against whites. In 1886 their bubble burst.

Under the leadership of the Knights of Labor, the first workers in the meat industry were unionized. In 1886 the Knights of Labor called the first industry wide strike. The companies responded with Pinkertons, armed goons and the backing of the Illinois judicial system to break the strike. Union members were blacklisted and the busting of the Knights of Labor left scattered independent locals entirely unorganized. In 1897, the independent local joined the American Federation of Labor (AFL) to become the Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen of America. Starting in small towns, the union started an all-out organizing drive to unionize the entire industry. By 1901 they moved into Chicago.

In 1904 the union called for a uniform wage for skilled and unskilled

workers and a lessening of work hours. The companies refused to negotiate and tried to buy off the skilled workers by offering them a separate contract. When this failed they tried to use racism to divide the workers. Skilled and unskilled, Black and white, stood together to resist these attacks and win themselves a union. Over 50,000 workers in five cities walked off the job.

Soon more and more scabs were brought in on special trains, most of these being recently arrived immigrants from Eastern seaport cities. The workers, native born and immigrant alike, stopped the trains, setting one on fire and throwing its passengers into a nearby river. In Chicago, the police and company paid goons attacked the strikers at every turn. Unionized streetcar men and conductors used their streetcars as moving barricades to protect the strikers from the "flying squads" of police. By September, 1904, the sheer weight of armed intervention broke the strike. This one setback did not diminish the fervor and spirit of the workers of the meat industry.

With the outbreak of World War I, the union was able to get the "Big Six" in a tight spot. Faced with the need to increase their output to supply the U.S.'s imperialist adventure in Europe, they had to stop slow-

downs and sabotage in their plants. Using this weakness and not allowing any false ideas of "America first" to stand in their way, the workers forced a contract on the bosses. They called for the 8 hour day, the right to collective bargaining and a pay increase. By 1921 the war had ended and times were booming for U.S. business. The "Big Six" felt that they had been "coerced" into the contract and publically announced that they were going to break it.

Wages were cut and hated company "unions" were formed in every plant. When the union agitated against this, the companies locked out 16,000 workers. The next day 65,000 workers went on strike. A virtual army of over 70,000 workers descended on Chicago for a stay of six months, never once giving the bosses a moments rest until the battle was won. And it was won, unionization was won for all workers in the meat industry.

Today that union has branched out from the big plants and into almost every phase of the industry, chances are the meatcutter you see in your local supermarket is a union member. Yet the battle is still not over. Inflation and layoffs are forcing more and more out of a job. Here in Baltimore, Esskay has layed off and cutback production to keep their profits high and the Goetze plant has closed down throwing hundreds out of work. Our union for the most part is in the hands of pompous bureaucrats who would no more pick up a knife or meat saw than they would fight in our interest. They cringe in the face of the bosses and do nothing that protects our jobs even to the point of putting no-strike clauses in many contracts, especially those which apply to meatcutters in the large chain and retail stores. This union has a proud history of struggle and will not be lost by default. Like in 1904 and 1921, the workers in this industry and every other, will stand together and resist all attacks and fight together until they win.



April 1974, 1000 workers wildcat at Esskay.

PATTY HEARST

(CONTINUED FROM P. 12)

all kinds of intolerable conditions and threats of worse.

It is the struggle of the millions of workers that is the real revolutionary force in the country, and it is the millions of workers who will eventually take up arms to overthrow the capitalists and end capitalism. Because Patty Hearst looked down on the struggle of the masses, refused to join it, learn from it, and build it towards its revolutionary goal, she has ended up a romantic story for her father's newspapers, but far from a revolutionary.

Hearst...Moore...Fromme--all these add up to a pretty freaky idea of revolution, one that is remote, alien

or downright sick to the masses of working people. No wonder the ruling class has built them up and used them to spread confusion and provide a cover for their own real attacks on the masses of people.

The ruling class is not particularly afraid of maniacal mystics like Fromme, bored middle class suburbanite informers like Moore, or romantic heiresses like Patty Hearst. It is the working class that the ruling class really fears and whose growing movement it tries to suppress. But it's the working class and the masses in their millions--armed with revolutionary understanding and revolutionary organization--who the ruling class can't stop.

POST STRIKE

(CONTINUED FROM P.1)

began putting out a scab paper by using helicopters to fly in scabs to repair the presses and fly out copy to be printed at non-union plants.

The U.S. Attorney's office has begun a Grand Jury investigation into the sabotage of the presses and the first day of the strike's battle with scabs, guards and cops. The workers called for questioning have refused to answer any questions.

The Post also recruited the top paid editors and reporters in the Newspaper Guild (writers, editors, clerical workers) to agitate for scabbing on the pressmen. They used the issue of "violence" by the pressmen to call for crossing the picket lines.

When the pressmen first walked out, the Post gave Guild members free coffee and lunches and took them on a tour of the pressroom to see the "violence" done by the pressmen. Of course nothing was said about the violence of the Post when they throw workers with families into the streets with no income.

As a member of the Mailers Union said, "200 guys with families to support who've worked here 10 or 20 years don't mess up these presses and go on strike for nothing". And when you're fighting for your job you sure don't let scabs walk by with nothing done.

About 1/2 the Guild is staying out in support of the pressmen.

THE BATTLE FOR JOBS

Behind the strike is the Post's attempt to throw men out of work. Instead of full-time printers, they want a large pool of substitutes who they can call in any hour of the day and work them as long as they want.

If you're not home 24 hours a day to answer the phone, they keep going down the list when they don't reach you. This way they don't have to pay out any benefits and they don't have to pay unemployment. Guys who used to bring home \$300 a week are suddenly working three or four days a month and aren't eligible for unemployment compensation.

POST NO FRIEND OF THE WORKING CLASS

The Post's image is the great de-



Bosses try to fly scabs in and out

fender of the "common people". The Post tells us they, "brought down Nixon, defend Black people, criticize police and ask the ruling class to listen to the voices of working people, and called for an end to the Vietnam war."

But where does the Post really stand? The Post is one of the 500 largest corporations in the U.S., owning Newsweek magazine, several television stations and other publishing interests as well as having financial ties with CBS and several large banks. They fight with other members of the ruling class in this country over how to make the biggest profit for themselves.

BATTLE OF THE WHOLE WORKING CLASS

Like all big corporations the Post will do everything it can to maximize its profits. In the face of the general economic crisis it is trying to cut its costs—by cutting down its workforce—throwing printers and others out on the streets. This is one of the



Post's press bites the dust



major attacks on the working class today with the bosses squeezing more production out of fewer workers.

Support has been building throughout the city for the Post workers. First initiated by the printers, a campaign to urge people to cancel subscriptions to the Post has spread. It has been taken up by the Greater Washington, D.C. Central Labor Council which is made up of all AFL-CIO unions in the metro area. The local presidents are supposed to be spreading the word to support the Post strikers. We must all make sure it's taken up in our locals and we must spread the word to aid Post workers in their struggle for jobs and to stop union-busting.

As one pressman said, "This ain't just the Post. Every working man I've talked to says the same stuff is coming down where they work. The miners, bus drivers, the Kansas City Star, Miami Herald, New York City—we've gotta stick together. And I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are in this country we're gonna need a revolution with the working man coming out on top."

ATLANTA HARD HATS WALK OUT

On September 30, construction in Atlanta, Ga. stopped cold as the building trades unions walked off the job in a one day protest strike against government union-busting. Five thousand workers poured through downtown Atlanta demonstrating for union jobs at union wages. Office workers, bus drivers and other working people waved and cheered as the march passed.

The workers went out over the deal around Atlanta's new \$600 million rapid transit system which will provide the majority of construction jobs in coming years. The Metropolitan Area Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) has announced it intends to pay less than half union scale!

To do this, MARTA is attempting to use the Davis-Bacon Wage Act against the workers. This federal law, passed

in the 1930s as a concession to the struggle of the working class during the Depression, says any job using federal funds must pay the prevailing wage" in the area—which usually means union scale. (Since almost half of all construction jobs get some federal money, this has helped construction workers protect their jobs.)

Now MARTA says that the transit project is the same as highway construction—which in Georgia is almost entirely unorganized. So "prevailing wage" is next to nothing!

The union-busting attack in Atlanta is no surprise—it's just a new twist on similar attacks from the government and private contractors all over the country, which construction workers have met everywhere with strikes, wildcats, rallies and marches.

Subscribe to Revolution

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

Please make out checks or money orders to Revolution. Send to RCP, USA, P.O. Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL 60654.

Subscription Rates:

U.S.—six months, \$2; one year, \$4; one year by air mail, \$10.

Enclosed is \$_____ for a _____ subscription.

Begin with _____ (month) issue.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

GRAY CONCRETE STRIKE'S WON FIGHT CONTINUES

The strike at Gray concrete is over, a victory for the workers. After a militant 2 1/2 month strike by members of Teamster Local 511, the company was forced to give an 8 cent a year cost of living in the new contract. The workers also won a 30 cent a year wage increase and more health benefits. The company is forced to pay, starting next year, all health insurance and this includes a plan for workers to get all prescriptions at 50¢ each.

Grey, like all companies, didn't come up with anything out of the 'goodness of their hearts'. It was an idle plant and workers united and determined to stay out until they got what they wanted. One of the main things the workers wanted was a cost of living clause. Time after time, the workers walked out of negotiations when the company wouldn't come across. It was this kind of determination that forced the bosses to yell Uncle! On October 20th, the company gave in, signed the contract with the cost of living clause.

But the struggle is far from over. The bosses, on the spot to try and protect their profits have called back less than half the workers. They say there's not enough work. But the workers inside say they've never been pushed so hard. The same unity and militancy that won the cost of living clause is still needed to get everyone back to work, enforce the new contract, and win still more gains.

UWOC LEADS FIGHT FOR JOBS

"I want a job so bad I can taste it." "It gets me mad thinkin' that you work all your life just so you and your family can survive then when the boss needs to make more money, he puts you out on the street." "I never did think too much of rich people, but I always figured the government would look after us. Now I'm learning that the government is just another tool to hold us down." "Working people don't have any choice but to stick together, organize and fight back!" These are just a few of the things that workers are saying at the Unemployment Office. More and more these words are being turned into action. In Baltimore and all across the nation workers are saying—"Don't Starve-Fight".

In Baltimore, the Unemployed Workers' Organizing Committee (UWOC) is kicking off the campaign for jobs. We're not asking or begging for hand-outs—we're demanding JOBS FOR ALL! The unemployed, along with their employed brothers and sisters, are going to build a movement thousands strong to fight for jobs. And we don't want any B.S. about jobs at \$2 or \$2.50 an hour—we want JOBS AT UNION WAGES. As part of building the campaign UWOC is going to have a demonstration November 17 at the Unemployment office. We know that as long as the bosses and their profit-hungry system are in control, we will have to fight tooth and nail for every job.

Even though UWOC is just starting in Baltimore, we've already gotten thousands of signatures on the national

UWOC petition for JOBS OR INCOME NOW. When the workers at Hopkins Hospital demonstrated against lay-offs, UWOC was there, joining in the fight against lay-offs. We joined with fired union organizers at Liberty TV in fighting to get a union shop and their jobs back.

UWOC, as a nation-wide organization of the unemployed is building a movement tens of thousands strong—one that will as part of the rising workers movement all across the country, will bring the bosses to their knees. JOIN UWOC. BUILD A FIGHTING MOVEMENT OF THE UNEMPLOYED.

DEMONSTRATE!

Unemployment Office
Monday—Nov. 17—10 am

Union Jobs At Union Wages
Benefits For All
Fight Against Layoffs—Speedup



FOR MORE INFORMATION: 947-3070

VIETNAM DENIED U.N. SEAT — U.S. TO BLAME

On August 11, the membership applications of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) and the Provisional Government of South Vietnam (PRG) were submitted to the UN Security Council. Thirteen nations voted in favor of adding them as UN members, one abstained and the U.S. vetoed it. After suffering a thorough and humiliating defeat in Vietnam, the rulers of the U.S. are still trying to cause trouble and cut their losses.

The U.S. said it wouldn't use its veto if, and only if, the UN would accept, along with the DRV and PRG, the south Korean regime of Pak Jung Hi—a government propped up by open terror and backed by the U.S. as a military outpost in Asia and a haven for U.S. imperialist investment. "A reasonable policy", said the U.S. ambassador to the UN. "A very reasonable

policy", echoed the TV and newspaper columnists. What a picture the Eric Severaids and David Brinkleys paint! Old Uncle Sam, like Gulliver, being besieged and pinned down by hordes of devilish little people. To the U.S. rulers, this position of theirs is reasonable—to steal and murder in order to snatch up everything in the world they can, and then to complain bitterly about "tyranny" when the people rise up and take things back from them.

For years, the UN had been under the thumb of the U.S. imperialists, who used it as a convenient cover to sever Korea in two, setting up the puppet south Korean regime; to crush anti-imperialist struggle in the Congo; and in general to play the role of "peacekeeper", the world cop who tries to keep the working masses from beating

up on their oppressors, including, of course, the U.S. imperialists themselves.

But the world has changed, and along with this, so has the UN. These great changes, the growing struggle of the working class and masses of people worldwide against the international capitalist robbers, has been inspired in large part by the successful struggles of the Vietnamese people. This, the U.S. says, is "unreasonable". Then it must be "reasonable" for U.S. imperialism to rain bombs on Vietnam, to send 500,000 GIs there to try to shore up that part of the U.S. empire, and "unreasonable" of the Vietnamese people to resist—and even more "unreasonable" of them to win!

But this song of woe the U.S. rulers are singing seems to be falling on deaf ears. On Sept. 19, the UN General Assembly, the body that all the members sit on, voted 123-0, with the U.S. abstaining, to return the DRV and PRG membership applications to the Security Council to be considered again. At the same time, the General Assembly refused to even consider an application by the puppet south Korean regime. On Sept. 30 the U.S. cast its veto again.

Eventually the DRV and PRG will get their UN seats, and the U.S. rulers will have isolated themselves even further. They're not going to find any buyers for their story of being "poor, picked on Uncle Sam"—especially from the people the U.S. ruling class has been ripping off for years, including the masses of working people right here in the U.S.



Saigon textile plant back in operation after liberation of South Vietnam.