

# NEW AMERICA MOVEMENT

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BOSTON, MASS.  
PERMIT NO. 57429

VOLUME V

NUMBER 9

May 1976

35 cents

## Cutbacks Provoke New Wave of Student Protests

by Steve Carlip, Newspaper Collective

More than 10,000 New York students marched through a driving snow storm to the state capitol building in an angry protest against budget cuts March 16. The demonstrators, among them 225 bus loads of students from the City University of New York, were part of a new wave of student protest that has swept the East Coast in the past few months.

Earlier in the year, 6000 New Jersey students and faculty had confronted police outside the state house in a demonstration against a planned \$39 million budget cut. In Massachusetts, students at Clark University occupied the president's office to demand more Marxist courses, while at Boston University the faculty voted three to one to ask the president to resign. In New York, in the wake of the Albany demonstration, students seized administration offices on eleven campuses. From Atlanta to the Bronx to Worcester, Massachusetts, supposedly apathetic students are beginning to join in a revitalized, militant campus movement.

### New York Cutbacks

The New York demonstrations were touched off by state plans to cut over \$52 million from the State University of New York (SUNY) budget. Sponsored by the Student Association of the State Universities, the March 16 march on Albany drew students from throughout the 67-campus SUNY system. As they reached the capitol building where the rally was scheduled, several hundred demonstrators stormed the building, and two were arrested.

Two days later, during a one day boycott of classes, students at Purchase University occupied their school's administration building. Over the next few days, students from Buffalo State, Binghamton, New Paltz, The University of Buffalo, Cortland, the Downstate Medical Center, and other state schools occupied administration offices. Police arrested 26 students sitting in at Fredonia.

On March 20, twenty Asian students at New Paltz began a five day sit-in and fast in the president's office to protest the closing of four faculty positions in Asian Studies. A week later, Jewish students occupied a vice president's office to protest cuts in Jewish, Asian, and African studies. The next day, in solidarity with the other SUNY protests, between 150 and 200 students took over three floors of the administration building.

New York City students, often in coalition with faculty and community residents, have begun to resist drastic cuts in the City

University of New York (CUNY) system. There, the bank-controlled Emergency Financial Control Board, set up in September in response to the city's fiscal crisis, has demanded a complete reorganization of CUNY. Until now, the CUNY system has been one of the few in the country which included a large number of poor and working class students, thanks to its free tuition and open admissions policies. But two of the twenty CUNY campuses are now slated for closing, and new admissions policies have effectively ended open admissions, forcing out

30,000 of CUNY's 180,000 students.

More than 2000 students demonstrated outside a Board of Higher Education meeting on April 5 to protest the cuts. Several hundred angry demonstrators occupied a board office until they were attacked by police, and others blocked traffic at a nearby intersection. On March 22, nearly 3500 students, faculty, and supporters from predominantly black Medgar Evers College marched on City Hall to protest plans to reduce their college to a two-year school.

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## Texas Farmworkers Organize on Both Sides of the Border

by Richard Greene, Austin Friends of the Farmworkers, and Glenn Scott, Austin NAM

AUSTIN, TEXAS -- Top wages for a citrus picker in Texas are a dollar an hour. The average is 83 cents an hour, six dollars a day. Citrus workers in Texas are paid less than in any other state.

The Texas Farmworkers Union (TFW) intends to change that. For the past three months organizers from the TFW have been leading walkouts and picket lines in the citrus fields of the Rio Grande Valley. They are struggling to build a movement like the one their brothers and sisters in California have built over the last ten years, demanding basic human rights -- the right to organize, the right to democratic control over

working and living conditions.

Besides organizing in the fields, the TFW work in the "colonias," the communities where the campesinos (farmworkers) live. Women union members have played a particularly important role, organizing welfare mothers and demanding changes in the local water district laws which do not bring these communities running water.

Within the Union, women have insisted on their importance to the farmworker movement. In March, for the first time, four women were appointed to the TFW board.

This Texas farmworker movement began back in 1966-67 (see NAM, July 1975). It resurfaced last May with spontaneous strikes at the beginning of the melon season. Since then, the TFW and strikers have faced the same obstacles the United Farm Workers have struggled against throughout their history: police and grower harassment (or outright violence), media blackouts, and lack of funds.

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**editorial**

# Return of the Student Movement

Spring is here. The flowers are blooming and the robins have returned. Along with the lilacs and the tulips are the other sign of spring, student protests and demonstrations. Come June and all outward signs will be gone. University administrators have long since learned to schedule unpopular announcements -- tuition increases, firing of popular or radical faculty, cutbacks in services -- for just before exams and the close of school. Exam pressure and summer vacation work against the long term organizing necessary to effectively block such moves.

But they must have miscalculated, for on many campuses militant student groups are protesting tuition increases, faculty firing, cutbacks in financial assistance, increases in class size, and cuts in services such as library hours and resources and counseling and health centers.

The situation has changed from the student movement of the 1960's which focused on more global issues -- the Vietnam War, free speech, university involvement with the military. Students of the 1970's are fighting for more immediate concerns -- for bread and butter as well as roses.

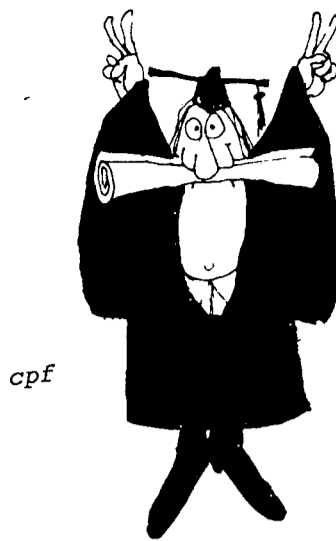
College degrees which seem to cost more and more are making less and less difference in

people's lives. Since 1958 the percentage of college graduates entering non-managerial and non-professional jobs has risen to almost 30%. Real salaries for college-educated workers have declined since 1969 at a faster rate than the salaries of the non-college educated. In 1969 male college graduates earned 53% more than male high school grads. By 1973, this figure had fallen to 40%.

But more than just a drop in salary is at stake. People who work as teachers, social workers, computer programmers, or researchers no longer have the freedom, creativity, and prestige they once did. Their jobs are increasingly monotonous, routine bits having less and less relationship to the task as a whole. They are closely supervised and, just like in a factory, management decisions are reserved for the experts, owners, and managers.

College graduates have been taught to expect more. Degrees were to provide satisfying jobs and higher pay than their non-college educated parents. But the promise isn't being kept.

The issues being fought for now in the universities are the same ones students will be fighting once they graduate into the job market. It is to their credit that in the midst of the sullen seventies they are demanding that America make good on its promises to them.



fire him, claiming he "instigated" a Committee Against Racism protest which disrupted a speech by an anti-busing radio commentator. Morrissey's refusal to release the evidence he claims to have to support his charge has led to widespread speculation that political spying on campus activists has secretly continued.

Clark University students recently ended a ten day sit-in at the president's office demanding more Marxist instruction at their school. The occupation, which involved up to 100 students, initially demanded the rehiring of Marxist professor Alan Gummerson, denied tenure on the grounds that his areas of study are "peripheral" to his department. Although Gummerson has not been rehired, the Clark faculty has agreed for the first time to seriously discuss the establishment of a program of Marxist courses.

In Austin, 150 University of Texas graduate student teaching assistants have joined the Union of Graduate Student Workers. The unionization drive hopes to organize the college's 1300 teaching assistants, who together teach half of all the hours taught in UT classrooms. The UGSW is concentrating on demands for fair hiring and firing practices, a fair grievance procedure, and relief from forced participation in the Teacher Retirement system.

In El Paso, students conducted a three day boycott of classes to protest the trustees' firing of El Paso Community College president Alfredo G. de los Santos. De los Santos carried out policies which opened the school to large numbers of Chicano students for the first time, and his supporters charge that his firing was a result of racism on the part of the city's white elite.

While other campus protests so far this spring have not been as massive or as militant as those in New York, they have been an important beginning. From Atlanta, Georgia, to Olympia, Washington, student activism is on the rise. And as corporate plans to further cut back higher education and force out minority and working class students continue, it seems certain that the supposedly "dead" student movement will be harder and harder to ignore.

## Campus protests . . .

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On March 30, students at Queens College took over several campus buildings to protest the cuts. The next day, students occupied the classroom building at Lehman College.

Students and faculty controlled Hostos Community College in the South Bronx for twenty days starting March 24. Hostos, which has a 98% black and Latin student population and is the only bilingual college on the East Coast, is one of the two CUNY campuses slated to be shut-down permanently. Some 2000 of the school's 3000 students took part in the initial occupation of the building which houses their school. The next day, a mass meeting of students and faculty voted to fire the administrators and continue operation of the school under student, faculty, and community control.

For three weeks, Hostos was administered by a steering committee of 19 student, community, and faculty organizations. Classes continued, the president's office was turned into a daycare center, and the president's private kitchen was used to feed everyone.

Speaking of the decision by the Board of Higher Education to close Hostos, student government president Alexis Colon said, "We

are not going to allow it. If Hostos goes, the entire South Bronx is next." The takeover received extensive support from the neighboring community. The occupiers were forcibly ejected by police April 12, but they vowed to continue the fight to keep Hostos open.

### Massachusetts, Too

Two hundred Boston State College students and faculty crowded into a Board of Trustees meeting March 11 to protest political spying and police burglaries on campus. The action came after former campus security guards revealed that the administration has infiltrated student organizations, compiled dossiers on students and faculty, photographed demonstrations, and broken into the offices of politically active faculty members for years.

Boston State students and the faculty union are also contesting the firing of Marxist professor Steven Rosenthal. Rosenthal was unanimously recommended for tenure by the sociology department, and approved by a three to one vote of the Special Committee on Tenure. But president Kermit Morrissey has decided to

## letters

Comrades,

Peter Anton's letter in the March issue notes -- correctly in my view -- the tragedy of the Left being unable to agree on a symbolic national ticket for 1976 that could at least have "surfaced" a clear democratic socialist alternative. As a member of the Socialist Party I regret that neither the Socialist Party nor the People's Party took seriously the need to agree on a joint ticket. However even at its best, a united ticket would have been only symbolic.

He has touched on the real opportunity for broad Left unity in New York City's 1977 campaign for mayor, where a possible unity of virtually all Left forces could run a major campaign for the Mayor's post, helping "legitimize" open discussion of socialist alternatives by (a) proving that at least significant elements of the Left could unite, (b) demonstrating we could present a serious program that went beyond rhetoric, (c) doing this openly as socialists.

Sometimes I have the feeling that getting socialists to come out of the closet is the most difficult task of all and electoral action is one way we can do this.

Fraternally,  
David McReynolds



Frank Bove, Steve Carlip, Sandy Carter, Chris Casey, Chris Ghibelline, Roger Gottlieb, Carollee Howes, Jenny Lovejoy, Larry Miller, Kathy Moore, Karen Morgan, Elissa Pogue

published monthly  
**subscription** ..... \$4.00  
**sustaining subscription** ..... \$25.00

Unless otherwise indicated, signed articles represent the opinion of their authors. Unsigned articles represent the opinion of the Newspaper Collective.

NAM Newspaper, 16 Union Sq., Somerville, MA 02143

The New American Movement (NAM) exists to help organize a movement for democratic socialism in the United States. Our aim is to establish working class control of the enormous productive capacity of American industry, to create a society that will provide material comfort and security for all people, and in which the full and free development of every individual will be the basic goal. Such a society will strive for decentralization of decision-making, an end to bureaucratic rule, and participation of all people in shaping their own lives and the direction of society. We believe the elimination of sexist and racist institutions and the dismantling of American economic and social control abroad are central to the struggle for socialism.

# Economic Miracle Leaves Brazilians Poorer Than Ever

by Sandy Carter, Newspaper Collective.

After twelve years of military rule, Brazil's "economic miracle" is ending.

Between 1968 and 1974, Brazil's gross national product grew at a rate of 10% a year. Its industrial growth rate was one of the highest in the world. At one time, President Geisel described Brazil's extraordinary development as a miraculous alternative to socialism. Amidst such progress Geisel declared Brazil one of the most politically and economically stable countries in the world. But in 1976, with rising oil prices, shrinking export markets, and heavy trade deficits, Brazil's "marvelous" economy is stumbling. Economic growth in 1975 fell to less than 5%, and the prospects for expansion in 1976 are even worse.

But if Brazil's "miracle" is slipping away, the bitter truth is that for most Brazilians it never existed. In the years of military government, 90% of the population has grown poorer relative to the top 10%, which now controls 50% of the total national income. The top 1% and the bottom 70% of the population each receive 20% of the total national income! This is the side of Brazilian life that is not advertised.

## Opening the Door to Foreign Capital

On April 1, 1964, the "left leaning" government of Brazil, then under the progressive presidential administration of Joao Goulart, was toppled by a military coup. Less than 24 hours later, Lyndon Johnson wired America's "warmest good wishes" to the new government. In November the "good wishes" became concrete when Washington loaned Brazil \$400 million over that already promised by the Alliance for Progress. The U.S. also provided some \$58 million in military aid as an expression of confidence in "constitutional government."

Immediately after the departure of Goulart, the U.S. went to work to "create a favorable climate for foreign investment." The Agency for International Development (AID) budget for Brazil jumped from \$15.1 million in 1964 to \$187 million in 1970. Suddenly Brazil found it easy to qualify for loans from the U.S. dominated World Bank and Inter-American Bank. By 1971, Brazil owed the World Bank \$1 billion for loans to develop its transportation system, electric power, communications system, etc.

## At least two well-armed soldiers guard every street corner in downtown Rio and Sao Paulo.

The Brazilian dictatorship embarked on an unparalleled program to remove all hindrances to the investment of foreign capital. Through a series of political, economic, and "legislative" maneuvers, the various forces of national resistance were eradicated. The government began to "stabilize" the economy, outlawing strikes and eliminating all dissident political organizations. A Brazil-U.S. military agreement, signed only four days after the coup, established a powerful police/military organization. In addition, the new government established laws guaranteeing foreign investors against nationalization.

Today, following over a decade of "economic boom," the Brazilian economy has been thoroughly penetrated by foreign dollars, half of which come from the United States. Foreign capital now controls 100% of the auto industry, 91% of the tobacco industry, 82% of the rubber industry, 60% of chemical production, 68% of the electric products industry, 42% of the clothing and textile industry, and 87% of the pharmaceutical industry. The Brazilian ruling class receives part of the profits of foreign capital, while living standards decline for 80% of the people.

In the streets of Rio de Janeiro, the signs of Brazil's "instant progress" are hard to miss. The downtown area is frantic with people scurrying about to buy up the latest in American or European clothing fashions, music, and household gadgetry. Amid the shoppers, long haired, mod looking businessmen rush down the sidewalks on their way to business appointments or quick macrobiotic lunches. In the streets, drivers bumper to bumper in taxis, buses, and bright new Volkswagons hammer their horns in frustration at the afternoon traffic. Along the crowded beaches of Ipanema and Copacabana, tourists flock to the plush restaurants and open air bars while students, artists, and assorted "beautiful people" soak up the sun, sport around in skimpy tonga bathing suits, and hum the latest top forty hits from America.

This urbanized, modern life is primarily located in the industrial pockets in the southern part of the country -- Rio and Sao Paulo. In the northern region, where about a third of the population lives, the miracle is absent. Here, the infant mortality rate often reaches 50% among millions who suffer the effects of malnutrition and starvation. The illiteracy rate for some parts of the northeast is 95%, as compared to 50% for the nation as a whole. Most of the people struggle to get by, working land they don't own. Half of their crops go for rent; the other half is sold at less than one-third its value. They usually buy at company stores where prices often exceed standard urban prices by 50%.

## In the north, the infant mortality rate often reaches 50%.

This kind of poverty is not restricted to the north and northeast. In Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, nearly half the population lives in the shanty towns called favelas. Stretching up the mountainsides surrounding Rio are endless mazes of huts where over three million people live lives untouched by the "economic miracle."

## Order and Security

Between the "miracle" and the wasteland stands the massive army/police apparatus of the ruling clique. At least two well-armed soldiers guard every street corner in downtown Rio and Sao Paulo. They direct traffic and give directions, but most of all their presence is meant to assure order -- for the military dictatorship enjoys little favor with any sector of the population except for the upper class and the ruling military bureaucracy.

In the ten years since the Goulart government was overthrown, the infant mortality rate among Brazil's 100 million inhabitants has tripled, real wages have declined 50%, and inflation (now officially 33% and probably actually around 60%) has proved uncontrollable. Such "progress" must be backed up by force.

Thousands of Brazilians suspected of disloyalty have been murdered, tortured and jailed by government death squads and military police. In 1973, Amnesty International published a report documenting 1081 torture victims in Brazil. The techniques range from simple beatings and rape to more sophisticated measures such as electric shocks to the hands, feet, ears, and genitals. Despite the international outcry against such acts, the government's systematic use of torture continues. These methods of preserving law and order are not exceptional to Brazilian police practice -- they are the rule. Almost any Brazilian can tell of friends or acquaintances who have suffered such atrocities.

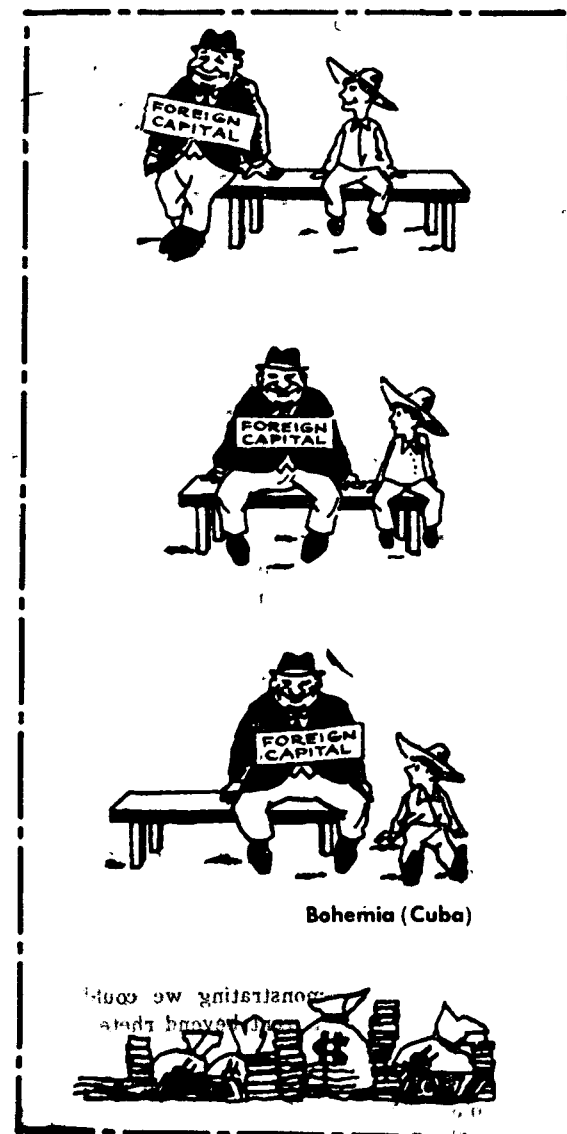
Sprawling over half the land area of Latin America, possessing half of its population, Brazil is of crucial strategic value to the U.S. ruling class. With the financial and technical aid of the United States, Brazil has built up the most powerful military force in Latin America. This new military might, along with Brazil's expanded economic leverage, allows the U.S. to decentralize its "peace keeping" efforts in South America.

Since 1964, the dictatorship has made several attempts to intervene in the affairs of its neighbors. Former President Castello Branco proposed entering Portugal's colonial war in Africa. Brazil threatened to invade Uruguay if the Left won in the 1971 elections. Brazil also flew in "interrogators" to aid the Chilean junta after the fall of the Allende government.

At the same time, Brazil's export economy is moving into the middle class consumer goods markets throughout South America. Brazil's role in penetrating and policing neighboring countries allows the U.S. to maintain a low profile in Latin America without losing control of the Southern Hemisphere. Secretary of State Kissinger underscored this relationship recently, when the U.S. and Brazil signed an agreement stating that the two nations would consult each other regularly concerning international economic issues.

With the "miracle" rapidly fading, the current Brazilian regime's economic future is shaky. Brazil's fragile and uneven prosperity demands a stable international economy. With its domestic market limited by the dwindling income of the majority of its population, Brazil is in crucial need of new markets and continued foreign investment.

Regardless of the repressive efficiency of its military police, the contradictions between the dictatorship and the overwhelming majority of the Brazilian people threaten to shatter the superficial law and order. In a nation where 70% of the population earns less than the monthly minimum wage of 376 cruzeiros (less than \$60), popular discontent is pervasive, if for the present submerged.





## what we mean

# "But We Have Free Elections"

by Roger Gottlieb, Newspaper Collective

The evening news is filled with stories about Carter and Reagan and Udall and Jackson and Harris and Ford. Millions of dollars are spent trying to convince us that one of these men will solve all (or at least most) of our problems. On election night in November the TV newscasters will wait breathlessly for the "historic" moment when we discover who our next President will be. And yet ...

Almost half of the eligible voters in America will not vote.

The percentage of people voting has declined every Presidential election year since 1960, from 64% in 1960 to 55.7% in 1972.

**The nature of work in a factory, the courses taught in schools, urban development and redevelopment -- such issues are usually decided by the rich or by their hired "experts."**

Why are Americans going on strike against the elections? Aren't free elections what make our country "free"? If we are dissatisfied with unemployment, inflation, pollution, and corruption, why don't we just vote in a "new" government?

We don't do that because you can't just vote for change in society. A lot of us have seen through the smokescreen of elections. We are coming to see that the government, no matter who gets elected, is not neutral.

### An Echo, Not a Choice

Often the opposing candidates are not very different in any important way. In '68 both Humphrey and Nixon supported the Vietnam war. This year, with few exceptions, the major disagreement among the candidates (after, of course, who should be President) concerns the amount of government social services which should be cut in order to help big business out of its current slump. While most people have seen that large corporations control the economy for their own good, no major politician is calling for nationalizing large corporations under worker and consumer control.

The American people have seen different slogans come and go. But after the elections, it rarely seems as if these slogans make a difference in our lives. Johnson ran against Goldwater on a platform of "moderation" and "peace" in foreign policy; two years after he was elected there were more than half a million U.S. troops in Vietnam. Nixon ran claiming he would end the war. He did -- but after three years of bombing and an invasion of Cambodia. Many candidates, from Reagan to Harris, promise to make the government and the corporations responsive to the interests of the "average" American. Do we trust them?

### How Come?

Opinion polls show that most of us believe that politicians are dishonest. They say one thing and do another. They make promises they won't -- or can't -- keep. Yet many of us still want to believe, against our better judgement, that some noble and honest politician will come along who will be different. So the candidates are sold as packages of personality and image.

As presently organized, free elections can't give us power over our own society. We are too distant from decision-makers, kept too much in

ignorance of the real facts, too untrained in the self-management which would make real democracy possible.

Many of the most important decisions are not made by elected officials, anyway. The nature of work in a factory, the courses taught in school, urban development and redevelopment -- such issues are usually decided by the rich or by their hired "experts."

In government, the entrenched bureaucracy -- cabinet members, heads of government agencies, etc. -- has tremendous power over what elected officials can do. JFK said that if he made a decision his "subordinates" didn't like, they would simply passively refuse to carry it out. With the amount of work a President is faced with, how could he check up on each decision he's made?

The investigations into the CIA and the FBI have given us plenty of evidence as to how government organizations violate the law. Ford's response to this has been to set up a "special commission," composed of just the kind of men who ran the CIA in the first place, and to make it a crime to make public accusations against the CIA on the basis of "classified" information.

### Democracy and Power

The basic fact is that a complex society like ours is not and cannot be run by each individual in turn casting votes for other individuals. American society is not based on "the individual." Rather, it is based on large, powerful institutions which wield power -- groups of people with sets of common interests and common organizations.

For instance: the large corporations managed our "oil crisis" by withholding production of oil, making comfortable bargains with the Arab nations (even during the oil embargo a deal was clinched for the building of a giant oil pipeline in the Middle East), and ended up with giant profits.

For instance: the Pentagon, the largest single employer in the U.S., with a budget larger than most countries, with leaders who are not elected, consistently falsified information during the Vietnam war to increase its power and importance as the organization which conducted that war.

## May Day

Because May Day is traditionally celebrated by socialist countries and communists throughout the world, few realize that it originated in the United States ninety years ago.

Historians call the year 1886 "a revolutionary year" and "the year of the great uprising of labor." There were more than 1000 strikes in 1886 -- the most famous of which took place on May 1st in cities across the nation. An estimated 350,000 workers from 11,562 workplaces took part in this strike.

The May Day strike centered around the demand for an eight-hour working day without a reduction in wages. This demand originally surfaced in 1884 when the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions passed a resolution that "eight hours shall constitute a legal day's work from and after May 1, 1886." Although the resolution received very little support from the leaders of other organized groups such as the Knights of Labor, rank and file workers enthusiastically began to organize and prepare for May 1st. Tens of thousands of workers joined unions for the first time.

The Eight-Hour Association, led by socialists and anarchists like Albert Parsons and August Spies, was formed and started a campaign in Chicago. Although hesitant at first, because they felt to strike for an eight-hour day was to accept



The major institutions of this country -- corporations, the government, banks -- are nationwide, coordinated, and organized. Even if true "reform" candidates are elected, they can be "managed" by these groups: by a managed recession such as we have now, by a managed oil crisis, by corporations moving their factories overseas, by falsifying information. It is these groups, finally, which exert so much control over our society that we almost never see a political candidate who is fundamentally opposed to their interests.

**... the key to socialist democracy: free elections within the organized institutions themselves.**

### Change

The only time these groups are responsive to our needs is when we organize and force change. And this fact is the key to Socialist Democracy: free elections within the organized institutions themselves. Workers and consumers controlling corporations, schools, the military. People organized as tenants, workers, students, housewives, soldiers, teachers -- and not as disconnected individual "citizens" who are so "free" that they have no ties to the real forms of power in our society.

the wage system itself, leaders of the Association supported the strike when they realized the enthusiasm of the workers.

Employers, politicians, and police reacted violently in many places to the growing organization of workers. In Chicago, on May 3, the brutality of police and their attempt to disperse a peaceful rally resulted in the death of seven policemen and ten workers in Haymarket Square. The press and the forces of order held Parsons and Spies responsible. They were convicted and hung in November 1887.

Workers actually began to strike in the last week of April in some cities, and the strike continued until significant gains were made. It has been estimated that 185,000 workers actually had their working day reduced to eight hours.

Rosa Luxemburg said in 1894:

"The first of May demanded the introduction of the eight-hour day. But even after that goal was reached, May Day was not given up. As long as the struggle of the workers against the ruling class continues, as long as all demands are not met, May Day will be the yearly expression of those demands. And, when better days dawn, when the workers have won their deliverance -- then too humanity will probably celebrate May Day in honor of the bitter struggles and the many sufferings of the past."

# Murdered Inmate's Mother Sues Wallace

by the Committee for Prisoner Support in Birmingham and the Atmore-Holman Brothers Defense Committee

The mother of a brutally beaten Alabama prisoner is suing the men she believes to be responsible for her son's death: George Wallace the "law and order" Presidential candidate; L.B. Sullivan, the former Alabama Commissioner of Corrections; and other prison officials.

In December 1971, inmates at Atmore State Prison Farm were eating the inedible gruel that passes for food at the facility with their fingers, since they had no utensils, and drinking water out of used beer cans rescued from nearby trash piles. It seemed no further indignity could be visited on them, when they learned that the warden had taken the \$800 then in the inmates' welfare fund (money that is supposed to be controlled by the inmates for their own benefit) and used it to buy Christmas decorations to festoon the prison offices.

Prison authorities had done far worse things and would continue to. Prisoners worked up to 14 hours a day in the sugar cane fields for wages of 75 cents every three weeks (soap costs 36 cents at the prison store, only one of the many necessities sold there for more than a week's wages). Medical and dental care is inadequate or nonexistent, beatings to the point of maiming are common, drug traffic is winked at or abetted by authorities. But it was the raid on their welfare fund that was the final step to militancy for inmates at the Atmore Prison Farm. They began to organize.

Inmates were planning for an October 1972 work stoppage, the time of the sugar cane harvest, when a series of particularly brutal beatings in May speeded up the time clock. Nearly all of the 1200 inmates joined the spontaneous sit-down and refused to work pending negotiations with the warden. After four days, the warden agreed to see "leaders" and eight were chosen as representatives. All were beaten and transferred to other prisons. Soon 300 others met a similar fate.

The organizing movement was not to be crushed. Out of the strike was born the Inmates for Action (IFA). The IFA saw itself not only as a vehicle to fight for fundamental human rights within the prison system of Alabama, but also as a means to attain basic technical and political education through sharing

and through teaching each other.

A key concept that emerged in the earliest days was that the killing of any inmate must be protested by all. The men knew that the authorities would seek to divide them through the use of racism and terror to the point of murder, and that their only hope of survival for themselves and their movement would be group protest when one was attacked.

It was against this background that prisoners in the segregation unit at Atmore responded on January 18, 1974, when they were told by guards with bloodied uniforms that they had killed Jessie Clanzey, a member of the IFA, and that "we'll kill you revolutionary niggers the same way we killed him." Before they could learn that Clanzey had survived his beating by the guards, they seized two guards as hostages and demanded that they be allowed to see several public figures whom they named. Instead, Warden Marion B. Harding, with about thirty guards and state troopers, came in shooting.

During the Attica-style attack, one of the guards was stabbed to death and IFA chairman George Chagina Dobbins was shot. Dobbins conversed with inmates when he was carried out on a stretcher and he had no wounds in the head at that time. Yet, when he was dead on arrival at Mobile General Hospital, he had nine ax-like wounds in his head, any one of which would have been quickly fatal according to the autopsy report. With him in the ambulance were the driver and Escambia County Sheriff Scotty Byrnes.

Forty-one inmates were later indicted around this rebellion. No one has been charged in the murder of Dobbins.

On March 13, 1974, Tommy Yukeena Dotson (whose name headed a "death list" found on the warden's desk by a trusty a few days earlier) was beaten to death by four guards with billy clubs while being led to the showers nude and handcuffed. Though the skull-crushing blows were sufficient to kill him, one of the guards also stabbed him. He was somehow able to grab the knife and administer one fatal wound to the guard before dying himself. Yet four prisoners were indicted in the murder of the guard (it was alleged that they had passed the knife to Dotson), although all four were locked in their cells while Dotson was being beaten to death.

Nine defendants, the Atmore-Holman Brothers, were brought to trial between Feb-

ruary and June 1975. Seven were found guilty of murder, and two were declared innocent when the state's witnesses contradicted themselves too often. The convictions are being appealed.

## What You Can Do

1. Write letters of support to the Brothers. Such correspondence sets the authorities on notice that prisoners are not isolated and improves their chance of survival. Understand that mail is constantly tampered with.

Route 2  
Box 37  
Atmore  
Ala. 36502

Johnnie Harris  
Edward Ellis  
Charles Beasley  
Jessie Clanzey  
Lincoln Heard

Route 5  
Box 125  
Montgomery, Ala. 36109

Oscar Johnson  
Anthony Paradise

Route 2, Box 38  
Atmore, Ala. 36502

Grover McCorvey

2. Write letters of protest to:

Gov. George Wallace and/or  
Attorney General William Baxley  
State Capitol  
Montgomery, Ala. 36101

Mr. L.B. Sullivan, Commissioner  
Board of Corrections  
101 South Union St.  
Montgomery, Ala. 36101

Please send copies of such letters to the Atmore-Holman Brothers Defense Committee offices.

3. Send for petitions to U.S. Congress and Alabama officials. Please specify number desired. Write:

Petitions, 1517 17th St. South  
Birmingham, Ala. 35205

4. Organize a support committee in your area.

5. Send a contribution to help pay for production and distribution of information about the case. Address requests and make out checks to:

IFA Defense Committee, 806 6th St. North  
Birmingham, Ala. 35204

Atmore-Holman Brothers Defense Committee  
Box 1245  
Mobile, Ala. 36601

Atmore-Holman Brothers Defense Committee  
507 West 111th St. Apt. 54  
New York, NY 10025

## Police Kidnap Black Activist

by Meshach Davis

A movement is underway to raise \$25,000 to defray the cost of appeals of a ten year sentence meted out to Arthur "Meshach" Davis, a major political activist in the Chicago area during the late '60's and early '70's.

He was kidnapped from Atlanta, Georgia on November 1, 1975, brought back to Chicago and charged with armed robbery dating back to January 1970. His only real crime was that he was a member of the Black Panther Party.

He was sentenced to ten years in prison after the judge refused to reduce his bond of \$115,000; refused to allow him time to prepare his case even though he had never asked for a postponement before; refused to allow him time to obtain an attorney of his own choice; and forced him to trial with a public defender even though he had never discussed his case with the public defender or anyone else. The judge, the state's attorney, and the public defender knowingly collaborated to deny him a fair trial.

His Illinois and U.S. Constitutional rights were not only violated, but trampled upon. The decision of the court must not go unchallenged. Send all contributions to "Free Arthur Davis C60520," Box 99, Pontiac, IL 61764. All support is welcome, both moral and financial.



## One 'Goddam,' Two Years

Bob Canney has been a political prisoner of the state of Florida for almost four months. He was arrested at the end of November 1975 after being free on appeal bond for close to five years. A campaign is now underway to free him.

Canney was arrested on April 18, 1970, at an antiwar rally organized by a black/white coalition. During his speech he said, "let's bring this goddam war home and begin dealing seriously with the problems here." Immediately after sitting down, he was surrounded by five or six policemen and arrested. The charge: public profanity. That charge was soon dropped, but Canney was convicted of an added charge: resisting arrest. He received the maximum sentence, two years.

The Bob Canney Support Committee is demanding Canney's unconditional and immediate release, the dismissal of all charges, and damages for assault on his person. They are also demanding a grand jury investigation of the government handling of the demonstration, charging that police and government agents may have conspired to incite a riot and deprive individuals of their civil liberties.

Letters should be sent to Gov. Reuben Askew, State Capitol Building, Tallahassee, Fla. 32301, demanding Canney's immediate and unconditional release. Contributions may be sent to the Bob Canney Support Committee, Box 1463, Gainesville, Fla. 32602.

## Texas farmworkers . . .

continued from page 1

Last May, when the strike was only a few days old, a foreman opened fire on picketers, wounding 11. The Hidalgo County grand jury indicted all eleven wounded for "inciting to violence," while refusing to indict the foreman. When the strike effort moved north to Pecos, 46 strikers were arrested for trespassing on roads officials had said were public access.

### Lack of Funds

Lack of funds has been a constant handicap. Because the TFW cannot support striking families for a long strike, they have been forced to use hit and run tactics, going to different fields each time to ask the workers to walk out for that day. But even under these conditions, support for the TFW has grown. Seventy to eighty percent of the workers have walked out of the fields within minutes after TFW picketers have arrived.

These obstacles have been further compounded by friction with the leadership of the United Farm Workers Union (UFW) in California. The UFW demands that the Texas organizers concentrate on boycott support, while the Texas organizers (who have supported the UFW boycott for years) want to concentrate on organizing Texas campesinos around their own immediate situation.

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**Last May a foreman opened fire on picketers, wounding eleven. The Hidalgo County grand jury indicted the 11 wounded for "inciting to violence," while refusing to indict the foreman.**

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Differences surfaced in December. Up to that point Cesar Chavez of the UFW had neither publicly recognized the TFW strike nor publicly denounced it. Then UFW secretary-treasurer Gilberto Padilla demanded that the TFW leave the organizing center "El Cuhamil," or be evicted on February 15. "El Cuhamil," located on UFW property, was built by Texas farmworkers to provide a center for organizing Valley campesinos -- organizing that has always included UFW support work.

It is still unclear whether these differences can be resolved. But the TFW will continue its work, in or out of the UFW-owned center. Though they were not formally evicted, an article in the TFW newspaper announced, "... we the farmworkers of Texas have now taken up the task of looking for and buying a small piece of land where we can again construct our offices where we plan to plant the seed of our ideals and the hopes of bringing justice to the campesinos of Texas, in the same way that the farmworkers of California did after ten years of struggle."

### Texas

Texas is a key to any nationwide farmworker movement. Over half of all migrant farmworkers in the U.S. begin their migrations in Texas. Experience with the union in Texas will prepare farmworkers for union organizing in other parts of the country.

The Texas movement is important, too, because it challenges agribusiness, one of the major strongholds of the Texas power structure. One strike last September occurred at Sharyland Groves, which is owned by Alan Shivers, a former governor of Texas and still a major power in conservative circles. Shivers, who once successfully introduced a bill cutting off state funds to any school district that complied with federal desegregation orders, was perhaps the most openly reactionary and anti-labor governor

in recent Texas history.

Rio Grande Valley landowners are major financial backers of conservative politicians of both the Democratic and Republican Parties in Texas.

The events surrounding the farmworkers' strikes -- the racism of the police, the courts, the growers -- shine a bright light on the racist nature of the Valley social structure and have lit up other areas where racism must be fought: the inferior quality of migrant schools, the lack of basic city services to the colonias, the arbitrary operations of the immigration authorities, the paternalism of the Department of Public Welfare. The walkouts, the strikes, the picket lines, the demonstrations in the "Valley of Tears," are showing Mexican Americans in the Valley and in the cities that they can strike back.

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**The Texas movement challenges agribusiness, one of the main strongholds of the Texas power structure.**

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### Solidarity Across the Border

The TFW has built solidarity between workers on both sides of the Texas-Mexico border. The growers have always tried to divide the Mexican American workers from the Mexicans. During the 1966-67 movement, growers hired Mexicans as strikebreakers.

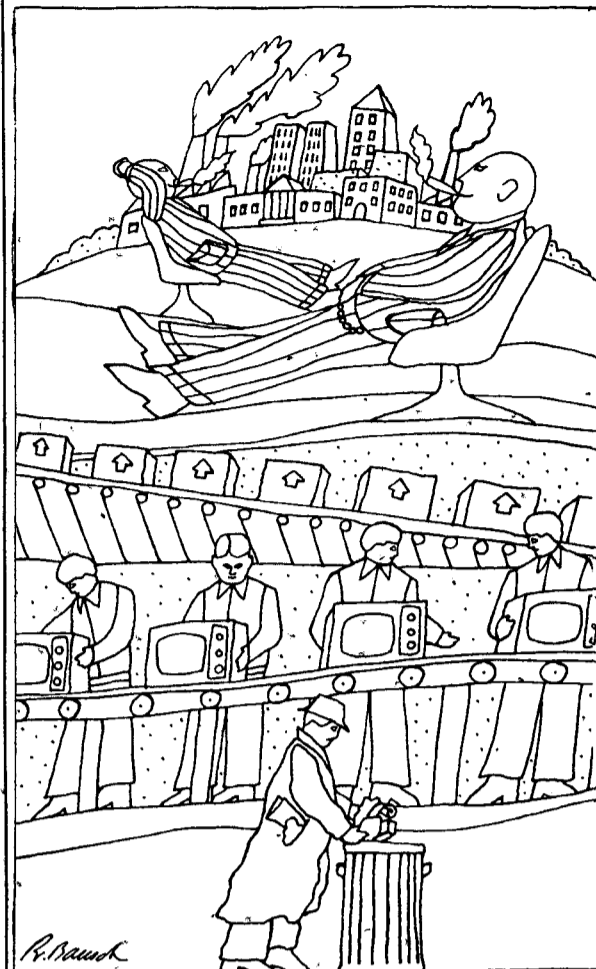
To combat this, Antonio Orendain has used a radio program which is beamed into northern Mexico to emphasize the unity of all workers. Last year when 200 families maintained a strike throughout the melon season, 70% of them were Mexican nationals. Last August, a delegation from the TFW met with farmworkers from the Independent Farmworkers' Central of Mexico to discuss common strategies and goals. Growers which operate on both sides of the border, such as Griffin and Brand, Inc., have been chosen as prime targets for organizing.

Through all its organized activities the TFW is also building support for a bill similar to the California law allowing elections in the fields.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Texas Farmworkers' struggle can send checks to Texas Strike Fund, P.O. Box 876, San Juan, TX 78589.



## labor notes



•Last spring, two workers died and 28 were hospitalized for hydrogen sulfide poisoning at Spencer Leather in Milwaukee. Ten months later, the Awful Majesty of the Law was finally visited upon the company. Sort of. For causing the deaths of two working people and damaging the health of 28 others, the company was fined the enormous sum of \$1000. In fairness to the judge, it was the maximum the law allowed him to impose. We wonder what would have happened to a worker who, through negligence, killed two bosses? [Industrial Worker]

•Many of the millions of jobless Americans who exhaust their unemployment benefits will be driven into destitution and never make it back up again, according to a leading manpower economist. Professor Charles Killingsworth told a Congressional committee that 1.1 million people were cut off from unemployment benefits in 1975, and at least 1.8 million more will exhaust their benefits this year. He cited a Labor Department study showing that only 25% of those dropped from benefits found new jobs four months later. Most of the rest do not become eligible for welfare until they've lost their savings, their cars, and often their homes. "Many of those who are pushed down to this lower level of destitution will probably never make it back above the poverty line," he said.

•The New York City Commission on Human Rights has confirmed that the city's fiscal crisis is being used to carry out massive discriminatory layoffs against women and minorities. Since the summer of 1974, the city's payroll has been reduced 13%. But half of all Spanish-speaking workers, two-fifths of all black male workers, and one-third of all women workers for the city have lost their jobs.

•Striking city craft workers in San Francisco have shut down public transportation and city services in an effort to stop the city's Supervisors from cutting their wages and benefits by as much as \$7000. The workers (plumbers, carpenters, electricians, laborers) have been among the best paid city employees. Now, the Board of Supervisors is trying to cut their benefits to be more in line with other city workers. Some labor leaders in San Francisco have threatened a general strike in support of the crafts workers. On April 12, the Board of Supervisors obtained an injunction against picketing of city workplaces. If obeyed, this would severely limit the leverage the crafts workers have with the city. The city has refused offers by the unions to submit the issue to binding arbitration.

Get your hands on the news

... it sets a pro-labor precedent for other up-... leadership which has forced that...



## Teamster Local Fights to Elect Own Leaders

by Dan Marschall, East Bay NAM

Ten Teamster locals are now under trusteeship by the international, including Beer Drivers Local 888 (Bay Area to Sacramento) whose members once conducted the boycott of Coors beer, a campaign that gained national attention and support.

Trusteeship is an action by which the international union seizes control of a local judged irresponsible and incapable of running its own affairs.

Local 888 was put into receivership in 1974 after a bitter nine month strike had led to its financial collapse. To continue the pressure on local employers after the strike was defeated, the trustees of 888 kicked off a boycott of Coors, the world-famous brew made from real, pure Rocky Mountain spring water and hops imported from Germany. The efforts of beer drivers in 888 added financial clout to a campaign that had been started in 1968 by women's and Chicano groups protesting Coors racist and discriminatory hiring practices in Colorado.

The political and financial empire of Joseph Coors was an ideal target for these efforts. Coors is the fourth largest seller of beer in the United States, with assets of \$250 million in 1972, despite the fact that until recently its sales were restricted to eleven Western states. In 1973, the Federal Trade Commission found Coors guilty of fixing prices, limiting competition, and restricting distribution.



Joseph Coors has become the hub of an expanding network of right wing organizations like the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress, and is pouring millions each year into his efforts to restore "a spirit of patriotic enthusiasm for our fine country." In 1971, Coors quit the National Association of Manufacturers because he found them too liberal and ineffective; he rejoined in 1973 when a Coors man was installed as senior vice president.

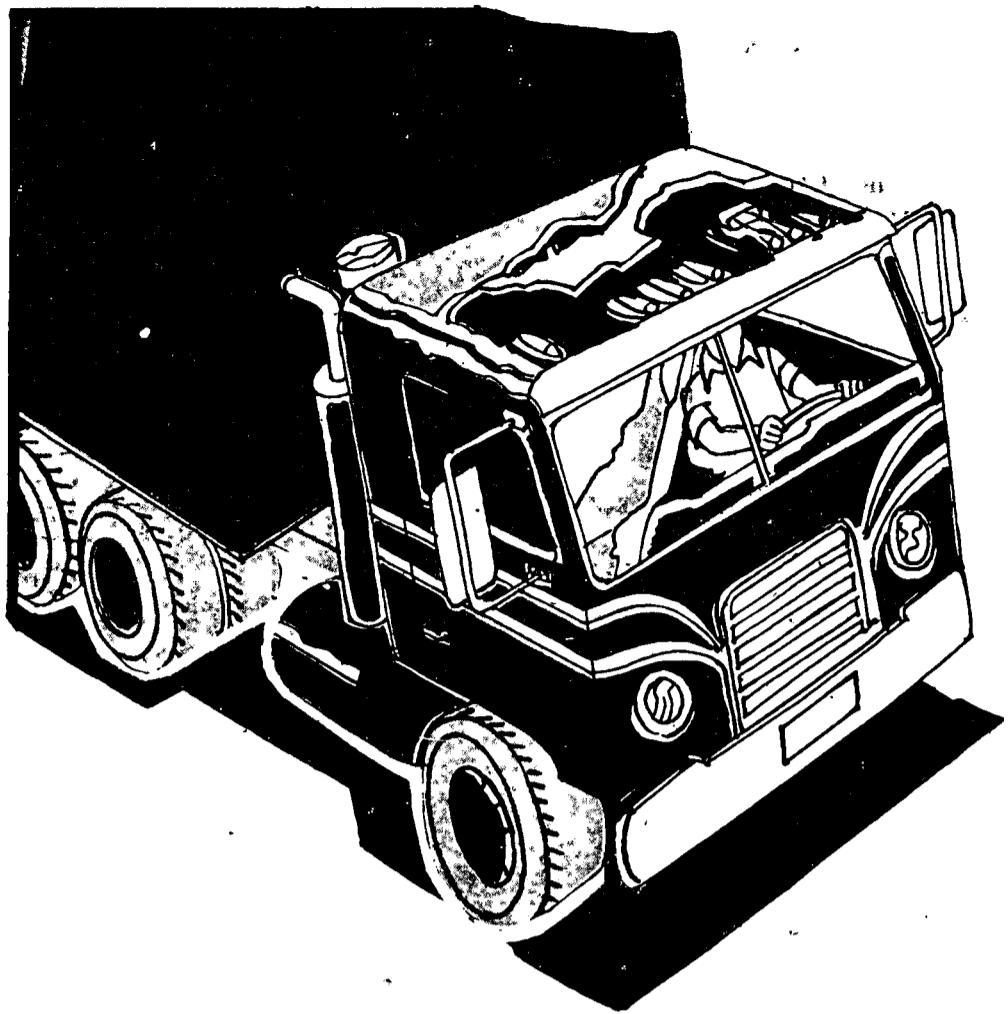
### Trusteeship

Besides cutting the sales of Coors, the goal of the Boycott Committee was to pressure area distributors to adopt an affirmative action policy in hiring. The Committee actively spoke in support of the United Farm Workers, worked closely with Chicano community organizations like CASA, and fought discrimination against gay drivers. Bay Area Gay Liberation succeeded in having Coors removed from almost all of the 130 gay bars in San Francisco. Several openly gay drivers were hired as a result.

In June 1975, the Teamsters union moved against the Coors boycott and the pro-UFW stance of the radical trustees, and replaced them with a Fitzsimmons man, George French, assistant director of the Western Conference of Teamsters. Since his appointment, one of French's main activities has been to oppose the pro-UFW members of the state's Agricultural Labor Relations Board. He has threatened to disperse the beer drivers into other locals while ignoring the requests of Local 888 members for regular meetings.

In opposition to French's policies, drivers in 888 have held a series of meetings in recent months to demand that their union be taken out of receivership and that they democratically elect their own officers.

The struggle inside Local 888 is indicative of both the rising militancy of many rank and file teamsters and of the tactics of the union's leadership which has fostered that anger.



### Teamster strike

# Rank and File Pushes, Leadership Compromises

by Bob Magnuson

On April 3rd, amidst very little publicity, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) and trucking companies around the nation solidified in Chicago a new three-year contract. The settlement, which came on just the third day of a truck drivers' strike, seemed interesting for two reasons: it was both exceptionally speedy and markedly favorable for the Teamsters.

Beneath the surface, however, stronger forces were at work that contributed to this outcome. On the federal government was election-year pressure to avert a crippling truckers' strike. The IBT, with 440,000 intercity truck drivers, could seriously threaten food and industrial supplies, automobile production, and other industrial activity, depleting the economy of whatever recovering strength it has mustered in recent months. Also, the IBT itself has more than 2 million members: no small voting block to be alienated in an election year.

But more significant than pressure on the federal government was pressure within the Teamster Union itself on its leadership.

### Rank and File

Rank and file workers are growing increasingly dissatisfied with union leadership, which they see as the ally, rather than the antagonist, of corporate management. Powerful unions are aligned with powerful corporations which exert some degree of monopoly control over their markets. These corporations, usually able to pass on rising wage costs to consumers in the form of higher prices, are therefore willing to concede to union wage demands in exchange for labor tranquility.

IBT president Frank Fitzsimmons, whose friendship with Richard Nixon is just one reason why his rank and file credibility is hard to swallow, was forced by dissident Teamsters to negotiate a contract much too liberal for his liking. The new settlement includes:

- A \$1.65 per hour wage boost
- Cost of living adjustments that rise over the period of the contract
- Health and pension improvements
- Air-conditioned cabs
- Single hotel rooms while on the road

In all, this contract means a 33% pay increase for Teamsters over a three-year period. Critics say it sets a pro-labor precedent for other up-

coming negotiations.

Unions in Teamster-related industries coming up for new contracts -- notably those in food services such as the Retail Clerks and the Amalgamated Meatcutters -- will try to do as well, if not better, in their bargaining. And if the pattern spreads to the rubber and auto unions in their negotiations this year, the result may well be a higher than expected general rise in the wage level for 1976.

If there is an inflationary effect, who gets blamed? Not the corporations which have succeeded, at all costs, in protecting profits; but angry workers, trying to get a share of what is rightfully theirs.

### Dissatisfaction

In spite of what appears to be a very favorable contract, many Teamsters are still dissatisfied. For them, the issue goes beyond an hourly pay hike or air-conditioned cabs to the central question of control over the entire work process and the decision-making apparatus.

Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC) and UPSurge (an organization of United Parcel Service workers), two rank and file groups formed last summer, were instrumental in forcing Fitzsimmons to take a stronger stance in recent bargaining. But their actions do not stop with bread and butter issues. As Laura Hodge, an UPSurge activist who drives a United Parcel Service truck in Chicago, says,

"It's not only the contract we're concerned with, but with changing the whole union."

Fitzsimmons, who will be re-elected to another five-year term in June, is still very securely in power. But the clout of the TDC and UPSurge is growing, as workers come to question the old union hierarchy and undemocratic structure.

"For too long," says Pete Camaratta of Detroit, a member of TDC's steering committee, "our leadership has kept dock workers pitted against truck drivers, black against white. The union leadership has encouraged alienation."

For the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, as with most other large and powerful unions, violence and gangsterism are part of the daily agenda. In such a context, workers' struggle for control is no laughing matter. As Camaratta says:

"The feeling among many of the guys is, 'Don't rock the boat or you might get your house bombed.'"

*past Presidents*



# You Never Know

# What You're Voting For

# American

by Henry Webb, Middlesex NAM, and Kathy Moore, Newspaper Collective

When George Washington took office as the leader of the United States in 1789, his followers wanted to address him as "His Highness President of the United States and Protector of Their Liberties." Although Americans never adopted the title, people now often assume that past Presidents have protected popular liberties and promoted the extension of equality and justice to all. In this election year, we might think about the choices.

Time and again Presidents have acted to extend the power of the executive, to suppress political opposition, and to limit the freedom of the people when they could. In 1794 Washington took time off from protecting American liberties to deploy 15,000 militia against a rebellion of Pennsylvania farmers violently opposing a federal excise tax on their whiskey. John Adams, Washington's successor, promoted and passed the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798. These measures, aimed against Jefferson, the Republican opposition, and its "immigrant" supporters, provided prison terms for all who combined, conspired, spoke, or wrote "with intent to oppose any measure or measures of the government of the United States."

## We rejoiced when Johnson announced he wouldn't run. We wept when we saw who did.

In 1860, Lincoln was elected on the promise "not to interfere with slavery where it already exists." The Great Emancipator didn't really break this campaign promise, since the slaves freed themselves by running away from their masters whenever the Union Army came near.

### Avoiding Politics

Some Presidents, like Grant, Hayes, and Garfield, blurred or avoided political issues during elections and did little in office. They sat back and allowed lesser politicians to divide up the political plums. Others, like Grover Cleveland, made direct appeals to capitalists and "respectable" Easterners and served their class interests faithfully, as in 1894 when Cleveland sent in federal troops to subdue the Illinois Pullman strikers.

In 1916, Woodrow Wilson was re-elected on a campaign promise to keep us out of World War I. In 1917, we entered the war. At the war's end, this pioneer of "The New Freedom" promoted democracy and self-determination for European

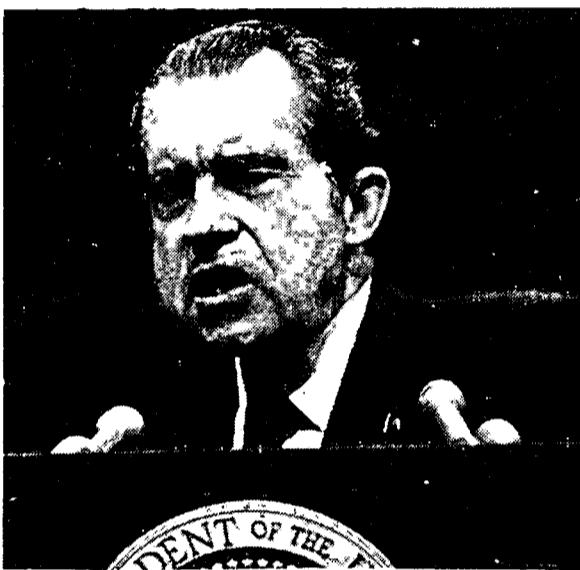


PRESIDENT JOHNSON & SENATORIAL CANDIDATE ROBERT KENNEDY (1964)

peoples as a counter to the vision of economic democracy emanating from Bolshevik Russia. At home, Wilson's Attorney General waged war against unionists and "reds" who sought their own kind of self-determination.

More recent elections haven't given us much to say about controversial government policies.

In 1964, Lyndon Johnson ran against Barry Goldwater. Liberals and even radicals supported Johnson ("Part of the way with LBJ" was SDS's position) because Goldwater threatened to defoliate Vietnam and cut welfare programs. LBJ was slightly suspect as a Southern racist, but he spoke of peace and promised to expand social welfare programs and build a "Great Society." Elected by a landslide, he proceeded to expand the war in Vietnam beyond our worst fears of what Goldwater might have done, and the Great Society was lost in the shuffle.



And Nixon

By 1968, Johnson was receiving so much criticism about the war that he declined to run for re-election. We rejoiced when he announced that he wouldn't run. We wept when we saw who did.

Although polls and primaries showed Rockefeller to be the most popular Republican candidate, the Republicans offered us Richard Nixon, a tired old hawk we were hoping not to have to kick around any more. Although Kennedy and McCarthy were the most popular Democratic hopefuls, the Democrats offered us Hubert Humphrey, LBJ's Vice President and a defender of the policies which had forced LBJ to quit.

The war was the overwhelming issue in 1968; most people wanted it to stop, but neither Presidential candidate stood for withdrawal. Nixon's "secret plan" to end the war got a few more votes than Humphrey's unconvincing attempt to transform himself into a peace candidate.

The war was still an issue in 1972, and the '72 elections seemed to offer a little more choice; George McGovern was at least visibly to the left of Nixon. But aside from McGovern's waffling on every issue in sight as the election approached, that was the election Nixon stole, the Watergate election. Two years later Mr. Nixon resigned and left us with Jerry Ford, of all people, who we hadn't even been tricked into voting for.

And next ...



FORD: Treading the waters of inflation



# "Love Me, I'm a Liberal, Moderate, Conservative"

by Sandy Carter, Newspaper Collective [no relation]

"I don't think this is a campaign of issues, programs, and ideas as much as it is a campaign of trust, honesty, and love."

These are the words of Democratic Party Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter. The former governor of Georgia's hopes to move into the White House are based on his ability to charm the American public into forgetfulness. Armed with a sparkling Ultra-Brite smile, a sturdy handshake, a down-home southern drawl and a little warmed over religion, Carter's campaign message is "trust me and things will get better."

Even if it sounds corny, Carter may be on the right track. After Watergate, Vietnam, the CIA revelations, and the continuing economic crisis, the American people are becoming increasingly apathetic toward elections. A recent national survey conducted by the New York Times revealed that 56% of the people interviewed believe the government can be trusted "only some of the time." Americans seem to be concluding that whatever a government official or Presidential candidate says about a particular issue, he will act altogether differently.

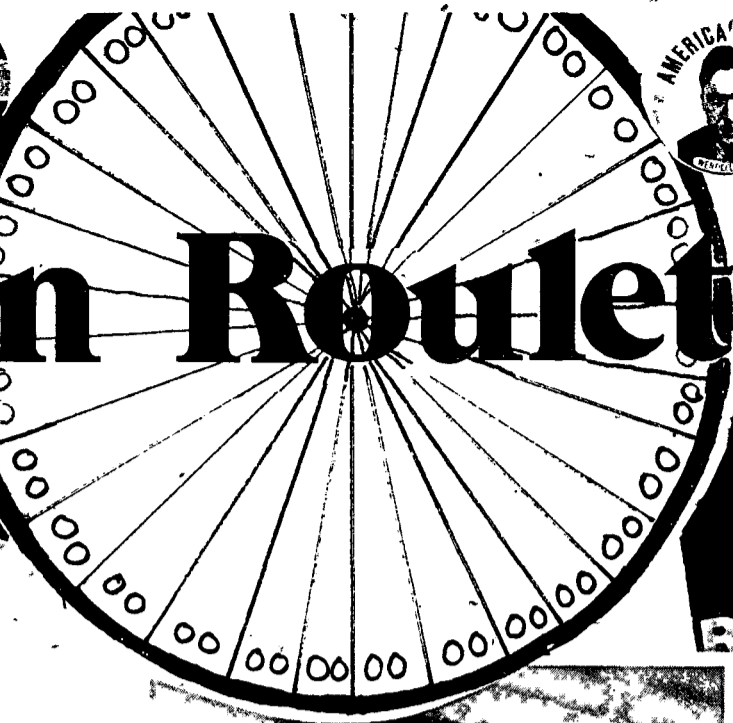
Recognizing this national mood of disillusionment, Carter has decided to worry less about the issues and more about his soul. Pouring forth phrases like "trust one another," "work together," and "be compassionate," the ex-governor strives to invoke a new spirit of leadership.

"I'll never tell a lie," says Jimmy Carter. But what would this "warm," "decent," "good ol' boy" do as President of the United States? For these answers we must penetrate the virtuous mask that conceals a man as slippery as a greased peanut.

## Carter has decided to worry less about the issues and more about his soul.

Jimmy Carter calls himself a moderate. However, his "trust me" rhetoric has taken precedence over laying out any specific programs to deal with specific issues. This approach gives him the opportunity to present himself differently to different audiences.





# n Roulette

# Mo Udall and the Ecology Racket



by Steven Carlip, Newspaper Collective

Mo Udall is a dedicated conservationist who has stood up to big business to force it to stop polluting the environment. Right?

Well, that's what his campaign literature says. But a closer look shows that Udall isn't quite the environmentalist he's made out to be.

In 1966, Udall wrote to the Internal Revenue Service questioning the tax exempt status of the Sierra Club after that conservation organization took out ads in New York and Washington newspapers opposing Udall's bill to dam the Grand Canyon. The Central Arizona Project which Udall had proposed included hydroelectric dams at both ends of the canyon. Six months later, the IRS ruled that contributions to the Sierra Club would no longer be tax deductible because the club had engaged in "substantial" political activity.

The IRS Commissioner claims that Udall's letter had no impact on the decision, but according to a Sierra Club officer, it was "common knowledge" that Udall had met with the Commissioner to urge an audit after the ads appeared.

Udall has since reversed his position on damming the Grand Canyon. More recently, however, he worked hard in his Congressional committee to sabotage a strong anti-strip mining bill which President Ford later vetoed. According to the Village Voice, he opposed a provision which would require permission from owners of surface land before corporations which owned mining rights could start strip mining. At the last minute, he sabotaged a section of the bill which protected water supplies. (In large areas of the West, strip mining would destroy water-bearing layers of rock, and could turn large parts of Montana and the Dakotas into a desert.)

Udall blocked another section of the bill which provided funds for deep mine health and safety. And he cut away most of the Seiberling Amendment, which would have provided incentives for companies to continue underground mining in Appalachia instead of shifting to strip mining in the West.

Mo Udall has done better on the environment than any of the other major Democratic candidates. But on this issue, at least, even the "best" record is nothing to brag about.



CANDIDATE CARTER

When speaking to black audiences he lists America's greatest leaders ranging from George Washington to Thomas Jefferson to Martin Luther King. Speaking to white audiences, he conveniently forgets to refer to the late Dr. King. Carter is remarkably skilled at this kind of selective campaigning.

To blacks Carter speaks as if he were a courageous and consistent civil rights advocate. He gladly refers to his 1971 inaugural statement, "I say to you quite frankly the time for racial discrimination is over," yet he says nothing of a 1972 letter to a Wallace supporter which states, "I have never had anything but the highest praise for Gov. Wallace." Carter tells 200 black students at Florida Memorial College, "There is no reason why I should feel any different about you than I feel about my little eight year old daughter," yet talking in Philadelphia he states that he would not "arbitrarily use federal force" to bring "black intrusion" or "alien groups" into "ethnically pure" neighborhoods.

**He is a wealthy agribusinessman who has built up a net worth of over half a million dollars by warehousing and shelling peanuts.**

### Shifty on Economics

On economic issues Carter is equally shifty. His "love and compassion" goes alternately to the monopoly corporations and what he calls the "common people." To the big corporations he offers assurance he would not break up the oil companies or General Motors. To working people he puts out the "I'm just like you" line, painting himself as a small time, struggling peanut farmer. In reality he is a wealthy agribusinessman who has built up a net worth of over half a million dollars by warehousing and shelling peanuts.

While much has been made of Carter's compassion for the "little guy" and the poor, when the rhetoric is stripped away his programs do not even begin to measure up to the needs of millions of Americans -- needs for food, low cost housing, education, jobs, and health care. Carter opposes government financed public works pro-

# And Senator Jackson...

by Frank Ackerman, Middlesex NAM

Who else stands for Zionism, nuclear war, and full employment?



jects as a means of providing useful work except for groups "afflicted by acute unemployment," whatever that means. He favors national health insurance, but he doesn't want the government picking up the tab. Who would pay? Carter would leave that to the "compassion" of the private sector of the economy. Beyond this Carter's advice is, "We must live as a nation, within our means. The solution will be painful."

Regarding the special needs of third world people and women Carter has little to say. Discussing welfare, he says he would remove only the "dishonest 10%" from welfare rolls. Concerning women's issues, Carter says that he favors the Equal Rights Amendment and that he "might support a federal statute minimizing abortion beyond the first thirteen weeks of pregnancy." He has nothing to say about cutbacks in education and social services. He makes no mention of the need for daycare.

As governor of Georgia, Carter defended the state's anti-union, "right to work" laws which have made Georgia a paradise for corporations looking to exploit cheap, nonunionized labor. He now claims that he is no longer for right to work laws, but he is not against them either. He says that he would not veto a Congressional move to repeal such provisions but adds, "The truth is, I just don't think it's a very important issue."

domestic issues. Before student groups he assures everyone that he opposed the Vietnam War as "early" as 1971. But in May 1972, Carter praised Nixon's mining of Haiphong Harbor in North Vietnam, calling the action "long overdue." Even in the last days of Thieu's crumbling regime Carter supported President Ford's desperate attempt to prop up the dictatorship in Saigon.

When asked about other foreign issues Carter is characteristically vague. He would cut the "waste" out of military spending but somehow keep the Pentagon budget "just about the same." Although a supporter of detente, he emphasizes that he would never "let our country be vulnerable." He adds that the cornerstone of his foreign policy would be the "preservation of a viable Israeli nation."

All in all Jimmy Carter's candidacy can be summed up in one word -- slick! He worms his way around the issues depending on what he thinks his audience wants to hear. But then when you get down to it the other candidates aren't all that different. Ford, Reagan, Udall, and Jackson are all skilled in the art of double-talk. Like Carter, none of them offer any real solutions to the problems facing working people today. Carter may have more "charm" than the others, but his aim is the same -- above all else, to keep the capitalist ship afloat.

On foreign policy matters Jimmy Carter is even more difficult to pin down than he is on domestic issues. If the apples are bad, it's because they all come from the same barrel.

*four down, one still fighting*

## Menominee Warrior Faces Trial Alone

by Phyllis Girouard

In a well-guarded courtroom 100 miles away from the Menominee Reservation, Menominee Warrior Mike Sturdevant stands trial. On April 1, jury selection began in the felony trial arising from the Menominee Warrior Society repossession of an abandoned abbey in Gresham, Wisconsin last winter (see NAM, February 1976). Judge Gergen's courtroom in rural Dodge County is heavily guarded by "law enforcement" agents, ironically the judge's only concession that this is a political trial.

There will be no treaty hearing in this case -- despite the Warriors' belief that they were vindicating their treaty rights by repossessing the abbey, despite the central role that treaty issues play in the defense, and despite nearly a year of intensive work preparing for the treaty hearing which Judge Gergen had previously said he would allow.

No longer are there five defendants facing trial together. On February 3, the anniversary of the evacuation of the abbey, Menominee Sheriff "Paddo" Fish shot Menominee Warriors John Waubanascum, Jr. and Arlin Paminet in the back, killing both. John, a defendant, was an important witness for the defense.

Governor Lucey has refused to suspend Sheriff Fish from office despite repeated warnings and strong evidence that Fish, often drunk while on duty, is a dangerous man. An investigation of Fish by the Wisconsin Justice Department was a whitewash. The Justice Department continues to prosecute this case, while Fish is now a deputy U.S. marshal on the reservation. Governmental misconduct goes back to FBI informant Douglas Durham's activities at the abbey, but this latest tragedy is official misconduct as blatant as that practiced in South Dakota.

### Underground

Another abbey defendant, Robert "Quill" Chevalier, has been underground since the trial began. A fifty-man SWAT team, allegedly looking for Quill, surrounded his mother's house on the reservation and arrested two of his brothers and another Warrior on charges of assaulting a federal officer. One tangible result of the Menominee tribe's restoration to federal trust status is the government's ability to levy federal criminal charges against the Warriors.

The abbey defendants were prevented from presenting a meaningful defense by Judge Gergen's orders denying the treaty hearing and over 50 other defense motions. They knew they would stand trial before a hostile jury; a jury survey conducted last summer proved the local populace to be more prejudiced than the communities surrounding the Attica Brothers and Joann Little before their trials were moved. Rather than face this charade of justice, two of the remaining defendants, John Perrote and Dory Dixon, have agreed to plead guilty.

Thus, Mike Sturdevant stands trial alone in Juneau, Wisconsin. Representing himself, assisted by the Menominee Legal Defense/Offense Committee, Mike will try to educate those jurors and that judge. He will try to make them understand that Native Americans acting on their treaty rights are not the criminals in this country. Since official lawlessness -- both action and inaction -- has killed Mike's brother-in-law and co-defendant, John Waubanascum, and driven three other defendants to scorn the white man's court room, Judge Gergen will be hard pressed to deny the political nature of this trial.

For more information and to provide badly needed financial contributions for this legal defense as well as suits to remove Sheriff Fish from office and to protest police brutality, write to Mary Kay Baum, Menominee Legal Defense/Offense Committee, P.O. Box 431, Keshena, WI 54135.



## Five Indian Activists on Trial, One Defendant Murdered

PORTLAND, OREGON -- Four members of the American Indian Movement (AIM), Russ Redner, Loud Hawk, Ka Mook Banks, and Dennis Banks, go on trial in Federal District Court here May 12. They are charged with fire arms violations.

Redner, Loud Hawk, Ka Mook, and Anna Mae Aquash were arrested near Vale, Oregon last November 14 after state police opened fire on the two cars they were driving. There is no evidence that the four AIM people fired any weapons. Though the FBI claims to have found dynamite in one of the cars, their only proof of this is a photo of a pile of dynamite.

The police say that Dennis Banks and another AIM leader, Leonard Peltier, fled from the scene. Banks and Peltier both insist that they were not even in Oregon at the time. Banks was arrested in California and extradited to Oregon. Peltier is in jail in Vancouver, British Columbia. He is fighting extradition.

Anna Mae Aquash, who was arrested with the others, was extradited to South Dakota where she was wanted on another flimsy fire arms charge. She appeared in court in Rapid City on November 24 and was released on her own recognizance and told to appear in court the next day.

That was the last time she was seen alive.

Weeks later her body was found in a ditch near Wanblee on the Pine Ridge Reservation. She had been so badly beaten that the corpse was not readily identifiable. The FBI cut off the hands and sent them to Washington where the finger prints were identified. Meanwhile they buried her and the federal doctor announced that she had died of exposure.

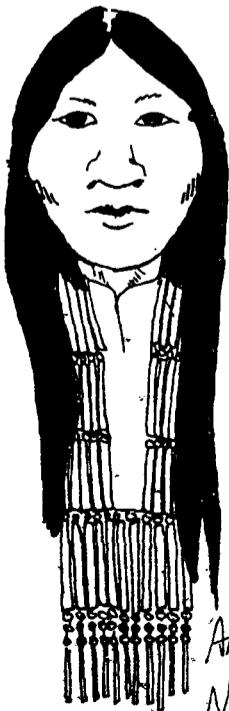
### A Bullet in the Brain

Anna Mae's family obtained a court order to have the body exhumed and hired an independent pathologist to do an autopsy. He discovered that she died of a bullet in the brain. She had been shot in the back of the head.

Since AIM's occupation of Wounded Knee in 1973, 250 Indians have been killed on the Pine Ridge Reseryation. Three-fourths of these murders are related to FBI repression of AIM.

Following the Oregon trial Banks and Peltier face extradition to South Dakota to face charges related to the Wounded Knee occupation. The Attorney General of South Dakota has said that the way to solve the AIM problem is "put a bullet in a guy's head and he won't bother you any more." It looks like he means it.

Contributions and requests for information and support petitions can be sent to Loud Hawk-Redner Defense/Offense Committee, P.O. box 801, Portland, OR 97207.



Akwesasne  
Notes

# Son of PSP Leader Murdered

by Emily Yozell, Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee

On March 25, 1976, the son of the Secretary General of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party was murdered.

Santiago Mari Pesquera, 24 years old, son of Juan Mari Bras and Paquita Pesquera, was found murdered near Caguas, Puerto Rico. "Chagui" as he was known, was shot in the right temple. The police discarded robbery or suicide as possible motives for the crime.

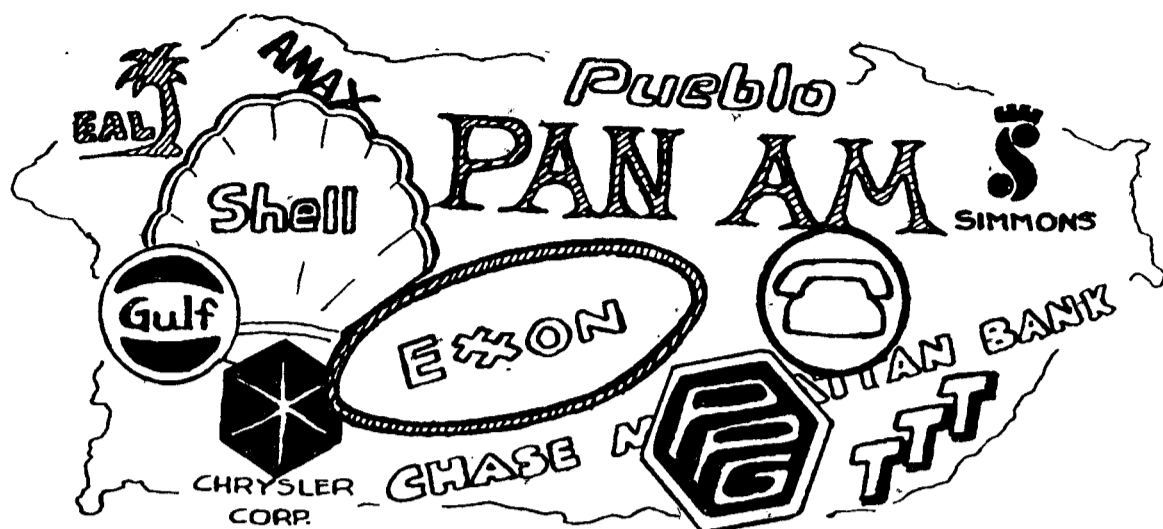
At a press conference that afternoon, Florencio Merced and Ramon Arbona, members of the Political Commission of the PSP, and Carlos Gallisa, member of the Central Committee of the PSP, stated that "this horrendous assassination has a clear political character and is the first time in the history of Puerto Rico that we reach the extreme of killing the son of a political leader." Merced said, "The members and the leaders of the PSP are so used to threats and attempts on their lives that we no longer inform the police, since they absolutely never do anything to investigate." He added that in a recent attempt against Rosa Mercedes Mari, daughter of Mari Bras, criminals shot several times at her residence while shouting, "Communists, we're going to kill you all."

Ruben Berrios, president of the Puerto Rican Independence Party, commented, "Maybe at this time the best way to console our comrade Juan Mari Bras and his family is to let them know that all the men and women who are proud to be in this country share their pain."

Other condolences were expressed by leaders of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party, the Popular Democrat Party, and many prominent families.

Julio Vives Vargas, President of the PSP, said, "In denouncing this crime we reiterate to our people that they can be fully confident that we will never vacillate ... that we will never be intimidated by any aggression that can possibly be taken against us. Our commitment to the struggle is unbreakable."

Jose Alberto Alvarez, First Secretary of the U.S. Branch of the PSP, said, "In these moments we redouble our efforts to advance our struggle in the belly of the monster. We will do this keeping Chagui always in mind, his parents and siblings and all his relatives. We know they do not expect anything else from us."



## July 4 Demonstration Planned

reprinted from Puerto Rico Libre

"Unity" and "action" were the watchwords of a national conference held in New York City March 27-8 to build a broad coalition for a "People's July 4" in Philadelphia. 225 people representing 102 organizations packed the Law Lounge of New York University to discuss demands such as "jobs for all" and "the right to national liberation and self-determination of oppressed and colonized peoples," with a view toward mobilizing tens of thousands to Philadelphia this July 4.

In the keynote address, Jose Alberto Alvarez, First Secretary of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, U.S. Branch, emphasized that the time for progressive forces to unite and move forward is now. He noted that the victory of the Vietnamese people was a turning point in world history -- an event which has significantly weakened the U.S. government's ability to impose its social, political, and economic system on other nations. This weakness, he pointed out, presents the opportunity of strengthening the progressive movements within the United States as well as national liberation movements around the world, including the independence movement in Puerto Rico.

"Not to see that the imperialism which we fight after Vietnam is not the same one we fought before it would be to fail to detect the potential for struggle which exists in the U.S.," said Alvarez.

The importance of unity around the July 4 demonstration was underlined by Alfredo Lopez, National Coordinator of the July 4 Coalition, in summing up the first day's discussions. "The basic needs of the people are not being met today in the United States," he said. "We cannot allow President Ford's official ceremony to masquerade as the expression of the North American people on the Bicentennial. We have something to say about the United States, about what our problems are, and the solutions for the future. Indeed we speak for the people of this country, not Ford."

Six position papers were discussed in workshops on the first day of the conference, covering

unemployment and working conditions, cutbacks in vital services, racism, political repression, the international situation, and sexism. Among the slogans raised were "independence for Puerto Rico" and "A Bicentennial Without Colonies."

Workshops the following day approved a national work plan for implementing coalition building and mobilization on a regional basis. Organizers from 27 states and 53 cities discussed the formation of local coalitions and expansion of existing ones, transportation to Philadelphia, publicity, cultural activities, literature, and a month-by-month plan. The Conference also elected a National Board of 67 members, mandating the new board to expand itself as the need arose.

### Bicentennial Without Colonies

In an interview following the Conference, Rosa Borenstein, Executive Secretary of the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee and newly elected to the Board of the July 4 Coalition, emphasized the opportunity presented by this action to draw national attention to U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico. "We must raise the demand for Puerto Rico's independence within the context of all the progressive struggles taking place within the United States," she said. "Imperialism is not in the interests of the people of our country and we can demonstrate that."

"The contradiction of colonialism is particularly clearcut this Bicentennial year. Our government proposes to celebrate the anniversary of our Declaration of Independence from the British colonial empire. How can we celebrate when the U.S. government today is the colonial master of Puerto Rico and other nations?"

The New American Movement is one of the groups organizing the July 4 demonstration. For more information, contact the July 4 Coalition, P.O. Box 998, Peter Stuyvesant Station, New York, NY 10009 or the NAM National Office.

Puerto Rico Libre is the bulletin of the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee.

### GRAND CANYON MINING PLANNED

The federal government has quietly granted the Exxon corporation three leases to search for uranium mining sites in the Grand Canyon. The leases were granted even though the National Park Service had rejected one of the sites as unacceptable a year earlier, stating that the planned access roads would "irreparably scar the land." According to Friends of the Earth, which uncovered the leases, "The public was completely excluded from the decision to grant the leases; there was no notice of the proposed leaseings, no opportunity for public comment, and no disclosure of the reasoning that led to the leasing approval." (Borrowed Times)

### LOBOTOMIZED HOUSEKEEPERS

Walter Freeman, known as the Dean of Lobotomy, has reported that lobotomized women make good housekeepers. If a previously "distracted" woman is able to return to housekeeping chores after the operation (which disconnects portions of the brain), psychosurgeons consider it a success. Men cannot often continue to support their families after a lobotomy, so the great majority of lobotomy victims are women. (Georgia Straight/Majority Report)





# Utilities Demand Prepaid Profits

Consumer, environmental, church, and labor groups from across the country are mounting a campaign to prevent the Federal Power Commission from adopting an accounting change which could lead to a 15% increase in electric rates nationwide.

The proposed change would enable utilities to include construction work in progress (CWIP) in the rate base for rate setting purposes. The environmental groups charged that if state utility commissions follow the FPC's lead, utility profits would double, costing the average family \$42 in higher annual electric bills. Environmental Action Foundation spokesperson Richard Morgan said that most state utility commissions are expected to follow the FPC's lead. He cited figures from a Congressional Research Service study stating that nationwide adoption of CWIP would boost utility rates by almost 15%, at an annual cost of \$8 billion to consumers.

The FPC's proposed accounting change would allow utilities to earn a return on new power facilities while they are still under construction. According to Morgan, "The use of CWIP is similar to a landlord requiring his tenants to pay rent five years in advance." The Washington-based environmental group maintained that CWIP would encourage power companies to build new power plants at a time when they have their largest reserve margin (operating capacity which is never used) in almost 40 years -- 38%.

CWIP would offer a great boost to the faltering nuclear power industry. The utilities could reap quick profits from their investments in expensive nuclear plants, while allowing their customers to bear the burden of nuclear power's chronic unreliability. In fact, many utility finance experts agree that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to finance future nuclear plants without CWIP.

The utilities claim that they need CWIP to alleviate their financial crisis. But it isn't the utilities that are in a financial crisis. It's the consumer! The utilities were bailed out by \$3 billion in rate increases last year, and another \$4 billion in rate increase applications is now pending. We've seen electric rates go up by 50% in the last two years. For many citizens, it's now a choice between food and fuel. And it's getting much worse, even without CWIP.

The allowance of construction work in progress would have a devastating impact on electric bills and the environment. It is an accounting gimmick designed to make the utilities very rich at a cost of billions to the American consumer.

## Shortcuts

### WISCONSIN CITIZENS OPPOSE UTILITY RATE HIKE

Over 300 people jammed into a Green Bay hearing room to attend utility rate increase hearings before the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. Many of the angry protesters were retired or handicapped, while others took time off from work to come. Witnesses explained that they conserved energy as much as possible, but a higher utility bill meant less food on the table -- they had no alternative. One said, "These big corporations got the money to do whatever they want, but if I want to stop them, I have to hire my own attorney. You call that justice?" "No!" cheered the crowd. (Wisconsin Patriot)

### ROBIN HOOD SNUBBED

"He was nothing but a mugger, a grown-up juvenile delinquent, but legend has made a hero of this small-time outlaw. If he were engaged today in 'robbing the rich to help the poor,' the punk would face at least 475 years in prison and fines ranging up to \$3 million." -- the sheriff of Nottingham, explaining why he would not attend the city's annual Robin Hood Day festival. (Militant)

## ecologist says

# Only Socialism Will Save Environment

by Mike Turner, St. Louis NAM

Ecologist Barry Commoner attacked oil company profits and called socialism the solution to environmental problems in a speech at Washington University in St. Louis.

Commoner's talk on "Science and Political Power" came at the conclusion of an unsuccessful university attempt to reduce his power by abolishing the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems. The Center helps trace environmental problems to their roots in society's political and economic systems by including specialists from many fields: biology, biochemistry, ecology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, engineering, sociology, and economics.

Commoner said a college broken up into narrow "disciplines" was of limited political usefulness, because scholars "in hot pursuit of the truth" were kept in their own narrow compartments.

The fight against the trans-Alaska pipeline failed, Commoner said, because environmentalists worried only about damage to the tundra and to the habitat of the caribou. "Had the environmentalists gone in hot pursuit and studied not only the ecology, but the balance sheets of the oil companies ... they would have learned something about the economy."

Commoner said he had recently studied the "oil shortage" and found, "There is enough

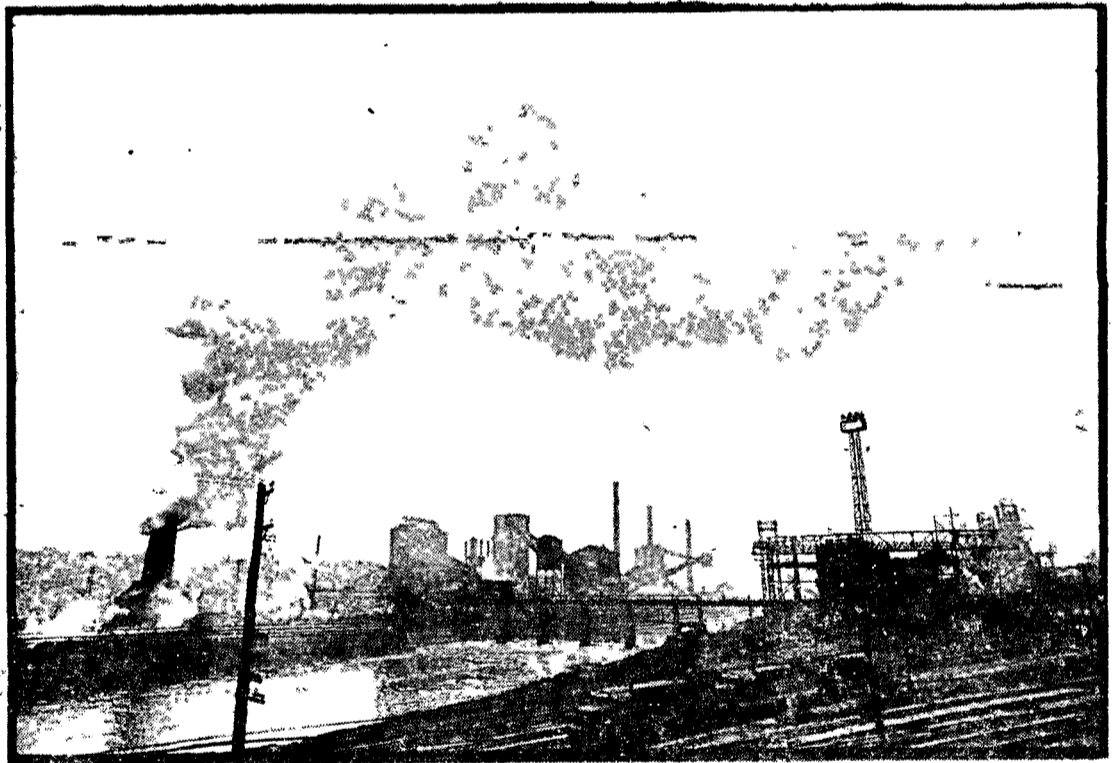
recoverable oil in the United States to support us for 50 to 60 years." Yet the oil companies are not exploring the United States for more oil, because foreign oil is cheaper and more profitable. "The crux of the oil shortage in the United States is the margin of profitability of the oil companies," he said.

### Move Against the Center

Commoner linked the move against his Center to the denial of tenure this school year to Carl Boggs, a Marxist. "Carl Boggs has been denied tenure because he looks outward and publishes in areas not directed to his own narrow field," he said.

The ecologist said that in his own "hot pursuit of the truth" he found that the drive to produce bigger cars, astroturf, and nuclear power plants resulted from a transformation of the production system. For example, it takes five times as much energy and much more capital to produce a plastic handbag than a leather one. He said that this drive to replace labor with capital -- first described by Karl Marx -- was starting to produce a chronic shortage of capital for investment.

The solution is socialism, a system based on human needs, not on corporate profit, said Commoner.



### OHIO GAYS SCORE VICTORY

Gay rights scored a significant victory in northern Ohio as the city of Cleveland Heights (population 62,000) issued an affirmative action plan for municipal employees that includes gay people. The city charter now states that homosexuals "are to be protected against discrimination in hiring, promotion, and dismissal." Cleveland Heights was a target city for the National Gay Task Force.

### MARCHERS PROTEST JAIL MURDER

More than 250 angry black people marched to the Covington, Louisiana jail recently to demand a state and federal investigation of the death of a 22 year old black man. The sheriff claims that Stanley Magee hanged himself in his cell on January 8. But his body showed evidence of a brutal beating, and his clothes were soaked in blood. The marchers, led by Magee's parents, were not deterred by dozens of helmeted state police and deputy sheriffs, or by the police sharpshooters and photographers with telephoto lenses who stood atop buildings along the march route. Rev. Byron Clay of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference said, "We will be here until the blood of Magee cries out from his grave for justice." (Black Panther)

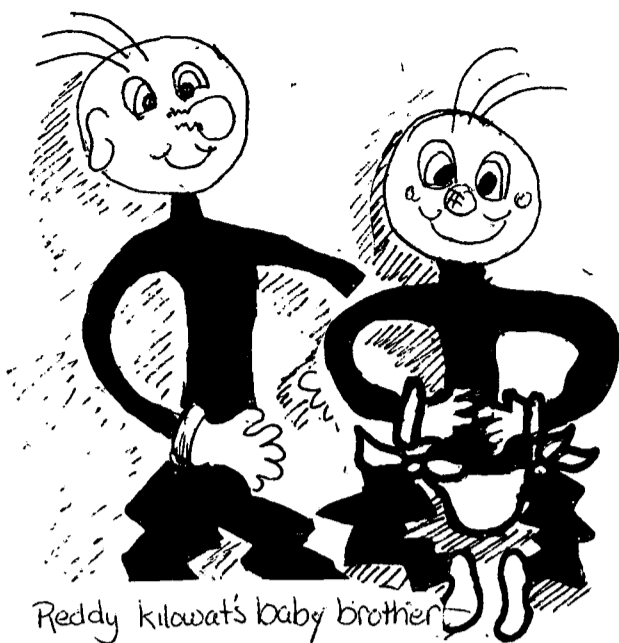
### FBI BLOCKED BOMBING PROBE

Despite repeated requests for the data, the FBI withheld the results of its inquiry into the bombing of a Birmingham church from the Alabama attorney general for over four years. No one was ever convicted of the 1963 bombing, which killed four young black girls, and the case had remained inactive until 1971. That year, new Alabama Attorney General William Baxley reopened the investigation and asked the FBI for information. But it was not until last December, when reporters learned of the FBI's delaying, that the Bureau finally turned over the results of its investigation. (Black Panther)

### FORD TRIES TO CUT FOOD STAMPS

The Ford Administration is currently trying an "end run" around Congress by administratively changing food stamp regulations before Congress can complete the current debate to create a new food stamp law. The Agriculture Department has proposed new food stamp regulations which are so harsh that they would cut out about 5.5 million participants nationwide, or about 30% of those currently in the program. The cut would also apply to another 3.5 million people who would have been able to participate in the food stamp program for a portion of the year.

# How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Plutonium



*Background: The U.S. government and several of the largest U.S. corporations are investing billions of dollars in the "breeder" nuclear reactor program. The main attraction of the breeders is that they produce (theoretically) more fuel than they consume. The main ingredient of a breeder reactor is plutonium, a highly radioactive substance that takes 24,000 years to decay to half of its original strength. No person should have more than one fifty-millionth of an ounce of plutonium in their body. If the planned breeder reactors are built, tons of plutonium will be produced and transported each year. Plutonium is one of the most highly poisonous substances known.*

by Andy Friedman, San Francisco NAM

SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE 1, 1977 -- Prominent engineers and business people today announced the formation of an organization for the promotion of nuclear energy, known as FOP (Friends of Plutonium). FOP, according to a spokesperson, is dedicated to "cleaning up the image of nuclear power in general and plutonium in particular." FOP now joins the ranks of other organizations pushing nuclear power, such as SUICIDE (Scientists United In Continuing Infinite Destruction Experiments), BIPP (Business Investing in Perpetual Poison), and GUNG-HOE (Governments United for Nuclear Generation and Hell On Earth).

One of FOP's first activities will be a national advertising campaign featuring "The Mighty Mr. P." "Mr. P," a cartoon character, will narrate advertising spots extolling the virtues of plutonium and the safety of nuclear power plants. Mr. P's narrative will go along with bucolic scenes of cattle grazing next to nuclear power plants, and celebrities grazing at the industry's water holes. The idea, said the FOP spokesperson, is to get people used to the idea of living with plutonium. "After all," he said,

"people were once afraid of electricity. It's only a matter of time before they will accept Mr. P into their homes, too."

FOP has hired the high powered ad agency of Apple Pie, Motherhood, and Plutonium, Inc. to direct the campaign. APM&P has much experience in this type of campaign. Some of its ads for napalm have become classics of their genre. APM&P's well known motto is, "You make it, we hype it."

Some of the giveaways Friends of Plutonium will use to help popularize their advertising campaign include:

- A free trip to Tarapur, India, to help clean up radioactive waste spills at the U.S.-built plant.
- A copy of *We Almost Lost Detroit*, a book about the Enrico Fermi reactor.
- A tax receipt for six billion dollars in federal subsidies for plutonium processing plants.
- A plutonium processing plant in your neighborhood.
- A copy of *Thinking About the Unthinkable*.
- A fully equipped radiation shelter.
- A job at the Hanford, Washington, radioactive waste storage facility, plugging leaks.
- A storage box for collectors of stray plutonium pellets (solid lead).

The FOP spokesperson stated, "We feel the American people are getting the wrong idea about nuclear power from environmentalist propaganda. We are going to spread the word that plutonium is a safe, efficient, and clean source of energy that will be around much longer than fossil fuels. Nuclear power will keep our standard of living high and our air and water clean. What more could we ask for?"

For more information about Friends of Plutonium, contact Bechtel Corporation, General Electric, Westinghouse, or President Ford. And remember, plutonium today means plutonium tomorrow, and tomorrow and tomorrow . . .

## Chicago Workers Demand Their Jobs Back

by Dolores Wilbur, Chicago #1 NAM

More than 100 workers, primarily Mexican women, recently protested in Chicago, demanding that Gateway Industries give them back their jobs. Representatives from the Center for Autonomous Social Action (CASA), the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), and the New American Movement (NAM) spoke in support of the demand to reopen an empty Gateway plant.

Gateway industries is a conglomerate which operates two plants in Chicago and one in Michigan. In November 1974 they transferred their Chicago seatbelt factory to Sonora, Mexico, seeking cheaper labor costs. The run-away shop left 1000 women without jobs.

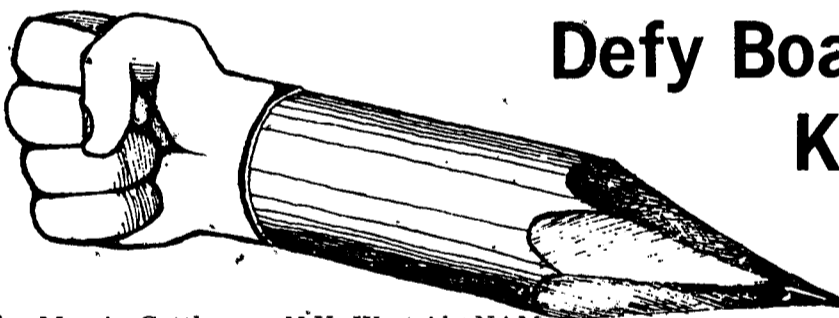
These women sought help from the Workers Rights Center, an unemployment counseling project of Chicago #1 NAM, Sojourner Truth NAM, and the National Lawyers Guild, because of problems of delayed checks and the dilemma they faced due to their benefits allotment expiring. Under unemployment compensation law, 65 weeks is the maximum period over which workers may receive compensation, if they have been unemployed over that entire period. If over a year's time a person is unable to find a job, as is the case with so many people during the present economic crisis, he or she is out of luck.

The women employed at Gateway were represented by a Teamster local which did not tell them of the approaching lay-offs or fight for their severance pay or accumulated sick pay and vacation pay. In December 1974, the laid-off workers organized a committee to obtain these benefits. Some money was obtained, but the committee disbanded before completing these tasks.

The Gateway plant remaining in Chicago is a soap factory which makes "Pink Lady" dish detergent. A boycott of this detergent is being waged to place pressure on Gateway to comply with the demands of the workers.

## New York City

# Parents, Local School, Defy Board of Ed, Keep School Open



by Marvin Gettleman, N.Y. Westside NAM

NEW YORK -- What happened to the radicals of the '60's, who disrupted colleges and held buildings in protest against the Vietnam War and domestic repression? Some have freaked out, others have sold out, but an extraordinarily high concentration are now parents on Manhattan's upper west side occupying school buildings in defense of their young children's rights to full education.

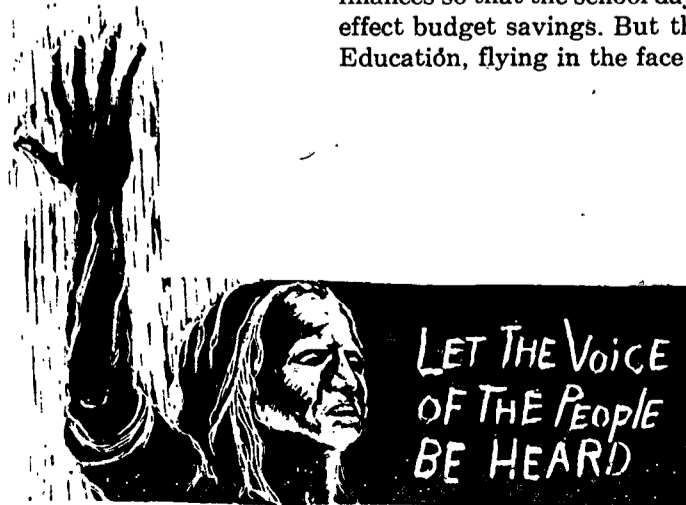
New York's fiscal crisis has been translated by the ruling class into cuts in essential services, including educational services. In New York City, the central Board of Education has mandated a 90 minute shortening of the school day. Resistance has coalesced in School District #3 on Manhattan's upper west side, where the locally elected school board has arranged its finances so that the school day need not be cut to effect budget savings. But the central Board of Education, flying in the face of parent protests,

local school board decisions, and student rights, has arbitrarily insisted upon a uniform policy.

Parents are now occupying schools all over the district, not to close them down or curtail occupations in any way, but rather to retain the full school day until 3:00 p.m. This has required keeping central Board of Education officials bearing orders to close schools early out of the buildings. So we patrol the streets, guard the doors, keep communication open with parents in other schools, and in general do things that bring back a bit of '60's nostalgia.

In places there have been ugly incidents of violence, as central Board security guards have broken through parent lines, forced their way into school buildings, beaten up parents and forced them to vacate school buildings. But at other schools the parent groups, often with support of courageous principals, have held firm. The spring vacation will bring a lull, but the central Board will certainly attempt to enforce its uniform reduction in the school day sooner or later. The parents are prepared for a protracted struggle after the vacation.

There are a number of political problems in this local protest. For one thing, the struggle to keep the full school day has become entangled with budgetary hassles in Albany, as was inevitable. Also, the parents in District #3, with its cooperative local board and its earlier willingness to absorb other cuts rather than shorten the school day, are trying to find ways to link up with other parent and school protest groups who are not in a similar position.



movie review

# Taxi Driver

by John Welch, Taxi Rank, and File

It was a few months ago: I pick up a guy on upper Central Park West who wants to go to the Lower East Side, through the park and down 7th and Broadway. As soon as we hit the park he has me close the partition, and then he begins to vomit, so I pull over in front of the Americana, demand the fare, and tell him we usually charge five or ten bucks to clean the car. He starts to cry, says, "Can't you give me a break, I've got to pay rent, I've got to have 50 cents for the subway ..."

So there I am, vomitstink in the back seat, knowing I've got to go back to the garage and wash it myself and won't be able to work for the rest of the night. I'm furious, and yet here's this guy with his rent to pay, he's poor, and he's crying to boot. There we are on 7th Avenue, just above the 12 year old hookers, the transvestite hustlers, the winos begging for "coffee change," in front of this chandelier palace hotel full of clothing buyers from Texas.

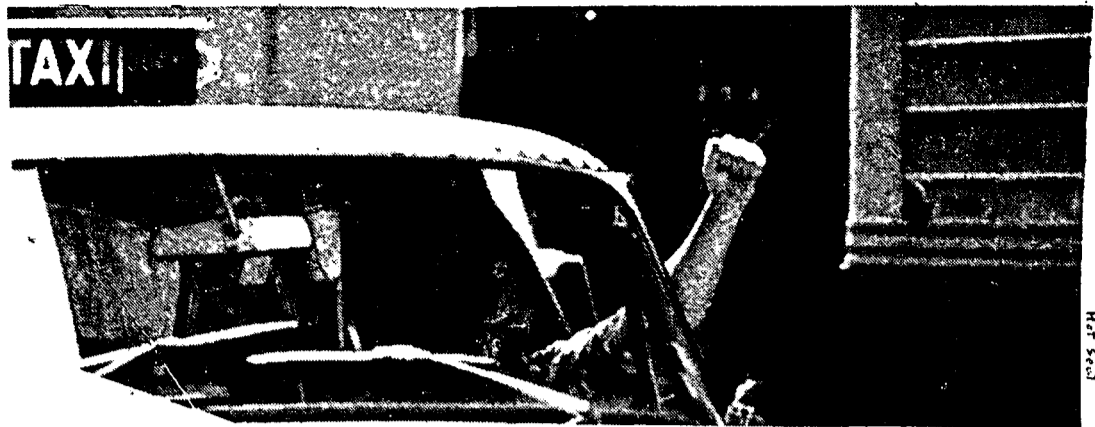
At that instant I wanted to hit someone. Most cabbies, I guess, have moments like that, and most of us handle it the way I did: I took a deep breath and tried to forget. Travis Bickle, the hero of the movie *Taxidriver*, is someone who can't forget, someone who finally acts on his rage and frustration. He shoots four people.

Seduced by Realistic Appearances

Bickle's anger is something we often feel, and we often joke about his sort of revenge. Last Saturday night -- late, when all your passengers are drunks -- I pulled up beside a guy from Iota garage who told me that he wished he could hook up wires and electrocute some of his passengers. The biggest trouble with the movie is that Bickle's reasons are all wrong.

It even shows Bickle driving out of a real garage, and being hired by a real dispatcher who really was bashed in the face by a chair swung by a Taxi Rank & Filer who lost his temper at an arbitration hearing.

The movie is full of realistic shots of the real steaming cities that we cruise, the Belmore Cafeteria where many drivers really stop for coffee. It even shows Bickle (played by Robert DeNiro) driving out of a real garage, and being



hired by a real dispatcher who really was bashed in the face by a chair swung by a Taxi Rank & Filer who lost his temper at an arbitration hearing. All through the movie I'd get little recognition thrills when the screen flashed on places I'd hacked, corners I knew, even a distinctive wino who taps drumsticks on 50th and 7th. But there was something weird.

I felt like I was being seduced by these realistic appearances, because the logic driving the movie came entirely out of director Martin Scorsese's fantasy. It cuts out two-thirds of what aggravates us -- passengers and traffic -- and focuses entirely on the rotten street life of Times Square. Filth and corruption drive Bickle crazy.

Oblivious to Anything but Degeneracy

So here is a driver who never gets stiffed, never sits in traffic, never "dies" at Kennedy Airport, never gets held up, never has accidents, never worries if his bent front wheel is going to come off on the Williamsburgh Bridge. He rarely even notices his passengers. He's singularly oblivious to anything but degeneracy.

On which hangs the tale. Cybil Shepard, dressed in white, is Betsy. To Bickle she represents Purity, but to herself and everyone else she represents a liberal Presidential candidate who says he's very pleased at the way the people have risen to the demands he's made on them. Then Bickle learns that Betsy is "just like all the rest, cold and indifferent." Evil, like her candidate.

There is much loneliness in this movie. The "bulletproof" partition behind the driver's seat comes to symbolize all of Bickle's isolation. This isolation, in turn, drives Bickle to martyrdom. But for real taxi drivers, the loneliness is built into the competitive separateness of our work, and not our isolation from our passengers. What goes on between passenger and driver is not loneliness.

It's not loneliness when your passenger insists, with that nauseating upper-class accent, that you make a U-turn on 57th during rush hour, and then stiffs you for being "impertinent" enough to refuse. It's upper class contempt for working people. And we retaliate: that's your famous New York cabbie "surliness."

Then there's traffic. Just last night I got cut off by a Mercedes making a left-hand turn from

the right-hand lane, and my passenger, an advertising exec, started screaming. "Hit him! Hit him!" I didn't, but often late at night on really bad nights I pretend to myself that we're all riding Coney Island bumper cars. After choking through rush hour behind buses, after being cut off by trucks and passed up for Checkers, I get to the point that I'm ready to plow right through the next s.o.b. who tries to cut me off for a fare: just imaging Checker-fenders crumpling like paper bags.

Most of our function now is to take these rich people from their office towers to their luxury apartments, and then to the theaters without their having to smell Times Square.

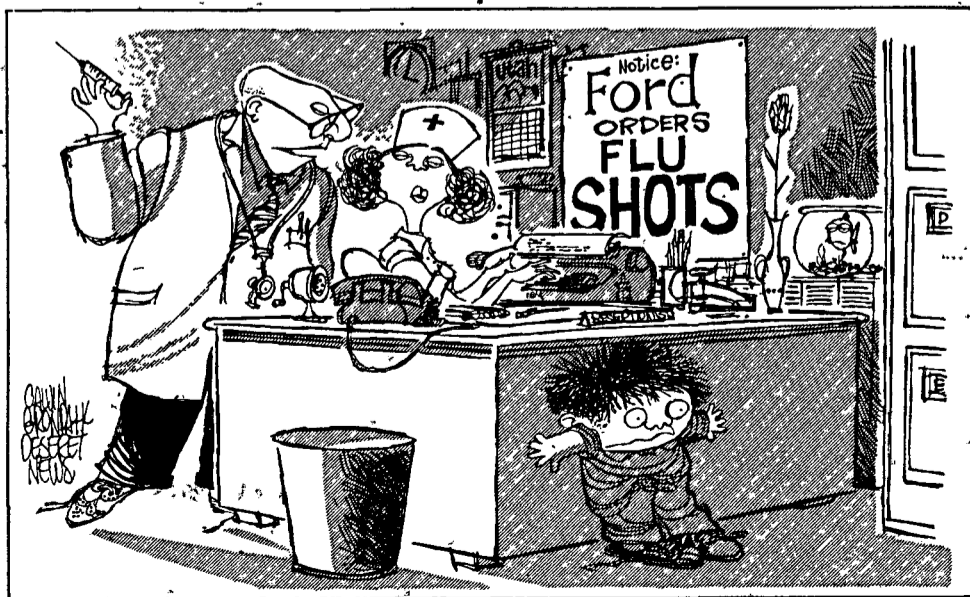
I realize that the real trouble is something impersonal, like the commission system of taxi-hustling, and I can even personalize it to my boss who has a face and a name I can hate. But for just that moment the only thing I can see is other taxis trying to beat me for the fare. It's interesting to remember that these advertising exec passengers are roughly the same sort of people as our taxi-bosses, and that most of our function now is to take these rich people from their office towers to their luxury apartments, and then to the theaters without their having to smell Times Square. It all twists together.

Bickle, lonely and insane, decides to wipe out evil and make himself "somebody." But it's all too simple: Our lives are richer, our hatreds more complex than this movie shows. If for once Hollywood had shown this real complexity which ordinary people live, then *Taxidriver* would have been a much better movie. Instead, by narrowing his focus to "filth," Scorsese has made almost a propaganda film for cleaning up Times Square in time for the Democratic Convention. If the movie had had better politics -- more complexity -- it would have been better art.

by Rick Kunnies, Detroit NAM

## health notes

All the items below were contained in reports from major research and medical centers or government agencies released in the last 60 days.



"Has a kid come running past here, screaming 'I won't be a victim of Big Government?'"

●Attacking the corporation-created myth that pollution controls lead to loss of jobs, a Bureau of Labor Statistics study has shown that pollution control measures have created 1.1 million jobs just since 1971, not to mention saving thousands of lives. Another related report states that "there has not been a single job lost to federal pollution standards on polyvinyl chloride (PVC), in spite of industry scare tactics claiming a loss of 2 million jobs." The report urged unions to examine carefully any industry claim that companies cannot meet pollution or health standards.

●Workers at an Erie, Pennsylvania hospital construction site successfully protested unsafe working conditions with 15 minute "prayer breaks" every hour. A number of serious injuries occurred on the job, so workers stopped work for 15 minutes every hour and "prayed to thank God that they had got through the hour without a serious accident" and to ask that the next hour be safe. The boss settled the next day.

●Price fixing of drugs by the pharmacy boards controlled by large drug chains in 33 states costs consumers an extra \$400 million a year.





## Phil Ochs 1940-1976

Folksinger and songwriter Phil Ochs was a mainstay of the movement for social change during the last ten years. He appeared at countless marches and rallies to sing his lyrical but sharply pointed ballads that addressed the issues of the day: Vietnam, racism in the South, the murder of John F. Kennedy, ghetto revolts. Some of his songs, such as *Draft Dodger Rag* and *I Ain't Marchin' Anymore*, openly counselled draft resistance to American young men faced with fighting in Indochina.

Singing in his thin, more-or-less-in-tune voice, Ochs carried his audiences on the strength of his imagery and his songs' ability to touch their social commitment.

In many of his songs after about 1967, one could hear an underlying note of apocalyptic or despair. He had clearly been to the edge, perhaps more than once. For whatever reason, Phil Ochs recently went over the edge; he committed suicide by hanging April 9, at the age of 35.

Ochs' death comes almost exactly one year after the final liberation of Vietnam, a cause to which he passionately devoted himself. (At one point in 1968 he signed onto the campaign of Eugene McCarthy for President, but reportedly left when reprimanded for publicly calling Lyndon Johnson an "asshole.")

In 1967, Ochs announced that the way to end the Vietnam War was for the U.S. to declare a victory and leave. Since Lyndon Johnson wouldn't make such an announcement, he would. Below is the song he wrote for the occasion.

### The War is Over

by Phil Ochs, from his album *Tape From California* (A&M Records)

Silent soldiers on a silver screen  
Framed in fantasy and drugged in dreams  
Unpaid actors of the mystery  
The mad director knows that freedom will not make  
you free  
And what's this got to do with me?

I declare the war is over  
It's over, it's over

Drums are drizzling on a grain of sand  
Fading rhythms of a fading land  
Prove your courage in the proud parade  
Trust you leaders where mistakes are almost never  
made  
And they're afraid that I'm afraid

I'm afraid the war is over  
It's over, it's over

So do your duty boys and join with pride  
Serve your country in her suicide  
Find a flag so you can wave goodbye  
But just before the end even treason might be  
worth a try  
This country is too young to die

I declare the war is over  
It's over, it's over

One legged veterans will greet the dawn  
And they're whistling marches as they mow the  
lawn  
And the gargoyles only sit and grieve  
The gypsy fortune teller told me that we'd been  
deceived  
You only are what you believe

I believe the war is over  
It's over, it's over

### The Rhythms of Revolution

In a building of gold, with riches untold,  
Lived the families on which the country was  
founded.  
And the merchants of style, with their vain velvet  
smiles,  
Were there, for they also were hounded.  
And the soft middle class crowded into the last,  
For the building was fully surrounded.  
And the noise outside was the rhythms of  
revolution.

We were hardly aware of the hardships they bore  
For our time was taken with treasure.  
Oh, life was a game, and work was a shame,  
And pain was prevented by pleasure.  
The world cold and gray was so far away  
In a distance only money could measure.  
But their thoughts were broken by the rhythms of  
revolution.

Softly they moan, please leave us alone  
As back and forth they are pacing.  
And they cover their ears, and try not to hear  
With pillows of silk they're embracing.  
And the crackling crowd is laughing out loud,  
Peeking in at the target they're chasing.  
Now trembling inside the rhythms of revolution.

In tattered tuxedos they faced the new heroes  
And crawled about in confusion.  
And they sheepishly grinned, for their memories  
were dim  
Of the decades of dark execution.  
Hollow hands were raised; they stood there  
amazed  
In the shattering of their illusions.  
As the windows were smashed by the rhythms of  
revolution.

Down on our knees, we're begging you please,  
We're sorry for the way you were driven.  
There's no need to taunt; just take what you want,  
And we'll make amends, if we're living.  
But away from the grounds the flames told the town  
That only the dead are forgiven.  
As they crumbled inside the rhythms of revolution.



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# I've Got a Crush on Mary Hartman

by Elayne Rapping, Pittsburgh NAM

I've got a crush on Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman! Even since it got picked up in Pittsburgh a few weeks ago, I've hardly missed a night. In fact, my fondness for this latest Norman Lear comedy has begun to show signs of interfering with my real life. For example, I find myself getting nervous at around a quarter to eleven if I'm nowhere near to being on my way home. And I'm not the only one. Most everyone I know who watches the show has begun to show similar signs of addiction.

What is it about MHMH that has oozed its way so firmly into the hearts and minds of Americans, many of whom otherwise "never watch TV"? First of all it's very funny. In fact, for a show that runs five nights a week for thirty minutes it has a very good batting average for being hilarious. For those of you who haven't yet gotten the news, MHMH is a combination soap opera/situation comedy about the day to day traumas and tragedies of several working class families in the fictitious town of Fernwood, Ohio.

The main characters are Tom and Mary



MARY WITH GRANDPA THE FLASHER

Hartman, who have a 12 year old daughter named Heather, about whom there is some question as to whether or not she is "developing properly." The question is far from academic since Heather, among other bizarre habits, has a way of slipping under the kitchen table when she doesn't want to answer a question. Mary's other problems -- in no particular order of significance -- include the fact that Tom hasn't slept with her in seven weeks; that her daughter is the only one to have seen the murderer of an entire neighborhood family, including several chickens and goats; and her floor has "waxy, yellow build-up."

Then there are George and Martha Shumway, Mary's parents, who have an unruly teenage daughter and an 83 year old father who exposes himself around the neighborhood. Of the three main families, only Loretta and Charlie Hagers are ecstatically happy. But then, they aren't exactly typical. So far they have no children, and Loretta, who has yet to be seen doing housework, spends her days in baby doll pajamas rehearsing to become a Country and Western singing star. So far she's only played a gig at the local bowling alley, but she and Charlie live on love and an absolute faith in her "star potential." These three families live on the same block and all the men work at the local auto plant.

The show's humor comes from several sources. First there's the sheer outrageousness of treating subjects like masturbation, impotence, and exhibitionism as normal breakfast table conversation. There's also the superb acting. Almost every character has a uniquely zany personality and an enormously expressive face.

But these are the staples of good comedy. They are equally evident on Lear's other shows. The secret of MHMH's appeal is that it goes far beyond All in the Family in the complexity of its characters and the seriousness of its treatment of the social texture of American life. MHMH functions on two levels. Underneath the slapstick there are psychological and social insights which are both touching and terrifying. MHMH hits a nerve because in spite of its exaggerations and distortions there's something about it that rings true.



Louise Lasser

Life for Mary and her friends is both menacing and incomprehensible. The comic ploy of juxtaposing and equating large and small things is, in this case, more than a joke. When Mary interrupts a conversation with the police about

her missing daughter to test the heat of her iron she is acting out a real confusion in American life about what's important and what isn't. Mary's purpose in life is to be a good wife and mother. And if she has trouble sorting out the relative importance of buying the right fabric softener as compared to establishing a meaningful relationship with her daughter, whose fault is that?

Mary's mother suffers the same bewilderment when she tries to follow her mother's advice on being a successful housewife: keep a neat house, cook a good dinner and God will take care of you. And yet, these domestic virtues have no effect whatever on the social chaos she must cope with. Bomb scares, VD epidemics, mass murders -- what can a bubbling casserole do for such things?

Similarly, the sexual problems of so many of the characters in no way lend themselves to old-fashioned solutions. In fact, what MHMH is about, as much as anything, is the way the family no longer works. Far from functioning as a place of comfort and support after a hard day's work, the Hartman family is in fact an extension, on the personal level, of the social pressures in the society at large. On the one occasion when Tom tries to make love to Mary, who has been nagging for days, she herself is unable to relax and forget the family problems she's been coping with.

MHMH presents the family in the broader context of an insane and inhuman social system. If Mary feels lost and helpless, it's at least partly because the police, the medical profession, and every other social service institution to which she turns for help are so clearly functioning in the interest of something other than the public good. But what that "something other" might be is never hinted at. MHMH is essentially a black comedy. Its sense of cynicism and powerlessness is characteristic of bourgeois art. Look, it says, the world is falling apart all around us and there's nothing we can do. But since we're all in the same boat, we might as well laugh.

MHMH has been described as a "spoof on daytime soap operas." But really, it's another kind of soap opera. The appeal of daytime soap operas is the same as the appeal of MHMH. Sex, money, illness, child rearing, problems of everyday American life are dealt with. The difference between MHMH and the soaps is its attitude towards these things. This difference comes out indirectly in the class backgrounds of the characters. While everyone on daytime soaps is a middle class professional, only the villains on MHMH are. It is almost unique on television in portraying working class people as innocent victims of bourgeois institutions.

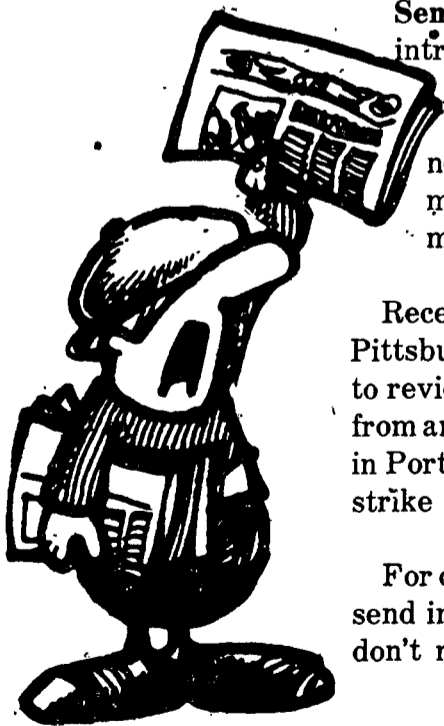
But the biggest difference between MHMH and the soaps is its view of the causes and solutions of personal problems. Everything that happens in Fernwood is the result of widespread social insanity rather than individual psychological or moral failures. Where daytime TV encourages women to see the solution to their problems in such "Total Woman" remedies as finding a good man and devoting yourself to his happiness, MHMH offers no solutions at all.

I hear from friends on the East Coast that recent developments in Fernwood hint at the possibility of such political solutions as militant trade unionism and even feminism. But I doubt if Lear's kind of imagination will be able to take that very far. And even if it could, the networks would certainly squelch it. It's up to people like us to raise those kinds of ideas. But while we're working on it, it's nice to know that MHMH's ratings are soaring. Because that means a lot of people are at least getting a somewhat clearer picture of the sources -- if not the solutions -- to their ever-increasing problems.

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