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They Put a City on Trial



Photo by Jay Thomas

(By Staff Correspondent)

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—In the photograph above, Margaret Houston of the Sisters of Charity and members of the Black Workers Coalition confront police who ordered them to quit tearing down an old dilapidated building and placing the debris in the street. It was a move to call attention to the atrocious housing conditions under which thousands of Louisville citizens live—and it worked.

The house had been burned out and condemned for over two years; demonstrators said it was just one of 18,000 rat-infested dangerous buildings in the city that should be demolished. Police, however, said they were blocking traffic and arrested 12 persons. They became known as the Dirty Dozen Demolition Crew.

The defendants asked for separate jury trials in Police Court; trials were set, one a week, to last through the summer. Before the first one on June 8, the Dirty Dozen had put on a campaign in the community urging that the city not only tear down abandoned buildings but build some decent housing.

On the night before the trial of the first defendant, Sister Peggie Corbett, supporting organizations staged a "mock trial" of city officials and "negligent citizens." It was pointed out that Louisville had appropriated only \$35,000 in the past year to demolish old rat-infested buildings, but that \$1.5 million was being raised for a

downtown mall, \$68.5 million for commercial development of the city's riverfront, and \$1.5 million to improve the zoo.

Both black and white nuns were involved in the action; black and white citizens attended the mock trial in large numbers. They found the city guilty, of course. The next day, Sister Peggie's case ended in mistrial when a juror left and went home during a recess. The trial set for the next week for another defendant was postponed—as the city apparently pondered what to do next.

People's Protest Frees Prisoners In North Carolina

(By Staff Correspondent)

BURGAU, N.C.—Illness of the prosecuting attorney, Jay Stroud, caused a mistrial in the case of 10 black activists and a white woman charged with conspiracy.

They were also charged with burning a grocery during an insurrection in Wilmington. Movement spokesmen say the charges are part of a statewide effort by authorities to crush the black liberation movement.

Bonds of the accused were cut pending a new trial in the fall. The bail for the Rev. Ben Chavis was reduced from \$50,000 to \$15,000, and the others were cut accordingly. All were free by June 14.

"This is a great victory for the people," said the Rev. Irv Joyner, director of community organizing for the Commission for Racial Justice (CRJ). "Their protests and support made it possible for this to happen."

Chavis and the other defendants had been locked up for two months because they were unable to provide the high

(Continued on page 8)

Rank and File Miners Take Campaign Into Coalfields

By SANDY GAGE
(Staff Correspondent)

WHEELING, W. Va.—The reform movement within the United Mine Workers of America (UMW) is moving its struggle against corrupt leadership out of the courtroom and into the coalfields.

The campaign was launched here on Memorial Day weekend when the reformers met and selected candidates to run against current president W. A. "Tony" Boyle and other top officers of the union in a special election.

The way was cleared for the election earlier this year when a federal judge threw out the most recent UMW election, in which Boyle defeated reform candidate "Jock" Yablonski in 1969.

The organization which pushed through the court challenge and which then called the convention here is Miners for Democracy (MFD). It was formed in early 1970 immediately after Yablonski's murder.

Many people attending the Wheeling convention went away feeling that they may have been present at a turning point in the history of the U.S. labor movement. It was a gathering of rank-and-file trade unionists who had fought against terror and tremendous odds to reach this point.

And it appeared that they might muster the strength to do what has not been previously done in this period of history:—mount a grass-roots union movement strong enough to oust a dictatorial and entrenched leadership. If they are successful, their victory will have repercussions throughout the country because it will encourage rebel groups in other unions.

The federal court has not yet set a date for the new election, but it will probably be held late this year.

The MFD candidates were chosen by delegates representing 16 of the UMW's 24 districts, including all the major coal-producing districts.

The candidate for president is Arnold Miller, 49, a native of the Cabin Creek area of West Virginia and a mechanic with 24 years' experience in the mines.

In 1970 Miller had to quit his job and the presidency of his local union because of disabling black-lung disease. But he had already proved his selfless concern for miners' rights by leading the Yablonski campaign in his district and the fight for black-lung compensation in his home state. Miller is currently the president of the West Virginia Black Lung Association.

Mike Trbovich lost to Miller in a close race and was the overwhelming choice for vice-president. Trbovich, 51, of Clarksville, Pa., is an active miner and is national chairman of MFD. He was

Yablonski's campaign manager in the last UMW election and has been a key figure in strengthening the reform movement since that time.

The convention selected Harry Patrick, 41 of Fairview, W. Va. as its candidate for secretary-treasurer. Patrick is a mine mechanic who has been active in the MFD since its formation. Last year he played a major role in prolonging the national miners' strike in protest against Boyle's sellout contract.

In the first hours of their convention, insurgent miners heard from the lawyers

(Continued on page 8)

In This Issue

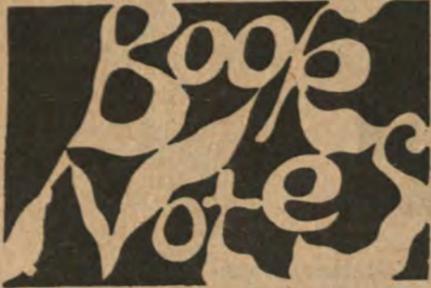
Workers' struggles in the Deep South, pp. 3,4,5

Why times are hard, an economic workshop, page 6

The Angela Davis victory, what it means, page 7



At the Miners for Democracy meeting in Wheeling



Mother Jones Speaks for Today

Mother Jones lived from 1830 till 1930, and from 1871 till 1921 was unceasingly involved in strikes and labor organizing efforts. Most of her time was spent visiting remote mining camps in the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains.

Her autobiography, first published in 1925 and now reprinted with an historical introduction by Fred Thompson in addition to the original foreword by Clarence Darrow, is actually a series of reminiscences.

She describes her travels, crossing mountains in the dark, facing mine officials and their hired gunmen, doing time in jail, inspiring frightened men to come out of the mines—or, failing that, stirring up their women to chase them out with brooms and mops.

Mother Jones' experiences give a new perspective to the problems of organizing today. Her concern for women and for union solidarity, and her grief at the betrayal of union members by their leaders, sound contemporary, as does her indignation that a few men should own the wealth that lies underground. Above all her personal courage and commitment shine through, a remarkable woman of whom one man said, "She wasn't afraid of the devil."

(The Autobiography of Mother Jones, published by Charles H. Kerr & Co., 431 Dearborn, Suite 829, Chicago, Ill. 60605, 1972; \$2.95.)
—Prudie Moffett



Racism & Imperialism, 1898 - 1904



This drawing, which resembles Vietnam in the 1970's but is actually of U.S. troops in the Philippines in 1899, is from a new book, *Republic or Empire: American Resistance to the Philippine War*, by Daniel B. Schirmer. There is a preface by Howard Zinn.

American imperialism started with a war of atrocities against people of color in the Philippines, and it appears doomed to end with the same kind of war in Southeast Asia.

The anti-imperialists of the turn of the century were among the first to note the connection between the struggle against imperialist foreign policy and the fight for rights of black people at home.

The story of their fight is skillfully told by Schirmer, whose message becomes more timely and important the longer U.S. forces remain in Southeast Asia. 260 pages, plus notes and index; Schenkman Publishing Co., 3 Mt. Auburn Place, Harvard Square, Cambridge, Mass. 02138; hardcover, \$8.95; paperback, \$3.95.

Toil and Trouble: A History of American Labor, by Thomas R. Brooks; foreword by A. H. Raskin. A revised and enlarged version of a work first published in 1964. Brooks covers events up to the 1970's, winding up with the statement that labor history makes politics imperative, and out of this comes the possibility of progress. 378 pages plus index;

Delacorte Press, 750 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017; \$7.95.

An American Death, by Gerold Frank, is subtitled "The True Story of the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." 411 pages plus notes and index; Doubleday & Company, 277 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017; \$10.

Workers' Self-Management in Algeria, by Ian Clegg. A study of the workers' committees set up to manage the agricultural estates and factories of the colonial bourgeoisie in the summer of Algerian independence, 1962. 200 pages, plus 50 pages of appendixes, references, and index; Monthly Review Press, 116 W. 14 St., New York, N.Y. 10011. Hardcover, \$8.95; paperback, \$2.95

P.O.W.: Two Years with the Vietcong, by George E. Smith; introduction by Donald Duncan. A sympathetic picture of the National Liberation Front by a U.S. soldier who was its prisoner for two years. 294 pages plus notes; Ramparts Press, Berkeley, Calif. 94704; \$5.95.

Election Notes

Voters in Arkansas almost got rid of Sen. John McClellan in recent primaries. Labor, black people, and young people joined to give him a good scare in the first Democratic primary for renomination.

He got only 45 percent of the vote, and his main opponent, Rep. David H. Pryor, got 41 percent. McClellan barely won in the runoff June 13. McClellan, 76, is a segregationist who has been a champion of big power interests and other corporations in his 30 years in the Senate.

In Mississippi, Sen. James O. Eastland won the Democratic nomination easily and will probably be re-elected. James Meredith, first black man to be knowingly admitted to the University of Mississippi, failed to win the Republican nomination to oppose him.

In Alabama, Eugene "Bull" Connor, former notorious police chief in Birmingham, was defeated in his race for re-election as president of the Alabama Public Service Commission. State Sen. Kenneth Hammond beat him by almost 2 to 1.

In Texas, former Sen. Ralph Yarborough lost the Democratic Senate nomination to Barefoot Sanders, a former aide to Lyndon Johnson. Yarborough was attacked as too liberal and in favor of bussing.

But Texas will probably send its first black representative to Congress—a woman, State Senator Barbara Jordan. She defeated two male opponents to win the Democratic nomination in a predominantly Democratic Houston district.

In North Carolina, Howard Lee, black mayor of Chapel Hill, got 42 percent of the votes in his race for the Democratic nomination to Congress in his district, but his opponent was nominated.

U.S. Rep. Shirley Chisholm got 7½ percent of the vote in the race for Democratic nomination for president in North Carolina. This was the highest percentage she has had in any state. Dr. Reginald Hawkins, a black dentist, got 65,000 votes for governor, or 9 percent.

In West Virginia, old-line politicians figured they would knock off Rep. Ken Hechler, who has crusaded against abuses by the mining interests. Redistricting after the 1970 census, they pitted Hechler against a reactionary congressman, James Kee. Hechler upset predictions by winning the nomination by large margins throughout the new district. He is expected to win the election next fall.

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Executive Staff: Helen Greever, Executive Director; Mike Welch, Administrative Assistant.
Western Representative: Lucy Fried. Eastern Representatives: Lenore Hogan and Ruth Goldberg.

SCEF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

SCEF is a Southwide interracial organization committed to the elimination of racism and sexual oppression; the abolition of an economic system based on the profit motive instead of on the needs of people; and the ending of imperialism—that is, the exploitation of the many by the few both in this country and across the world.

We believe that these changes will come about when powerless people organize at the grassroots; build their own democratic grassroots movements; and take control of their government, the earth's resources, and their own lives.

We believe that in the past the effectiveness of such movements in the South has been impaired by deeply rooted racism. This has kept us divided by color and ethnic identity, and has thus kept us powerless.

Therefore, the first priority of white participants in SCEF is to reach other white people, especially poor and working people. We believe that white people, in the course of their struggles, must vigorously combat racism and racist institutions, while seeking and creating alliances with the black liberation movement around common goals.

SCEF welcomes the cooperation of all persons who agree with these principles, goals, and approaches, regardless of any differences that may exist among them on other questions.

The Southern Patriot is dedicated to the task of reporting the activities of people and groups across the South who are building movements that help incorporate the principles stated here—and to providing information and analysis that can help them build.

Weapons Against the War

Two effective weapons against the war have come to the attention of the *Patriot*. One is an 89-page paperback entitled *A Rich Man's War and A Poor Man's Fight*, subtitled "A Handbook for Trade Unionists on the Vietnam War," prepared by a group of rank-and-file unionists.

Included are a good short history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam; facts and figures, simply presented, on the economy, taxes, inflation, the draft, profits; and a section of questions people most often ask, with answers. Also tips on organizing. Available from Washington Labor for Peace, 304 Colorado Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20005, \$2, with 20 percent discount for orders of 10 or more.

The other highly effective weapon for anti-war organizing is the NARMIC slide show. Prepared by National Action/Research on the military Industrial Complex, it is a devastating portrayal of U.S. automated air warfare in Asia, war by remote control push-buttons, where a few people kill thousands without ever "seeing their victims as anything but blips on a screen."

Running time, about 30 minutes. Available, with script, footnotes and background material from American Friends Service Committee, 160 N. 15th St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19102, \$55. Also available in filmstrip, with recorded script, for \$10 from Herman Will, Board of Christian Social Concerns, The United Methodist Church, 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Franklin Workers Build Wide Support for Strike

By KEN LAWRENCE
(Staff Correspondent)

FRANKLIN, La.—Six local unions—representing both black and white workers—have united behind municipal workers who are in the fourth month of a strike here.

The strike, which began March 6, was still strong in mid-June. Only 10 of the original 70 strikers have returned to work, and even with newly hired strike breakers and supervisors on the job, the work force is at 50 per cent of normal strength.

Involved are sanitation, water, and parks workers, plus other city employees. Most of the workers are black and their union, the Franklin City Employees Local, is black-led, but five white workers have stayed on strike with them. (See April Patriot.)

Although the union is tiny, it has done a remarkable job of building support and surviving. It has done this both by seeking help from national and regional organizations—and by reaching out to individuals and organizations in the Franklin community.

The unions which have publicly declared their support are five locals of the International Chemical Workers Union and one local of the Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen of North America. They sent a letter to Franklin's mayor, E. J. Champagne, demanding that he negotiate with the City Employees Local. They then agreed to back a boycott of local merchants called by the strikers if the mayor continued to refuse.

The main issue in the strike is job security and the right to be represented by a union. The mayor has refused to talk with union representatives.

The letter from the six supporting unions told the mayor: "We plan to support and encourage your municipal workers to the fullest extent of our capabilities in order that their rights to bargain and obtain better working conditions may soon be reached."

The unions asked for a meeting with the mayor and five-man city council to discuss the strike. Only two council members showed up. A statement from Chemical Workers Local 483 contrasted this with the treatment city officials gave to local merchants:

"On May 15, the town merchants, who represent no one but themselves, asked to meet with the mayor and councilmen to discuss the municipal workers' strike. There was 100 percent attendance by the mayor and councilmen. On May 23, 1972, six local unions representing 833 working people who earn \$500,000 a month, of which 60 percent is spent in the local community, invited the five councilmen to meet with them. Attendance was two."

Meantime, Herbert McClarity, president of the Franklin City Employees Local, said the union has been moving on several other fronts. About 800 or 900 signatures have been obtained on petitions to impeach the mayor and city councilmen; it takes signatures of about 1,300 voters, one fourth of those registered, to get a recall election here.

Union members also lobbied the state legislature against a bill authorizing civil service for Franklin's city employees. Civil service is Mayor Champagne's answer to unionization. The bill was defeated.

The boycott of Franklin merchants was slow getting started, McClarity said, but has now become so effective that the merchants have filed a lawsuit against the union, claiming heavy damages. Several Main Street stores have laid off employees, and some have turned off air conditioning to cut expenses.

Union members have raised financial support by soliciting contributions from shoppers at the local shopping center where they have encouraged those boycotting the downtown to shop. Not only has this helped them financially; it has also provided an opportunity to talk to people in the local community and counter the adverse publicity flowing constantly from the mayor's office.

Outside support has come in from across the country, with support letters and contributions from New York, Illinois, Indiana, Massachu-

setts, California, Florida, Kentucky, and Washington, D.C. The workers give special credit for this support to the Rev. A. J. McKnight of the Southern Consumers Cooperative, Dr. Benjamin Spock of the People's Party, Attorney Benjamin Smith of New Orleans, and SCEF.

They have also received help and encouragement from NAACP, SCLC, local churches and civic groups, and their international union, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

They had also sought help from Charles Evers of Fayette, Miss. But Evers pointed out that this might be embarrassing to him since, after all, he's a mayor too.

The city has issued handguns to the few strikers who have gone back to work. About 15 new employees have been hired as strike-breakers, including two or three parolees from the state prison at Angola. One parolee told strikers that it wasn't time for him to get out. He didn't know who let him out or why but was told, "Go home and you'll have a job waiting for you."

Help Is Still Needed

Despite the growing support locally, the strikers still need outside help—since their international union only provides strike benefits to locals that have been recognized by employers.

Their address is Franklin City Employees Local, P.O. Box 382, Franklin, La. 70538.



Dr. Benjamin Spock gave the Franklin workers a hand in the early days of their strike when he came here to lead a march. At his left is Herbert McClarity, president of the local union of city employees.

Who's Getting Youth "Up and Involved"?



Photo by Ken Lawrence

(By Staff Correspondent)

JACKSON, Miss.—The photograph at left is of a demonstration against the Vietnam War after Nixon ordered mining of Vietnamese harbors in May. It was organized by the Jackson Youth Caucus.

The Youth Caucus is a group of high school and college students who have been getting other young people here involved in actions against the war. They have also been getting white people involved in the campaign to free the leaders of the Republic of New Africa (RNA) who are jailed here. The Youth Caucus usually manages to turn out several hundred people for an action.

But when the Jackson mayor's office staged a Spring Youth Festival here in May, attracting 1000 young people one day and 1400 the next, the Youth caucus was not invited and its request for a booth was refused. The theme of the festival was "Get Up and Get Involved."

Permission for a booth was also denied to representatives of the *Kudzu*, Jackson underground newspaper that has been getting youth involved in social issues for several years.

Representatives of both groups went to the festival anyway and distributed

both the *Kudzu*, and the *Southern Patriot*. A small crisis developed when a candidate for Congress, Dr. Ray Lee of Liberty, picked up some of the literature and protested to the mayor.

Dr. Lee said he objected to the *Patriot* because it advocates "the abolition of an economic system based on the profit motive, amnesty for draft dodgers (he must mean draft resisters), and release of Angela Davis." This was before a jury in San Jose, Calif., agreed that she should be released.

The mayor's assistant for youth affairs, Fred Johnson, responded to Dr. Lee's protest by ordering distribution of the offending literature stopped. He told the press he and the mayor "regret that Dr. Lee was disturbed..."

The young people didn't stop giving out the papers though. They kept on until the end of the festival.

Ken Lawrence, Deep South correspondent for the *Patriot*, later wrote the *Jackson Daily News*: "Apparently Dr. Lee and the mayor only intended the message 'Get Up and Get Involved' to be made by those who support racism, war repression, and exploitation."

Strikers Win In Mississippi

(By Staff Correspondent)

FOREST, Miss.—More than 60 workers who walked off their jobs at Poultry Packers, Inc., on May 10, (see *May Patriot*) won their strike here after six weeks on the picket-line.

DEEP SOUTH REPORTS The company gave in to demands of the newly formed Mississippi Poultry

Workers Union for increased pay and pay for breakdown time. Scabs hired during the strike were fired and the strikers given their jobs back—although the plant manager had at one point declared he'd close the plant before he would rehire them.

At first the strike only involved black workers. However, during the strike, some white workers began to talk to union members—and one was fired for doing so. The white workers also got the raise and concession on breakdown time won by the strike. Workers at another chicken-processing plant across the street got a pay increase and paid vacations while Poultry Packers was on strike.

The next step for the Mississippi Poultry Workers Union will be to seek recognition as bargaining agent for the workers at Poultry Packers. An election supervised by the National Labor Relations Board is expected soon.

Although only about 60 workers were involved at Forest, this strike may represent the beginning of a large movement of working people in the South. Thousands

of people work in chicken processing plants in Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Almost all of the plants are small, pay low wages, and have atrocious working conditions.

During the strike, workers at Poultry Packers asked for and received support from the NAACP, the Gulfcoast Pulpwood Association, and SCEF. They filed complaints with the National Labor Relations Board and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and they maintained a constant mass picketline at the plant.



Poultry workers picket in the rain.

Why the Poultry Workers Struck

By DAVID NICKS

(Ken Lawrence, *Deep South Patriot* correspondent, asked one of the workers to tell him how the strike at Poultry Packers began. This is his answer.)

Everybody was working long hours. We were breaking down half the day sometimes, and we got tired of it. We figured we wanted more money, pay for breakdown time. If we're going to stay down here all day, we figured we should get paid for it.

We've been hollering about vacations for a long time now. But there wasn't any kind of organization. Everything was on the people—what we do down here. One day on a breakdown, that's when it started. Everybody was mad about that breakdown, and every other breakdown they've been having too.

It was about 7:30 in the morning, I believe it was, when we were supposed to start back to work. The

chickens were already on the line. Everybody had to go to the line and start to work right then. But nobody went to the line. Everybody refused to go to the line, and they helped the line stop.

From then on, everybody stayed in the break rooms and the bathrooms, and nobody went to the line. When the white folks went back to the line, some of the black folks went to the line because they didn't know exactly what was going on. But later, after they found out what was going on, they came out and joined with us.

You might say we just got stirred up with the whole thing that day. We'd been talking about it Monday, and we started talking about a strike a week before then, but we never did get together on it, until that breakdown happened on Wednesday.

...But Alabama Workers Lose a Battle

By MARIE DANIELS
(Special Correspondent)

CARROLLTON, Ala.—Last March, black and white workers—mostly women—went on strike at a small dress factory here.

They had begun to overcome the racial barriers that have so often divided workers in the South; they had nerve and courage; they were determined.

But they lost.

They lost partly because they underestimated the lengths to which the company would go to crush them. But mostly because they thought that just being part of a big international union provided them with the strength necessary to win.

It didn't. The international gave them no support at all.

They know now.

The company was Steven Fashions Plant, Butte Knit Division of Jonathan Logan. The union was the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (AFL-CIO). The Carrollton plant, which opened here five years ago, employs 150 production workers, 90 percent of them women, and 15 percent black. About 98 percent of the workers joined the strike.

The issues were speed-up and pay-cuts.

The issue was speedup, coupled with cutbacks in pay. This process started about a year ago when a new plant manager arrived. Workers said the company removed the previous manager because he was "too nice."

The local union filed grievances over a period of months; the company ignored them. Finally on March 14, the frustration of the workers came to a head; they walked out and set up a picketline.

The line lasted two weeks—with active participation of black and white, men and women. Many workers who were on temporary layoff joined the lines.

The workers contacted regional representatives of their union. They were told to go back to work because the strike was "illegal." Union representatives said they would work on settling the grievances with the company.

The Carrollton workers accepted this as a promise. They went back to work. Negotiations began in Atlanta between union representatives and the company lawyer.

Then, while the negotiations were supposedly going on, seven workers were fired—five white women, one black woman and one white man.

An unknown number of others were suspended for periods ranging from two weeks to two months.

A young white woman who was fired described how she was called into the manager's office to be questioned:

"He had his feet propped up on his desk. He asked me a lot of questions about where I had been on such and such a day at such and such a time. Most of the questions, if I had answered them, would have incriminated a lot of other people. The union told us that we could say 'no comment.' That's what I did.

"He told me to get out and never come back."

"Finally he got real mad. One of our local union officers was in the room. She spoke out and said that I was one of the hardest workers at the plant. The manager said, 'Hitler worked real hard too at destroying a country.' Then he told me to get out. To get out and never come back."

Another woman who was interrogated said the manager also wanted to know where she was every minute of the day during the strike. He even asked where she was one time when she left the picketline to go to the bathroom—and asked her if it always took her that long.

"I told him it did if you wore a girdle!" she said.

The black woman who was fired had been on layoff at the time of the strike, but joined the picketline anyway. The manager asked her if she would do the same thing again.

"I said that I would and I was told to leave," she said. "It was a kangaroo court."

As of the end of May, the so-called negotiations between the international union and the company lawyer had been over for six weeks. None of the grievances had been met. There had been no response to requests for support for the workers who were fired or suspended.

Those who were fired receive an average of \$35 a week in unemployment compensation. When that runs out, those without a husband or wife working don't know what they'll do. They recognize that a record of being fired for strike activities may prevent them from getting any kind of job.

They are also under great pressure in the community. One white woman who was fired has a handicapped child. She said the child asked her for some money to get into a movie at her school. When the mother said she didn't have it, the child cried and said "We don't have any money; you got fired for doing something bad."

"People are constantly asking me what I did to get fired," the mother said. "Everyone thinks we did something wrong. We didn't. But it gets back around even to my child. She doesn't understand. It hurts to see her get upset."

Right now, those who were fired or suspended aren't sure what they should do next. Some of them still hope the union will do something.

The white man who was fired was planning to retire soon, but he is still very concerned. He has worked 15 years trying to organize workers in the small plants in this area—simply because he believes any union is better than no union. He is afraid that a division among the workers will break up the union. He wants to wait and see if the union will yet come through—although he is not sure how long he's willing to wait.

The young black woman who was fired is much more impatient. She said: "I don't want a job there if you have to crawl to get it. That's what those people who still have jobs are doing. The union puts out this big newspaper saying how they help the workers. Well, they didn't help us."

"We need to get this story out."

"A lot of the people still at the plant want to stop paying their dues because it hasn't done them any good. The company and the union get along just fine. They take your dues money and the officers go on long vacations and have meetings in fancy hotels.

"We need to get this story out. It won't help us that are fired because the union won't even help us. But maybe it will help workers in other places. It can show how bad the companies and unions can treat you."

The workers who still have their jobs are quiet now and afraid of losing their own jobs. Those fired and suspended are mad—at the management, at the international union for not supporting them, and at the other workers for "crawling on their knees to keep a job that ain't worth it."

But at least some of the workers have learned some important lessons. They learned that the actions of the company are typical and can be expected; they learned the importance of being organized, but discovered that paying dues to a big union doesn't necessarily mean you are organized—and that in the end it's your own local organized strength that will count.

And at least some of them learned that although demanding your rights is a risky business, it's still better, as one woman put it, "than being a slave all your life."

Contented Workers? Women Say 'No' to Speed-Up

By JOHN DELGADO
(Special Correspondent)

ROCK HILL, S.C.—The South Carolina ruling structure likes to brag about its "docile well-behaved" labor force and its low rate of work stoppages.

But 100 women employees at the Celanese Fiber Company here proved them wrong again, when they went on a wildcat strike on May 23.

The women were rebelling against speed-up and unsafe working conditions. Because they work in a key department, they crippled operations throughout the 2,000-worker plant.

By mid-June, the women were holding firm and were resisting efforts of the company to break the strike by threats to run down pickets with cars at night, by injunctions against picketing and contempt citations, and by race-baiting. (About 20 percent of the strikers are black.)

The company and local news media attack the women and claim the strike is "illegal". They say it violates a no-strike provision in the contract of the Textile Workers Union (AFL-CIO), to which the strikers belong.

The women say that's nonsense because Celanese long ago violated its part of the contract by over-assignments in production, the freezing of a pension plan which workers have paid into but now cannot draw out of, and the reduction of necessary medical staff in the plant.

The Celanese Corporation is an international chemical conglomerate that specializes in the processing of cellulose, oil and gas derivatives, forest products, petrocabons, fibers, plastics, paint and coatings. The company has affiliates and holdings in Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Japan, Germany, Venezuela, Peru, and Belgium.

Its Rock Hill plant produces acetate

fibers and yarns used in clothing.

All of the strikers work in the doffing section of the plant, where yarn is removed or stripped from a spinning frame. Their strike has idled 270 workers, whom the company has furloughed until further notice. The strikers discount claims by the company and the news media that the wildcat has not affected production.

"Without us the whole plant slows down," declared one striker. "We know their quality of fiber is not good, and if we weren't hurting them so bad, how come they had to furlough 270 other workers?"

The women say money is not a part of the dispute, despite the fact that the top wage in the plant is \$3.11 per hour regardless of length of employment.

"We'd rather have the additional work

load taken off than a raise in pay," one woman said.

The women say the company has increased work loads by 20 percent and reduced rest periods for each shift. One striker estimated that each worker lifts over four tons of yarn and bobbins per working day.

A new policy requiring each doffer to take over the work-load of the "twisters" in the spinning room will mean that 60 workers will lose their jobs in the company's drive to get more productivity out of its employees.

Furthermore, the introduction of a new fiber six months ago has combined with other fumes in the doffing section to create a very caustic, acidic smell. This has caused numerous workers to become nauseated and ill.

**We don't have
labor pains.**



South Carolina has the lowest
work stoppage rate in the country.

Just look at the record. In the past ten years, an average of only three one-hundredths of one percent of working time was lost due to labor strife. Our worker productivity rate is another source of pride—it ranges 14-25% higher than the national average.

Our average working week is 41.2 hours. And our "right-to-work law" insures the right to work regardless of membership or non-membership in any organization.

So consider locating in South Carolina. You'll be able to do business painlessly here.

For more information, send for our new brochure called "South Carolina: Resource For Industry." Write: J. Bonner Manly, Director, State Development Board, Dept. 74B, P.O. Box 927, Columbia, South Carolina 29202.



This is an ad that appeared a few months ago in *Trends*, publication of the State Development Board, of South Carolina. It was one of a series of such ads published by the state. Another, which appeared in *Business Week* in November, 1971, bore the caption, "The crop we grow most in South Carolina is factory workers."

The dispute actually began early in May when 20 doffers staged a brief sit-down to protest "write-ups", a company disciplinary action, against those who complained about the speed-up and unsafe conditions.

When they finally struck in late May, the women immediately set up a picket line. The company claimed the pickets harassed other workers. The women said Celanese did the harassing by having some of its foremen drive down the picket line on Highway 21 at night with car lights-out, blowing their horns and threatening to swerve off the road at the strikers.

Celanese obtained a court order prohibiting "picketing the premises". The women then moved their picket line across the road, and the judge issued 20 contempt citations.

Badgering the strikers in court, Judge Robert Hayes asked each one, "Can't you read?"

One woman replied for them all: "Even if we have only graduated from high school, we're not dumb. We've got rights to strike!"

The Celanese plant has been unionized since 1952, and the local has 1,800 members. The strikers say some of those who have crossed their picket lines support them privately.

One white woman described company efforts to "separate the black doffers from the white," but said they have refused to be divided.

"The company called all the black women who was out with us and told them they were being misled and to come back to work," she said. "They even tried to trick the black doffers into coming to a separate meeting, but it didn't work."

The education in oppression that Celanese is giving its workers may have come at a bad time for one of the South's most anti-black politicians and one of its most vicious foes of the Southern working class—Sen. Strom Thurmond. Commenting on who they would be voting for in November when the state's senior senator is up for re-election, one woman said:

"Well, I've voted for Strom in the past, but not now. All of us know Strom will stick by the company any time."

Sounding Board

To the Editor:

Randy Shannon's contribution to Sounding Board in the April *Patriot* does an excellent job of exposing the way that racists have used the issue of busing school-children as a smokescreen to conceal their real purposes. But to support Shannon's conclusion would actually be a retreat from the struggle for black liberation.

Shannon says, "Integration of the schools is essential to the fight against racist discrimination in education. At this time it is a focal point of the attacks on black people. It must become a focal point of our struggle against racism."

He does point out that "some black leaders are now rejecting integration and calling for black control of black communities and their institutions, for uniting the black community as a power base." But he abandons this concept of black power because a Gallup Poll showed that a large majority of blacks favor busing. Few Marxists base their views on the results of Gallup polls. I certainly do not.

The only issue, it seems to me, is the right of black people to self determination, both in the United States and around the world. The black leaders who are demanding black control of communities and institutions, and black unity, are saying that blacks are entitled to determine their own destiny whether whites like it or not.

In an article entitled "School Desegregation Not the Real Issue" in the February 1971 *Patriot*, Lionel McIntyre wrote, "The important issue is who controls the schools and how students are being molded by the schools." The article went on to point out: "None of this is to say that the struggle against segregated schools in the past was meaningless. It is just that now we are at a different stage of struggle."

Where the black community is actively engaged in a

struggle to integrate schools by busing, it should be supported. Last fall, with Randy Shannon's assistance, I reported on such a situation in Nashville, Tennessee. (See October 1971 *Patriot*.)

A month earlier, Jim Grant reported in the September *Patriot* how blacks were organizing against busing in Greensboro, North Carolina. For Shannon to oppose them is to make a mockery of the notion of self determination, and to make the tactic (busing and school integration) into a matter of principle for the black movement.

As an editorial in the October *Patriot* pointed out: "Any desegregation plan that succeeds in creating a racial ratio in every school proportionate to the black population of a city also succeeds in making blacks a minority in every school. And in a racist society that's a problem..."

Lionel McIntyre concluded his article: "We need a school system that people themselves can control—based upon principles of non-exploitation and anti-racism. And we can fight for these things whether we are in black schools or integrated schools. And we believe that white students must fight for them too."

(Copies of "Black Youth Says: 'School Desegregation Not the Real Issue'" by Lionel McIntyre, which originally appeared in the February 1971 issue of the *Southern Patriot* are still available, reprinted as a circular. They may be obtained by writing to SCEF.)

Ken Lawrence
Jackson, Miss.

(The writer of the above letter is Deep South correspondent for *The Patriot*.)

To the Editor: I must reply to Judy Hicks' otherwise fine article, "The Revival of Scientific Racism" in the March, 1972 issue of *The Southern Patriot*. You are misinformed, and have irresponsibly maligned several emphatically non-racist groups which advocate population stabilization. We are on the same side. Dr. Paul

These letters are in response to recent articles in *Sounding Board*, a new feature of the *Patriot* appearing at irregular intervals. It is designed to present a forum for ideas on important issues as they arise in the course of Southern struggles. Readers are invited to submit articles of 1000 words or less.

Ehlich, Chairman of the Department of Biological Sciences at Stanford University and founder of Zero Population Growth, states:

"Thus the claim that studies of genetic I.Q. in a context of skin color are biologically or socially important is absolute and utter nonsense. Clearly, the genetic quality question is a red herring and should be kept out of our action program for the next generation."

Yes, we "...note pointedly that the largest families are among the poor." You are aware, are you not, that non-white minorities constitute at most 20% of the U.S. population. It is true that a majority of this 20% is poor according to U.S. standards. But a great many whites are also poor. The issue we stress is poverty, not color, as you seem to think, although of course we acknowledge the relationship between the two in this society. Also, we do not expect anything of anyone that we do not advocate for ourselves. I do not plan to have more than two children. And if you remain intellectually unconvinced of the urgency of population stabilization for the quality of life for all of us, I urge you to read Dr. Ehlich's excellent book, *The Population Bomb* (Ballantine Books, available in paperback.) It furnishes further resources.

As for comparison the Nazis: really! This is inaccurate at best. They *did* advocate racially discriminatory "biological solutions". We commit ourselves to exactly as much as we ask of others. No super race notions here.

Ms. Cecelia R. Sheridan
Portland, Oregon

News Briefs

In Tallahassee, Fla., David Charles Smith, one of the Quincy Five, was found not guilty by a jury in his trial for murder. (Details in next *Patriot*.)

In Miami, Fla., a massive attack on leaders of the Black Afro Militant Movement continued with the sentencing of Al Featherston to six years and Willie Harris to five years, for allegedly firebombing a dime store. The judge admitted that Featherston knew nothing of the firebombing but said he had set it in motion by his "teachings."

In Augusta, Ga., Quakers and other supporters from around the South gathered in late May for the trial of Ellis Rece. He had changed his tax withholding form, which had previously listed only his wife and three children, to a claim for 53 dependents.

"Who is really dependent on me," he asked, "the four people currently fed by my salary, or the hundreds of thousands whose destruction I support?" He said the 53 symbolized the citizens of the 50 states, plus Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. He was fined \$500 and given a 45-day jail sentence, which he immediately began serving.

Draft Resister Goes On Trial

NEW ORLEANS, La.—Resistance to the draft is growing in the black community here, and the government is out to make an example of another resister, as they did in the Walter Collins case.

The present target is Joe Rainey, 22-year-old activist with the Black Workers Congress. Rainey traveled to many parts of the world, including Vietnam, as a merchant seaman and came home convinced that he must resist U.S. imperialism.

He is charged with two counts of "refusing to obey an order at a pre-induction physical," and faces a possible 10 years in prison. His trial is set for July 24.

Speaking at an anti-war rally here in May, Rainey said: "Let's take the draft out of isolation and look at the total economic system—imperialism. We have to begin to talk about that because imperialism breeds wars a-broad and oppression at home."

Rainey supporters ask that you write to U.S. Attorney Gerald Gallinghouse, 500 St. Louis St., New Orleans; and to Judge Fred Cassibry, 400 Royal St., New Orleans, demanding that charges be dropped. Send contributions for expenses to Political Prisoners Anti-Repression Committee, P.O. Box 50975, New Orleans, La. 70150.



Economics Made Easy: A Workshop Why It's Harder Now To Make Ends Meet

At their spring meeting, SCEF board and staff members took part in a workshop led by Frank Rosen of the staff of the United Electrical Workers (UE). The topic of the workshop was the U.S. economy today and the outlook for the people of this country. SCEF

members found the workshop so helpful that the *Patriot* staff wants to share it with our readers. What follows is not a complete account of what Rosen said, and it is not always in his exact words. It is a summary, from the notes of a workshop participant.)

When we look around at what's happening in this country today—and try to predict what will happen in the next 10 years—we have to recognize one basic fact: the U.S. economy is in trouble. And you have to look at politics, too, because economics and politics can't be separated.

The economy is in trouble because of over-capacity. That is, we have in this country more productive capacity than is needed to produce the goods that can be sold. Not more than is needed for people's use—but more than people are able to buy back with the money they are making.

This economy is a capitalist economy—and the purpose of a capitalist economy is to make profits for the corporations. When we reach this state of over-capacity it means that profits can't continue to expand. It is a built-in part of the capitalist system that companies must do whatever is necessary to keep expanding their profits. So they do; they proceed to pay their workers relatively less. That means people get poorer, the

quality of life declines, and those who rule this country are of necessity set on a collision course with most of the people.

The worker's share goes down

This process—this paying people less for what they produce—has been going on for a long time; but since 1965 it has become more drastic, and easier for the average person to see.

Let's look at what has been happening to the income of production workers in relation to what they are producing since 1947. According to government figures—and all the figures I'm using come from Uncle Sam—in 1947 for every \$1 that a worker received in wages and supplements (that's social security, insurance, things like that), he added \$2.37 to the value of the product he worked on. By 1969, for every \$1 he received, he was adding \$3.09 to the value of the product.

In other words, he was producing much more—automation made that possible—but he wasn't sharing in the benefits to anywhere near the extent the boss was. That meant he couldn't buy back his share of what was produced.

The boss's share goes up

Now, if you divide the \$1 that I mentioned above by the amount of the value the worker added to the product, you get the fraction of each hour during which the worker labored to make his own wages. The rest of each hour he worked to make money for the boss.

Thus, in 1947, if you figure that out, it took him three hours and 23 minutes out of an eight-hour shift to earn his own wages, and the rest of the time he was working for the boss. By 1969 it took him only two hours and 36 minutes to earn his wages—so an even greater portion of the day he was working to make money for the boss.

Now, for a long time, the average worker didn't really notice his declining part of the fruits of his work, because his actual pay was going up. And not just his pay in numbers of dollars, but in what is called "real wages," that is, his pay measured in relation to the cost of living, in relation to what the money would buy.

To understand this, let's go back and look at feudalism for a minute. With the peasant, one-tenth of the crop went to the church and maybe about half to the lord, and he kept four-tenths for himself. If he had a good year, and production was up, he got more. Now if one year the lord said, "O.K., this year I'm going to start taking six-tenths of your crop," it was immediately evident to the peasant that he would be even more exploited.

In the capitalist system, in an industrial system, it is not so easy to see. The worker usually never sees the whole



product he contributes to. If he's getting a decreasing share each year, he's likely to figure "so what," as long as he is getting more in real wages and living a little better. But with this process going on, it's making trouble in the economy—and ultimately for everyone—because workers are also consumers and they can't buy enough back. That's what we mean by over-capacity.

And now real wages are going down

Then in 1965, something very important happened in our economy. Real wages stopped rising each year—and in many instances have gone down. Between 1948 and 1965, the average production worker's real take-home pay went up ½ percent a year. His wages didn't go up as fast as his productivity did, but they did improve. But since 1965, in the entire six years up until 1971, real wages increased only 1 percent, and when you add the increasing local and state taxes people have had to pay, most people's real income has actually declined.

That's why we've been having more strikes since 1965. People just aren't making it anymore. And it will get worse.

Now, why have real wages leveled off and in most cases begun to go down since 1965? Part of it is inflation. 1965 was when the Vietnam War began to escalate. The people who run this country wanted to have their cake and eat it too; President Johnson said we could have guns and butter. So instead of paying for the war with higher taxes on the corporations, they borrowed the money. And when you borrow money for values not yet produced, you have to put the printing presses to work, you print more money, and the value of it goes down.

U.S. foreign policy has failed

But the increasing inability of the rulers of this country to keep people's living standards going up relates to the whole world situation too. This is where you can't separate economics from politics.

The ruling class in this country came out of World War II with overwhelming financial, military, and technological supremacy compared with any country in

the world. They set out to maintain this position with four basic policies: they would rebuild the war-devastated capitalist countries in a way that they would provide unlimited markets for American goods under U.S. control, and see to it that none of these countries moved toward socialism. They would contain the Soviet Union and any other socialist country that might arise.

They foresaw 100-year rule

In regard to the Third World, they would see that American capital moved in as French and British moved out, and that the colonial status remained unchanged. And with regard to the working class at home, they would grant limited concessions from their super-profits overseas. These concessions were to be in return for support from the U.S. working class for military adventures abroad.

With those four policies, the rulers of this country foresaw an "American Century." *Fortune Magazine* in the early 50's wrote about "100 years of American rule of the world."

But the world revolution spread

Well, they didn't last 10 years. Every one of those policies is down the drain. The capitalist countries which we rebuilt are now our chief competitors, and the left is becoming stronger in them. The Soviet Union is stronger economically than ever before, and China, Cuba and other countries have moved to socialism. Large revolutionary movements engulf the Third World. And since 1965, our own working class has begun to rebel.

All this has produced a crisis for the American capitalist and his economy. And it was to try to meet this crisis that Nixon put in the wage price freeze last August and then moved into Phase II. Wage increases were frozen, and prices weren't—and the whole thing was a farce. The purpose was to put onto the working class the burden of trying to bail out the economy.

The crisis will get worse

The crisis isn't going to go away; it will get worse. In the next few years there is going to be a tremendous struggle on many fronts as to which way this country will go. We can go the route of further military spending, repression, and lower living standards, and this is Nixon's route. Or we can go a different route:—ending the war and the military spending, raising the purchasing power of the people, which implies a cut in profits of the corporations, expanded trade with the socialist world, etc. That route would not be as profitable for the American ruling class; and that's why there will be increasing struggle.

We are entering a period when the enlightened self-interest of many groups is going to merge. In the 1950's the left wing in this country was out there all by itself. In the 60's the blacks stood almost alone. In the fight against the war it was mainly the students in the beginning. The labor movement was silent in this whole period.

But now we are coming into a period when everybody's self-interest—some piece of everybody's life—is going to be adversely affected. This I think presents us with the possibility of building coalitions for struggle that can turn this country around.

The Victory at San Jose: Its Meaning for the South

Many people in the South worked hard to build a movement in our region supporting freedom for Angela Davis. We have a right to rejoice in the victory in San Jose—and we should analyze what it means.

For this case involved more than the freedom of one remarkable woman. It was a test case—for the rulers in this country and for those of us who oppose them.

It is no exaggeration to say that certain people in the power structure in America would have made the Angela Davis case the Rosenberg case of the 1970's if they could. For those too young to remember—and it is a crime that it should be forgotten—that case involved Julius and Ethel Rosenberg who were convicted of giving the secret of the A-Bomb to the Soviet Union. In 1953, they were executed, although many people knew then what later became fairly common knowledge: there was no A-Bomb secret that good scientists anywhere could not discover.

MASS FEAR CAN CREATE A POLICE STATE

But in those days the mass fear that was being fastened on the American people was of the Soviet Union—of the possibility of Soviet bombs falling on our cities. The effect of the Rosenberg case—which was a high water mark of a whole onslaught of attacks on radicals—was to create an image of the person advocating social change as a traitor who might cause bombs to fall on us all. After that it was easy to convict almost any advocate of any social change of almost any crime—and a decade of silence and fear, "The Nightmare Decade", fastened itself on this country. The widespread fear provided the potential mass base for a police state.

In the 1970's, the potential support for a police state also comes from a mass fear, but the fear is different. It is fear on the part of many white people of a whole group of their fellow citizens; it is fear of blacks, especially militant and organized blacks.

This is because too many white people still do not understand that their life and well-being are not threatened by black people or the black movement, but by the powerful few who benefit from a system that oppresses black people.

The charges against Angela Davis were designed to make a symbol of her as the Rosenbergs were symbolized—to create an image of every black militant as poised with gun in hand ready to shoot white judges. If the frame-up had succeeded, that image would have been further fastened on the public mind—and it would have become easier and easier to send to prison and perhaps to death sentences not only black militants but all who oppose the power structure of our country.

BUT IT DIDN'T WORK THIS TIME

The important thing is that it didn't work this time. The jury at San Jose freed Angela because there was no case against her. But there was no case against the Rosenbergs either—or against many, many other people who have been executed or languished long years in jail. In Angela's case, the jury was able to act rationally for two reasons. First, there is a different atmosphere in the country now—with more and more people questioning everything about our society and no longer willing to accept as gospel what the government says. And second, a tremendous campaign in Angela's behalf from the very moment of her arrest helped to heighten that atmosphere.

Those who have wondered whether the 1950's might be repeated in the 1970's—only worse—got part of their answer at San Jose. It doesn't have to happen. Mass fear and hysteria can be penetrated by truth. Juries can be reached.

And let's not forget that Angela is not only black, she is red. Those who designed the case against her undoubtedly thought that the fact that she is a member of the Communist Party would make it impossible for her to get wide support. They could not have been more wrong. The two major fear techniques that have long been used to cripple and control people's movements—the fear of the black movement and the fear of communism—were joined in Angela's case, but people didn't buy it. The old fear techniques simply are not working anymore.

NOW LET'S FREE OUR POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE SOUTH

The job now is to grasp what this means and to realize that we can free other political prisoners as well. This is very important in the South, where our jails are overpopulated with them.

There are Walter Collins and other black draft resisters; there are the RNA Eleven in Jackson, the Quincy Five in Florida, Jim Grant, Ben Chavis, Donald Smith, and countless others in North Carolina, Thomas Wansley in Virginia, the Black Afro Militant Movement in Miami, Panther arrests in Louisville, and many others whose names are known only in their own communities, if there.

Right now most of the political prisoners are black; the power structure well knows that it is the black movement that is shaking their system at its roots and making it possible for all poor and oppressed people to organize. At stake is the future of everyone who is not content with this society.

IT CAN BE DONE IN EVERY COMMUNITY

Past experience in the South has proved before, if less dramatically, just what the Davis case proves. Where protest was great enough—the Panthers in Memphis, the Black Six in Louisville, and others elsewhere—people were freed.

The problem of course is that there are so many political prisoners—actually in every community where the powers-that-be are being challenged. It is a simple fact that we can't make a national campaign out of each one. But in any community we can mount a campaign there, and across the South we can help each other. People everywhere should learn some of the practical techniques employed in the Angela campaign and in others that have been successful.

We who want to change the society must expect that those who run it will always strike back and present us constantly with more cases of political prisoners to fight. We should not feel this is an unnecessary diversion from the main battles. It is essential if we would have breathing space to continue to work for change.

Furthermore, does anyone doubt that thousands of people were brought into the movement for a new society because the campaign around the Davis case opened their eyes to what is wrong? It can be that way in every community where we are willing to do the hard work necessary to build a real campaign for those who are in prison.

—Anne Braden

(The Southern Committee to Free Angela Davis and All Political Prisoners has published a new fact sheet summarizing some crucial Southern cases. Copies may be obtained from the committee at P.O. Box 4643, Memphis, Tenn. 38104.)

New Woodcutter Officers



Pictured above are new officers of the Gulfcoast Pulpwood Association (GPA), elected recently in Mississippi.

The election came as a climax of several month's work by woodcutters to consolidate and build on the victory they achieved in their historic strike last fall. The strike brought hundreds of new members into the Association, and the woodcutters and their wives have been struggling to create a democratic structure capable of dealing with the South's gigantic paper industry.

At meetings scheduled during the summer, they are writing by-laws together, planning the development of new chapters, and working toward a cooperative to provide tools and supplies to woodcutters. Because of the growing grass-roots participation, they were able to assist the young Mississippi Poultry Workers Union in its strike in Forest and were a key factor in the victory won there. (See page 5.)

Those pictured are (from left): Grover Sanders, Mozell, Miss., treasurer; Ullis Clark, Meridian, assistant treasurer; Mrs. Marjorie Walters, Ellisville, Miss., assistant secretary; Fred Walters, Ellisville, president; Mrs. Clozelle Ryans, Newton, Miss., secretary; Webb Davis, Louin, Miss., vice-president.

New elections have not yet been held in Alabama, where the GPA held its last election in 1967.

Tenants Hold Regional Meeting

(By Staff Correspondent)

NEW ORLEANS, La.—About 200 people from 10 Southern states came here in May for a southern regional conference of the National Tenants Organization (NTO).

The tenants' movement is growing throughout the South. Delegates represented 94 different organizations in 37 communities.

They heard Jesse Gray, executive director of the NTO, call for the building of a coalition between public and private housing tenants and small home owners, whom he described as "mere caretakers for the banks."

"The banks are the common owners of all the property," Gray said. Gray and other speakers also hit at the Vietnam War and called for a popular "people's movement" against it.

"The Federal Government must become involved in building and financing housing in a massive way—housing that the poor can afford," Gray said. "And they can't do it as long as our resources are used to kill in Vietnam."

The two-day meeting broke down into workshops on practical organizing techniques, and delegates called for the building of state and county organizations of tenants.

Most of the delegates at New Orleans were black—and the tenants' movement in the South is presently mostly a black

movement. As one participant said, "In many places what used to be the civil-rights movement was sort-of taken over by the housing movement."

But a scattering of whites were present too—from groups in Louisville, Florida, and Louisiana. And Jesse Gray emphasized that the movement must address itself to whites too because we "can't let George Wallace have them all."

Highlander Anniversary

Highlander Research and Education Center will observe its 40th anniversary with a four-day program at its new location near New Market, Tenn., Aug 20-23.

The adult-education center has recently built new facilities in a mountain area. It had been housed temporarily in Knoxville for 10 years, after Tennessee reactionaries drove it out of Monteagle, Tenn.

Highlander has survived despite vicious attacks throughout its history and has been a center for growth and learning by people involved in the successive people's movements in the South.

It invites old and new friends to come for the anniversary. For more information write Highlander at Box 245-A, Route 3, New Market, Tenn.

Subscription Blank

The Patriot is sent to all persons who give \$3 or more annually to the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF), 3210 W. Broadway, Louisville, Ky. 40211.

I enclose _____, of which \$3 is for a Patriot subscription.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Rank and File Miners Meet To Launch New Campaign

(Continued from page 1)
 who have pushed Boyle and his cohorts further and further into a corner with a succession of trial victories.

It has been proved that the current UMW bosses tampered not only with elections, but also with pension funds, rank and file dues, and the selection of district-level officials. The murder of Yablonski soon after his loss to Boyle has already been linked to UMW officers and the guilt is expected to extend to the top of the union.

The convention later accepted a platform designed to keep the UMW responsive to the rank and file and out of the courts.

The platform promised a complete overhaul of the union administration. It read in part:

"It is time to return the direction of our great union to the rank-and-file. The day of rose-in-the-lapel union leaders who refuse to leave their mahogany paneled offices in Washington, D.C. is over."

There was heavy emphasis on health and safety in the mines. The platform stated: "The myth that coal miners must continue to be maimed and killed because mining is 'inherently dangerous' is not acceptable to us. The superior safety records in other countries make it clear that coal mines can be made safe, if people are put before profit."



There were proposals that Boyle's one-man safety committee be replaced by a team of experts; that local safety committees be fully supported at higher levels in their efforts to have regulations enforced, and that a thorough black-lung-assistance program be started.

Regarding the union's welfare and retirement fund, the platform pledged to do away with the red tape which denies pensions to many miners today and to stop ignoring sick and permanently disabled miners.

Angry Miners Strike Pittston

LORADO, W. Va.—Angry coal miners in the Buffalo Creek area struck early this summer in protest against the indifference of the Pittston Coal Company.

It was a Pittston-owned slag dam that gave way last February 26, releasing a 50-foot wall of water on Buffalo hollow.

The strike began when Buffalo Mining Co. (BMC), a branch of Pittston, made it clear that they would not pay men for work days missed due to the flood. Miners also objected to the gradual re-employment of men with total disregard to seniority.

Also at issue were charges by the miners that Pittston was dragging its feet on making settlements to residents of the area for property damage during the flood. Community support for the strike was strong.

The men went back to work when Pittston promised to process grievances on the pay and seniority issues and to speed up compensation payments. Residents of the area say claims have since been handled more quickly.

The platform demanded autonomy for each union district to elect its own officers.

It also called for thorough reclamation of strip-mined land and a new organizing campaign for the more than 44,000 bituminous coal miners who do not hold UMW membership cards.

There was also a promise to move the union headquarters from Washington to a location in the coal-mining region.

The ideals of the platform were put in perspective by two long-time campaigners for a strong union:—the black president of the Disabled Miners and Widows of Southern West Virginia, Robert Payne, and a 77-year-old anthracite miner, Charles Nedd.

Nedd urged everyone's participation to unseat Boyle in the coming election. "Are we members going to stand idly by and watch what we made be destroyed by a man who had no sympathy for you, but only for himself," he asked.

Miners had come from as far away as Illinois and Nova Scotia to confirm the



Miners Voice photo by Lana Reeves

Miners for Democracy candidates: Harry Patrick, Arnold Miller, Mike Trbovich.

kind of local responsibility Nedd talked about. They applauded the platform of broadly based bread-and-butter issues; issues which have been ignored by the UMW since the waning days of John L. Lewis's leadership.

But concern for more long-range goals was hard to find. At one point convention chairman Karl Kafton announced that a small group of radicals trying to distribute leaflets to delegates had been escorted from the convention area.

"We don't want any red paint on our organization," he said. Kafton urged others who might try to act in the same vein to "save us the embarrassment of asking you to leave."

Miller, for one, might have handled this situation differently. In his black-lung organizing he has cooperated with supporters covering a broad political spectrum. And he plans to encourage change and new blood.

After the convention, Miller told the MFD newspaper, *The Miner's Voice*: "The most important thing we can offer young miners is a chance to be heard, and a chance to move up in the union, to take on additional responsibility."

"When the districts are autonomous, younger miners will have a chance to hold office, to change things that need changing."

After his nomination, Trbovich emphasized the need for unity within the reform movement in order to defeat Boyle and the need for the candidates to campaign personally in every union district.

Patrick paid special thanks to the young miners who helped him receive the nomination. He also said, "I seek this office obligated to no one except the 200,000 coal miners who belong to this union."

Another Wildcat

BECKLEY, W. Va.—Employees of the Association of Bituminous Contractors staged their second wildcat strike in three months recently to protest treatment by the Federal Pay Board. The Board cut a 20 percent plus raise they had negotiated to about 5.5 percent.

The workers are part of the United Mine Workers but operate on a separate contract covering construction jobs. The walkout ended when they agreed to accept the reduced raise.

The new Miners for Democracy platform offers hope to these men, as the MFD is demanding that they and the miners have simultaneous contracts so they can back each other up at the bargaining table.

Wilmington 16 Are Freed Carolina Protests Bring Bond Reduction

(Continued from page 1)
 bonds. Protests came from all over the country about the use of high bail to keep black activists and their white friends in jail in North Carolina.

The mistrial came at the start of the second week of the trial. The first week was marked by a rally at the Pender County Courthouse in which 400 people took part. There was a similar demonstration in Wilmington.

The white woman, Mrs. Anne Shepard, and three black youths are charged with conspiring to burn the grocery during an insurrection in February, 1971.

Others are charged with actually setting fire to the grocery and with conspiring to assault emergency personnel when they came to put out the fire.

Chavis was on trial on all three counts. George Kirby, a community organizer for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), is charged with two counts of conspiracy.

Kirby is already under sentences totalling nine years as a result of activities in Wilmington and Pitt County. Eight teenage boys in Pitt County, of which Greenville is the county seat, are under sentences totalling 111 years on charges of setting off a bomb in the rest room of a school. One boy was given 40 years in prison. There is much doubt as to their guilt.

Chavis is an organizer for the N.C.-Va. Commission for Racial Justice, a branch

of the United Church of Christ. He is a member of the Board of the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF).

James Grant, an organizer for SCEF and a writer for its newspaper, the *Southern Patriot*, is under sentence of 10 years in prison. He has been in jail since late

BULLETIN

Jim Grant, reporter for *The Southern Patriot*, was freed from jail in Raleigh, N.C., after the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that he could be released by posting 10 percent of his \$50,000 bond. Grant was locked up more than two months.

April, unable to post the \$50,000 bond demanded by the U.S. District Court. (See *May Patriot* for background.)

The trial of Chavis and the 10 others was moved from Wilmington to this town 30 miles north of there after the defense asked for a change of venue.

Defense attorneys James Ferguson and John Harmon charged that the courts in Wilmington had shown their bias against the defendants. They further declared that the Wilmington courts are illegally constituted and therefore have no authority.

They contend that the last legally constituted government in Wilmington

was a fusionist government led by black people. This was overthrown by a band of white men in 1898, at which time many black people were killed and their homes and businesses burned.

Removal of the trial to Pender County placed it in a community where many white people openly espouse membership in the Ku Klux Klan. However, the population is 49 percent black and this was shown in the color of the people being called for possible jury duty. Officials here handle race relations gingerly and are trying to keep hostile whites from starting trouble.

Members of the Rights of White People (ROWP) stood on the edge of the crowd as the black community rallied in support of the defendants on June 10. They made no moves, just listened.

Chavis' mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Chavis, a teacher in Oxford, N.C., said she had made "many sacrifices to prepare my son for a life of service to the people."

Joyner told the crowd that 70 percent of the people in North Carolina prisons are black. He then noted that more than 90 percent of the court officials and police in the state are white.

The prosecuting attorney used the first seven of his challenges to remove seven black people who had been tentatively seated in the jury box. At the end of the fifth day, the prosecutor developed a fever and court was adjourned early.