

the southern PATRIOT

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Mississippi Poultry Workers Demand Indemnity

By KEN LAWRENCE

FOREST, Miss.—More than 1,100 workers have been laid off in four poultry plants in Scott County, Mississippi, after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ordered the disposal of millions of chickens contaminated by unacceptable levels of dieldrin, a harmful pesticide.

Most of the workers affected by the crisis are members of the Mississippi Poultry Workers Union (MPWU), which is the certified bargaining agent in three of the four plants.

According to Merle Barber, MPWU president, "Many public officials went into action to compensate the poultry plant owners for their losses, but nobody did anything about the loss of wages by the workers until the MPWU began talking to officials about the workers' needs."

Union representatives met with State Representative Richard Livingston of Scott County, Rep. Robert Clark of Holmes County (Mississippi's only black representative), and Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Buck Ross.

The union sent a delegation to Washington, which met with members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, with Representative David Bowen, and with aides to Senator James O. Eastland and Representative I had Cochran.

The union's demand for full compensation to the workers received wide support from labor unions, welfare rights organizers, the Delta Ministry, the Greater Jackson Area Committee, and SCEF. Liberal congressmen and members of the Congressional Black Caucus made it clear that they would support a bill to compensate the plant owners only if it included a

provision compensating the workers.

As a result of these pressures, Eastland and Bowen have amended their bills to fully compensate the workers for the hardship they have suffered through no fault of their own.

From the very beginning of the crisis, the companies have shown little concern for the workers or consumers. According to the *Scott County Times*, the first sign of pesticide contamination was found in breeder hens last January 16, and in early February chickens at Poultry Packers and Southeastern Poultry were found contaminated.

The response of the poultrymen was to dicker, to try to get the government to raise its tolerance for the level of the poison permissible in chickens. After that

(Continued on page 3)



Photo by Ken Lawrence

An organizing workshop conducted by the Mississippi Poultry Workers Union.

Pay-offs in Charlotte Three Case

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—An eight week investigation by the *Charlotte Observer* has uncovered more information concerning the frame-up of the Charlotte 3. The Charlotte 3 — Charles Parker, T. J. Reddy, and Jim Grant — were sentenced to 10, 20 and 25 years respectively for allegedly burning down a horse stable.

The *Charlotte Observer* uncovered a trail of pay-offs and deals made to the two prosecution witnesses, Walter David Washington and Theodore Alfred Hood, that led straight to the Justice Department in Washington, D.C.

The following are quotes from the articles that appeared in the *Charlotte Observer* on March 24 and 25.

"The two crucial prosecution witnesses in Charlotte's celebrated 1972 Lazy B Stable burning trial were secretly paid at least \$4,000.00 in cash by the federal government in exchange for their testimony in the case and a related federal trial..."

"Neither members of the Lazy B jury, presiding judge Frank Szapp, nor the defense attorneys were aware of the payments, which had not been publicly disclosed until now."

"And three N.C. law enforcement officers closely acquainted with Washington say that in the past year Washington has bragged to them that he received additional money. He gave each officer a

(Continued on page 6)

A March Against Death Row

By JIM GRANT

RALEIGH, N.C.—Over 600 people, most of them young blacks, marched to the Legislative Building demanding that the General Assembly abolish the death penalty.

Once there, they presented a list of 7 demands to House Speaker James E. Ramsey, Senator Kenneth D. Royall and Fred Morrison, legal aide to the governor. Among these demands were: abolition of the death penalty, commutation of the death sentences of the 31 (now 33) people on death row, and a pardon for the Edgcombe Three and all other persons whose unjust convictions are similar.

The marchers were led by Mr. Golden Finks, N.C.

Field Secretary for SCLC, the Rev. Ben Chavis, and Rev. Leon White, of the N.C.—Va. Commission for Racial Justice. Many of the marchers were from Tarboro, N.C., where Vernon Leroy Brown, Bobby Hines, and Jesse Lee Walston were convicted of raping a white woman last December and sentenced to death.

North Carolina now has 33 persons on death row, the largest number in the United States and half of the total on death rows throughout the country. Twenty-two of these people are black and one is an Indian.

"Do you think that it is an accident that of the 31 men and women on death row, that 20 of them are black?" asked Rev. Charles Cobb, executive director of

the Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ. Owusu Sadaukai, president of the North Carolina Black Assembly, was more direct when he told the rally that the issue is "not just about capital punishment, it is about this society... This is racist. How is it that you judge a so-called criminal in a society that is criminal and led by the arch-criminal Richard Nixon?"



Photo by Charlotte Peacemaker

Rev. Leon White holds the microphone while Mrs. Elizabeth Brown, mother of Vernon Brown, one of the three men sentenced to death on a rape charge in Tarboro, emotionally thanks the marchers for showing their care.

Rev. Ben Chavis waiting with protestors for speeches to begin. Many of the marchers carried white wooden crosses. Each cross symbolized a life taken by capital punishment in North Carolina since 1910.



Photo by Charlotte Peacemaker



Vietnam and Black America, edited by Clyde Taylor is an important new addition to the literature of protest and resistance to the Indochina war. The anthology contains the anti-war writings of a large number of black leaders and writers, including a fine selection of anti-war poetry. The book's only serious weakness is its failure to describe the breadth of black draft resistance and the brutal repression of black draft resisters. Available for \$2.95 in paperback from Doubleday & Co., 245 Park Ave., New York, NY 10017.

Boris I. Bittker analyzes the legal issues posed by the demand to compensate blacks for slavery and discrimination. His book, *The Case for Black Reparations*, is available in paperback for \$1.95 from Vintage Books, Random House, Inc., 201 E. 50th St., New York, NY 10022.

from SCEF

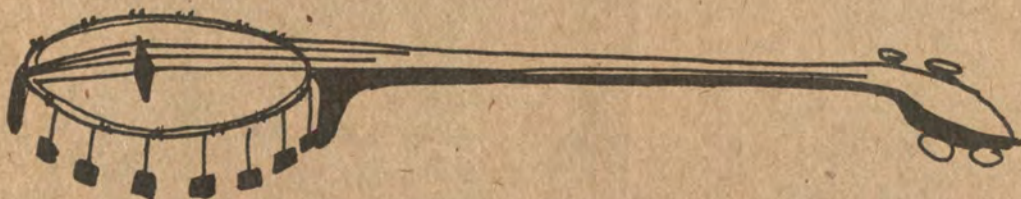


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The Southern Folk Cultural Revival Project is on another tour. We felt that it would be a good time to repeat the ad about their record *It's a Mean Old World*. This record is a collection of songs by artists featured on the tours between 1966 and 1972. Songs ranging from traditional to movement are sung by the Rev. Pearly Brown, Alice and Hazel, Ora

and Arlie Watson, Brenda Jones, John Shines, Jack Wright and Anne Romaine. A variety of instruments — banjo, guitar, mouth harp, dulcimer — are included.

SCEF is helping to promote the record. A donation of \$4 is asked. Your gift helps both SCEF and the Southern Folk Cultural Revival Project. Order from SCEF, P.O. Box 7737, Atlanta, GA 30309.

How Europe Underdeveloped Africa by Walter Rodney is a plainly written book which shows the direct correlation between the development of Europe and North America and the underdevelopment of Africa from the time of the Atlantic slave trade up to the present. Though the book is written for the African masses, it is also important for people struggling for liberation on this side of the Atlantic. It is distributed outside Africa by Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications, 141 Coldershaw Road, London, W. 13, U.K. Three dollars will cover the cost of the book plus overseas postage.

"The Senator from Slaughter County" by Harry Caudill (Little, Brown & Co., 1974; \$6.95) is a novel of coal, of mountain politics, of the corruption of power.

The central figure, Dr. Tom Bonham, began his career as a mountain-born doctor, who rose speedily to become a leader in the county called Slaughter, in eastern Kentucky. Bonham had grown up in the transitional years of our nation, as the forces of industrialism and of human nature altered the American people and the land upon which they lived.

Bonham entered into politics as a young idealist and lost his first campaign because of his moral stances on the coal companies and the problems of his people. During the period of disillusionment and bitterness he weathered, his views altered. He began to turn to the power structure for support, and for the future of Slaughter County and himself.

The road to compromise continues throughout the depression, into the War, and past the abortive "War on Poverty" of the sixties. The book ends with Dr. Tom Bonham becoming Senator.

The book is warmly personal, which makes the bitter ironies of our time slightly easier to understand and to face.

(This book is available from the Bookstore of the Council of the Southern Mountains, College Box 2307, Berea, KY 40403. This bookstore, which stocks hundreds of titles of books, records and pamphlets, has the most complete selection for sale on Appalachia. Write for their catalogue and enclose a small contribution to cover postage.)

SOUTHERNERS !

What's happening in your community or place of work

That the *Patriot* ought to write about?

Send us a note or a story or a newspaper clipping or the name of a person to contact

to *Southern Patriot*
SCEF
3210 West Broadway
Louisville, KY 40211

CHARLESTON, W.Va.—Dr. Isidore Buff, Charleston physician who dedicated his last years to a crusade for the recognition and prevention of black lung (pneumoconiosis), died of a heart attack in his office.

Dr. Buff had traced a high rate of heart ailments among miners to lung diseases caused by dust in the mines. This led Dr. Buff to travel throughout the nation seeking compensation for miners who had contracted black lung and legislation to improve mine safety.

The high point in the Black Lung crusade came in 1969 with a wild-cat strike in Southern West Virginia coal fields and a march on the State Capitol. This brought a compensation bill and federal mine safety measures.

Robert Payne, president of the Disabled Miners, Widows and Orphans of Southern West Virginia, described Dr. Buff as "a good doctor, a good man. He did a lot of good work, he's an agitator. He gets people thinking about what's wrong."



Photo by Daily World

PLEASANT HILL, Tenn.—Dr. Frederick A. Blossom, a social activist, editor, author, and teacher, died at his home April 21 at the age of 96.

In Dr. Blossom's long life he taught at Bryn Mawr and Johns Hopkins universities. He worked with birth control advocate Margaret Sanger in New York City, and became a close associate of Scott Nearing, socialist scholar.

In 1965, Fred Blossom, his wife Bertie Lee Blossom and Mrs. Roxie Wood of Sparta, Tenn., set up the Appalachian Relief Committee, which provides clothing, shoes and toys to needy families in Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, and Mississippi.

In 1969, the Blossoms provided funds for purchasing a building next door to the SCEF office in Louisville, Ky., for use as an educational center.



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Patriot Collective: Eileen Whalen, Ken Lawrence, Jan Hillegas, Mike McMurray

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.

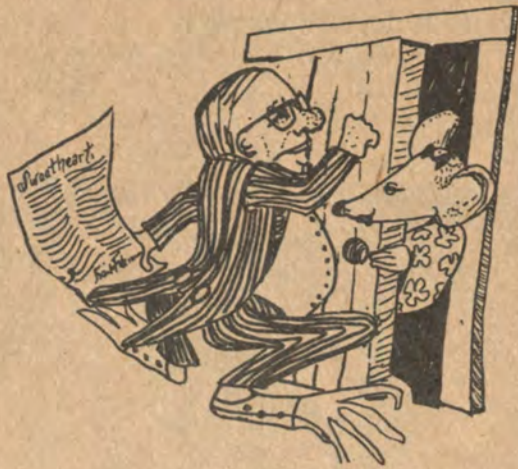
We believe that in the past the effectiveness of such movements in the South has been impaired by deeply rooted racism. This has kept us divided by color and ethnic identity, and has thus kept us powerless.

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 comb at 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.

FITZSIMMONS WENT A-COURTIN'



The song below is sung to the tune of Froggie Went A-Courtin'. This "love affair" is between California grape and lettuce growers and Teamster Boss, Frank Fitzsimmons. In the old version, the wedding ceremony of Miss Mouse and Mr. Frog was abruptly ended by the appearance of a rabid guest, who cruelly gobbled up the bridal pair. This version predicts a similar fate for the marriage of Fitzsimmons and the growers — through the strength of farm workers organizing to secure their rights as workers. VIVA LA HUELGA! Unh-hunh, unh-hunh.

Fitzsimmons went a' courtin' an' he did ride,
Unh-hunh, Unh-hunh;
Fitzsimmons went a' courtin' an' he did ride

A sweetheart contract by his side,
Unh-hunh, Unh-hunh

He rode up to the growers' door, unh-hunh
He rode up to the growers' door
Where he had often been before, unh-hunh.

He brought the growers' one simple plea...
He brought the growers one simple plea
He said, "Dear growers, will you marry me?"

The growers, they laughed and jumped for joy...
The growers, they laughed and jumped for joy
To think of the union they would destroy.

O, where will the wedding supper be...
O, where will the wedding supper be,
Up in Modesto, they all agreed, unh-hunh.

What shall the guests eat when they dine?...
What shall the guests eat when they dine?
Scab lettuce, grapes, and Gallo wine, unh-hunh.

As they were sitting down to sup, unh-hunh...
As they were sitting down to sup,
The U.F.W. showed up, unh-hunh.

The workers struck and they were strong...
The workers struck and they were strong
'Cause they were right and the growers were wrong, unh-hunh.

Now, don't buy Gallo or Franzia wine, unh-hunh...
Now, don't buy Gallo or Franzia wine
While farm workers march on the picket line, unh-hunh, unh - hunh.

Thanks to North Star

LABOR SHORTS

From Brookside, Ky., striking miners have driven to Wall Street, New York to set up a picket line in front of the New York Stock Exchange. The miners have been striking the Eastover Mine owned by Duke Power Company for 11 months. They are asking people not to invest in Duke Power, which supplies most of the electrical power for western North Carolina.

In Jackson, Mississippi, Local 1888 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFL-CIO) rejected a plan by the Federal and City governments to reimburse black workers for past pay discrimination. Lushes Walker, black president of the union, pointed out that the city actually owes the black workers \$11 million, while the consent decree negotiated with the U.S. Department of Justice requires the city to pay only \$200,000.

* * *

Also in Jackson, 200 teachers picketed the state capitol building during a one-day wildcat strike protesting the legislature's failure to give them a pay raise, while voting to increase the salaries of lawmakers.



In Whitesburg, Ky., and at other Appalachian Regional Hospitals, picket lines remain up as union employees and some non-union hospital workers seeking union membership continue to strike. Wages and the issue of allowing currently non-union workers to become organized are the major issues. Strikers warn that tensions will rise if ARH attempts to bring in scabs to replace non-union striking employees.

BRIEFS

On March 9 and 10, black Mississippians voted for officers of the Mississippi Black Assembly and delegates to the National Black Assembly held in Little Rock. Imari A. Obadele, I, was elected president of the state organization; he is also president of the Provisional Government of the Republic of New Africa.

The balloting also included a referendum on reparations: a demand for \$300 billion to be paid to black people by the U.S. Congress. The item carried by a large margin, and a resolution supporting the campaign was unanimously approved by the National Black Assembly's convention.

* * *

In Miami, Fla. Amnesty International, an international organization to assist political prisoners, elected to wage a campaign to free Freddie Lee Pitts and Wilbert Lee, two black men framed for murder. (See March Patriot.) The African People's Socialist Party has been building such massive support that although Attorney General Robert Shevin has stated that he will fight to keep Pitts and Lee in prison, the Governor of Florida has requested all available material on the case from a Miami Herald reporter for study.

* * *

In Louisville, Ky. The Black Police Officers Organization has filed a law suit in federal court alleging racial discrimination in the hiring, promotion, and assignment of black police in Louisville. Only 5% of the Louisville Police Department is black, while 25% of the population is black. The main demand raised in the suit is that only blacks be hired until the 25% figure is reached. Bill Allison and Henry Hinton, on behalf of the Louisville Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, represent them.

* * *

In Louisville, Ky. Cedric Wilson, a black teenager, was acquitted by an all-white jury of killing a white Louisville policeman, even though a young white couple positively identified him as being at the scene with a gun in his hand. Wilson and his family testified that he was at his sister's house at the time of the killing. Dan Taylor and Bill Allison represented him.

Workers Need Indemnity

(Continued from page 1)

failed, and the public was informed of the crisis, bills were introduced to indemnify the companies, retroactive to January 1, 1974, and continuing for one year.

Fred Gaddis, the former mayor of Forest, suddenly announced that he had retested some of his flocks that the U.S. Department of Agriculture had earlier found clean, and decided that they, too, were contaminated.

This has led many people to speculate that it will be more profitable for the industry to gas the chickens, bury them, and collect the indemnity payments than it would be to process them into food.

(The bill calls for compensation to the broiler producers for "fair market value" on the contaminated flocks. No one seems to be certain what that means, particularly since the company owners say they were losing five cents per pound on processed chickens before the crisis was announced.)

Sources also say that some of Gaddis' flocks are being shipped out of state for processing.

Company Racism

The racism of the poultrymen was out in the open from the beginning. One of them was quoted as saying to reporters, "I don't know why they couldn't have shipped them (the chickens) to India. The people there are starving anyway." (A letter to the *Jackson Daily News* suggested Africa instead.)

The industry launched a propaganda campaign to retrieve the consumer's favorable image of chicken. The *Scott County Times* ran as a headline: KEEP EATING CHICKEN, GOOD - WHOLE-SOME - NUTRITIOUS. Agriculture Commissioner Ross called a press conference to show himself eating fried chicken on the six o'clock news.

As a result of pressure from consumer groups, the government has announced that two federal agencies, the Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency, are meeting to work out details of a new program to monitor poultry feeds. FDA has also announced that it may soon file suit against the companies responsible for the contaminated feed.

("The pesticide residues were in fats purchased from a Brandon distributor, Mississippi Vegetable Oil Company," the *Scott County Times* reported, but it is still not known from whom the contaminated fats were originally purchased.)

Nine Weeks Pay Lost

Most of the workers are expected to be back on the job by May 1. By then some will have been out of work for nine weeks, and the only income they have received during that time is unemployment compensation at a maximum rate of \$37 per week. Workers not eligible for unemployment compensation (chicken catchers, poultry farmers, feed mill workers, and chicken truck drivers) were allowed to sign up for four weeks of public works jobs, working for Forest or Scott County at \$1.80 per hour.

Workers Need Indemnity

None of this is adequate to meet the needs of the people during this crisis. Their bills are as high as ever. They urgently need the additional \$500,000 in lost wages that the indemnity bill will provide, if it passes.

Government subsidies are nothing new to the owners of the chicken processing plants. More than ten years ago, USDA underwrote time studies on "Methods and Equipment for Eviscerating Chick-

ens" to show plant owners how to increase the exploitation of their workers.

Gov't Research Aids Speed-up

In some cases, as a result of the government research, companies were able to cut their labor costs nearly in half. (For example, one government time study showed how to speedup one job from a production rate of 25.3 birds per minute to a rate of 41.3 birds per minute.)

But in the past the government has never done anything to help the poultry workers. If the compensation bill passes as a result of the pressure mobilized by the Mississippi Poultry Workers Union, it will set a precedent, not only for these workers, but for all workers, that they are entitled to this protection — that the government should guarantee wages lost by workers through no fault of their own.

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Next Time, It'll Be The Workers

The following account was presented at a labor workshop by a hospital worker who has been a leader in hospital organizing in Birmingham, Alabama. She must remain anonymous.

A group of people at the hospital, they saw a need for a union. And the hospital is one of the largest employers of women in Birmingham.

We talked about unions, and there was a group of people that was fired for mentioning unions. So finally a group of us got together and decided to try and see what could be done.

There were terrible working conditions at the hospital at this time, and the most militant departments that was involved in the organizing drive was dietary, which is the department that I work in, and housekeeping and nurses' aides.

And I would say that the reason these people was so closely involved was because they were among the ones that were getting paid the lowest wages and they had the worst working conditions and the heaviest work loads and so on, and they were pushed around more so than anybody.

There were supervisors that would give you a pink slip even if you just said a word back to her. Quite a few people were getting pink slips and some had gotten fired. The pink slips I'm referring to are something like a warning slip they give you whenever you do something, they



think you're guilty. You get a total of three and you're automatically terminated.

Finding A Union

We had trouble at first trying to find a union that would represent us. We talked to quite a few, and they wouldn't touch hospitals. One of the main reasons was because of the Solomon Act. In Birmingham, they say the state employees cannot organize.

Our hospital is a state-owned hospital, and some of the other largest hospitals in Birmingham are owned by the state. So therefore, we couldn't organize, or we wouldn't come under the NLRB.

During this time, some city workers in Birmingham were out on strike. They got a decent contract, and they wasn't out too long. So we decided we'd talk to the union that represented them. They said they would organize, at least help us gain union recognition.

Also we wanted some changes, such as double time for working on Sundays (over 40 hours now we make time and a half), and raising the wage to something like \$3.00 an hour. Dietary department is the lowest paid in the hospital, and they start off either at \$1.93 or \$2.03 an hour.

Building Support Among Our Co-Workers

Meanwhile, we had built a real strong force, because people in the hospital had talked to workers, and they saw a need for a union because people in better departments or higher positions were getting better pay raises. We barely got something like a nickel.

There were people there who didn't have any seniority. Like a lady in the dietary department had worked there for 20 years and she was making the same salary as I was, and I'd been there something like nine years. And there was poor sick leave, and there was a lot of harassment by the supervisors and all.

We had been working strongly with the workers there, and we decided to test our strength. There was an outpatient clinic that was closing, and it employed something like 200 workers.

And these workers, most of them got other positions throughout the hospital or either they

went somewhere else and got jobs. There were six of the workers who were very much involved with the union drive, and these were the six workers that the hospital couldn't find a job for.

Testing Our Strength Against Management

So we decided to protest to this, in other words, see how strong our strength was in the hospital. We got together and we talked about something like a walkout — walk off the floors, maybe, for a certain amount of time. And the walkout was supposed to happen at 12 o'clock on a Wednesday. And during 12 o'clock, this is the time when most of the lunches are being served on all floors of the hospital and in the university cafeteria.

So the majority of the workers walked off at 12 o'clock and went to Personnel to talk with management about these people getting a position. We had a tremendous turnout: 90% of dietary alone came off the floors, and when we got back the dieticians hadn't even served the meals.

We crowded in Personnel, and there's a hall that was just crowded with people in different other departments such as housekeeping. We had nurses and technicians, just people coming in to see what was happening.

Management Comes To Us

Management had refused to come down and talk to us. They turned the heat on us; every-



body was burning up in there and sweating and fussing and going on. So finally, after management did see that the office was crowded, and that people were not going to leave until they came, finally, he pushed his way through. There was three of the leaders of the organizing drive that they were supposed to talk to.

And we waited outside while they talked to management about these six people that didn't have a job. One lady, she had been there about 20 years and then after shutting down this clinic, they couldn't even find her a position, but we knew the reason was the union.

Friday was the last day that they would work, and they would have to know if they had a job. So management assured the leaders of the union that these people would have a job. So then we went back on the floors.

Workers Demand Union, Call Strike

After this, a series of incidents happened that tried to discourage the workers. Everybody that walked out, they put them on three months' probation, and things like that. We were having a series of meetings, and we decided to talk about striking, because the hospital management still was not talking about recognizing the union.

So the union came in with their promises and all, they was behind us. And we set forth a date for the strike and when it was supposed to

happen, which was on a Saturday about 5:30, because Friday was a payday.

We were supposed to meet at the union hall with the union officials. We had talked among the workers that there was going to be a strike. And all the workers were well aware, and we had



the cooperation from quite a few of the workers that we had talked with.

And we had finally started to get close to the LPN's, which at first was kind of hard to do, but finally we were winning the support of the LPN's. The RN's, they were not entitled to organize: the nurses' association says they cannot be involved in another group.

On the day set for the strike, they locked the dietary department up in the kitchen, wouldn't let them go home, because they said wasn't nobody coming in, so they couldn't go home.

Union Representatives Start Backsliding

Meanwhile, at the union hall, these union officials were saying, "You can't go out on strike, because you don't have enough people." And it became a heated session there between the officials and the workers, because we were ready for this strike, and they said we can't have it.

The officials that was representing the union had told us, get the cards signed, and if management wouldn't listen, then we would strike the hospital. And this was exactly what we was proceeding on doing. And one of the most militant leaders got up and walked out, because he said he had stuck his neck out, and he worked hard up until this and here these people say you can't strike right now.

"You don't have enough people," that was what they said, but we knew we had the support of the people. They said wait, hold off the strike for something like two weeks, and we got a deal we're going to pull out of the hat. And the deal was that it was two other hospitals organizing at this time which were talking about striking.

And what they told us was that they were going to strike all three of these hospitals at the same time. Management couldn't afford three major hospitals out on strike, so they would have to accept the union. And we decided to take this in and try, and we did.



For the next two weeks we worked real hard trying to get people out to a big union meeting. We turned out something like 100 to 150 people, where the union rep was there. All he done was talked about the conditions of the hospital, what they were going to do if management didn't recognize the union — you know, things that people already knew.

So then they said, you have to have another big meeting. They called another big meeting for the following week, which about half of the

DAVE MACK HUMPHREY

Another Rape Frame-up

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.—Dave Mack Humphrey became a marked man by the Huntsville Police Department because he is poor and black, and because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time on June 8, 1972.

On that date Humphrey was stopped by police officers while walking in downtown Huntsville. He was arrested and charged with the attempted rape of a white policewoman that had taken place only minutes earlier on the patio of the nearby police station.

Humphrey, who had a full-time night job as a laborer while attending Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University full-time during the day was on his way home from a community center when he was stopped by the police. He told the police a man had run past him minutes earlier but the police arrested him and did not look further.

Police Harassment

While out of jail on bond awaiting trial, Humphrey and his family were constantly harassed by the Huntsville Police Department:

December, 1972 — Humphrey stopped by Huntsville Police because tag light on the car he was driving was out. Arrested for driving while intoxicated, requested alcoholic test but was refused.

January, 1973 — Humphrey followed on a daily basis by marked and unmarked cars of the Huntsville Police. A detective admitted H.P.D. had Humphrey under close surveillance 24 hours a day.

February 12, 1973 — Humphrey followed home, cursed, threatened, and knocked around by two H.P.D. officers, their name tags removed. Attempted to place knife in his hand. He refused to take it. Police made statement: "Nigger, I'll kill you if I hear of you messing with white women."

Forced Confessions

February 28, 1973 — Humphrey taken into custody. Carried to H.P.D. for questioning. Police tried to charge Humphrey with five rapes of white women. Forced him to confess to two rapes which occurred in December '72 and one burglary — crimes he did not commit. Police refused

his request for attorney. On same day taken to residences where rapes occurred. Police deliberately lifted Humphrey's arm and pointed in the direction of the victim's home when he refused to do so. Booked on two counts of rape and put in jail.

March 9, 1973 — Police officers went to Humphrey's home to arrest him for a rape that had occurred March 8. Humphrey was in jail at time of crime. Mrs. Humphrey told police her son was in jail, but police ransacked house.

March 10, 1973 — Humphrey released on bond March 10. Dean Gene Bright, athletic coach and Dean of Student Life at Alabama A&M campus, moved Dave Mack Humphrey onto the A&M campus for his own safety. Humphrey guarded constantly by three professional counselors and Dean Bright.

June 11, 1973 — Humphrey arrested for the rape of a white woman on June 9. In spite of Humphrey having witnesses to his whereabouts and not matching the rapist's description, he was put in jail.

In August, 1973, Dave Mack Humphrey was sentenced to five years for the attempted rape of a policewoman. In October, 1973, he was sentenced to 35 years by an all-white, male jury on another rape charge. A week later Humphrey was sentenced to 10 years each on two additional rape charges and 10 years on a burglary charge. Humphrey is presently in Atmore prison serving 70 years.

Fighting Back

Dean Gene Bright and Associate Dean Marian H. Smith of Alabama A&M have led the fight to free Dave Mack Hum-

phrey. Students at Oakwood College, Stillman College, and the University of Alabama have held rallies and are writing letters of protest. Angela Davis spoke at the Tuscaloosa campus on Humphrey's behalf, and the Afro-American Association has begun a "Free Dave Mack Humphrey" Coalition. Since the juries in Dave Mack Humphrey's trials were all white and all male, there is a good chance for a new trial. Pressure is needed to insure the appeals. To help stop this racist use of the rape charge, write letters to: Fred Simpson, District Attorney's Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, AL 35804.

Send contributions for legal fees to: "The Dave Mack Humphrey Legal Defense Fund", Post Office Box 36, Normal, AL 35762.

(The information for this article was supplied by Dean Gene Bright with the assistance of Associate Dean Marian H. Smith and SCEF board member Sallye Davis.)



Birmingham, Ala.—Three black prisoner members of Inmates For Action (IFA) have been murdered in Alabama prisons in three months. Inmates For Action is a prisoner organization that has been successful in instituting a program of classes such as political education, legal education, and Black history. The IFA is also fighting the racism the prison authorities encourage between black and white prisoners.

George Dobbins was killed in January at Atmore Prison, Tommy Dotson in March at Holman prison, and Eugene Minniefe in the last month.

Forty inmates were indicted on various charges for uprisings that resulted after the Dobbins and Dotson murders.

Full details on Inmates For Action will appear in the May Patriot.

UMW Dues

Dear friends:

The article by Rick Diehl on the UMW Convention in your January issue was excellent. The article, though, did not mention an important resolution passed in Pittsburgh to raise dues to \$12 a month from the current level of \$4.75. The \$12 will be split evenly between the Locals, Districts, and the International union — \$4 to each.

The effect will be that the budgets for Local and District unions will soar to previously unheard of levels. The Locals and Districts will have far more to spend on the accoutrements of union bureaucracy than ever before. The money will not go to strengthen the union, or to organize the hundreds of thousands of unorganized miners. It will go to pay more full-time union officials, to increase their salaries, to rent fancier offices. It will only create a more top-heavy, conservative union bureaucracy on the Local and District levels.

It is significant that the people who pushed huge dues increases at the Pittsburgh convention were from the beginning opposed to the reform movement in the union. Ironically, they used one of the key issues Arnold Miller used in his fight to reform the union — autonomy for Locals and Districts — to justify the increase.

Now that more impregnable bailiwicks have been carved out for the numerous petty bureaucrats who are the leavings from the Boyle regime, Miller will have a harder time than ever in carrying out his program of reform and democracy.

One thing is clear. Miller will only be able to do the job he set out to do if the rank-and-file miners in the United Mine Workers are energetic and watchful in rebuilding their union from the ground up, in making it a militant and powerful weapon of the working class.

In struggle,

Andy Himes, Selma Project, P. O. Box 2628, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401.

(The Patriot apologizes — "Diehl's statement on UMW was cut for lack of space.")

people showed up. At that meeting, they got up and told the workers from one of the hospitals that they can't strike because somebody said that he had heard from his boss and he told him not to strike the hospital at the time, because there was a law that was supposed to be passed that would make it easier to organize the hospital. This was the repeal of the Solomon Act, which never did happen.

Union Representatives Kill Organizing Drive

At this meeting, the same thing happened as at our meeting. The workers got up and started screaming at the union officials, and even one of them said that they were going to go on and strike anyway, because they had the support of the peoples and they was ready to go out on strike.

Then the union rep gets up and tells them that if they go out on strike, that these people will not be involved with them, that they would just be out there by themselves. And he's saying all of you'll get fired and lose your jobs and that'll kill the union.

Well, after then, people started realizing what was happening and seeing what was happening: that the union was killing the organizing drives. And we kept on having meetings, which was getting slower and slower every time.

There were times when we would have meetings and these union representatives wouldn't even show up at the meetings. And we tried two or three times to get in the union hall to have a meeting, and the door was never unlocked.

Union Representatives Sell Us Out

And finally, we accidentally ran into one of

them, and they said the reason they wasn't at the union hall was because they had been involved in a strike of the city workers in another city, and soon as that strike was over,



they'd get back with us and get that place started to moving. Which they never did get back with us. And this is what killed our organizing drive.

People at the hospital, they see a need to build a union and they know that's what we need at the hospital in order to get some of the benefits that we need. But however, we didn't know the policies of a union; we didn't know enough about them. This is the mistake that we made.

And we gained by these mistakes, because we are now trying to re-organize and build a strong rank and file. And when we do, we'll know how to deal with this problem, because union is something that is really the people. The union is the people, not the officials.

You know, the workers supposed to tell the officials what they want, not them tell them, and this is what would happen. But next time

we will build a strong enough rank and file to know how to handle this. That's the only way we would get a strong union.

We have talked about an independent union, and I believe at this time that we were threatening to strike that we could have pulled it off really by ourselves. At least if we had of fell, we'd of fell on our own face.

"Organizing Drive Was Built On Women"

The organizing drive was built on women; women were the majority to lead in this drive. And one thing about the union representatives, they didn't too much want to hear what a woman said. Like at the big meetings, it would be all men on the platform and no women at all, even though women were some of the hardest workers in the union.

This is another thing that kind of got hot under the union officials, when women started appearing on the platform and having something to say about what was going on. And we decided that whether we was qualified or not, had anything to say or not, just sit up there anyway. And I think this is something that they didn't too well like. They was very much against women's involvement, and they would make a lot of dirty jokes.

We're just starting out again, trying to form our own rank and file and not look to the union representatives to do it for us. Because in the meetings, they usually had everything to say, just about, and the workers didn't have too much to say, or either whatever they said, they'd get mad if we didn't go along with it. But see, next time, we'll know that they won't have the say; it'll be the workers.

Union Women Conference

By EILEEN WHALEN

CHICAGO, Ill.—Women union members from all over the country met here March 24 and 25 for the founding meeting of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW).

The purpose of CLUW is to unite union women working for women's needs and leadership in unions, equality on the job, organizing unorganized women workers, and legislative and political action.

The first meeting accomplished a lot. Representatives were elected from each of the 58 unions participating to form the national coordinating committee. Each state elected convenors to organize city and local groups. In the local groups there is the potential for rank and file union women to work together, giving each other support on job actions and union activities and initiating the organization of unorganized women.

The call for the meeting came from women in the hierarchy of international unions such as the United Auto Workers and the Teamsters. Judging by this conference, it is questionable whether they

will encourage any issue except what is "union" in the narrowest sense, unless they are pushed by the rank and file.

The South—Least Represented

The South was by far the least represented sector of the country, because the callers of CLUW had not publicized the conference in the South or held a regional meeting there as in the other three regions. Their explanation was the lack of union women in the South.

(The percentage of working women unionized in the South is 4.7; the Northeast, 15.5; the North Central, 12.1; and the West, 10.2. However, working women

all over the country are affected by the unorganized state of the South since industry flees there to escape unions.)

Movement women, who made up 1/5 to 1/4 of the women present, were instrumental in making the CLUW principles more democratic and giving special emphasis to the needs of minority women.

Differences Between Rank and File And Movement Women

The most moving moments of the conference were the repeated expressions of support from the floor for the women of the United Farm Workers. But CLUW did fail to pass the motions to endorse the UFW strike and boycott. This was partially caused by undemocratic maneuvering by the chairwomen, who did not want to antagonize the Teamster bureaucracy. Unfortunately this failure was probably also caused by a polarization that developed between the older women — work-experienced rank and file and local union officers — and the younger movement women.

The movement women were pushing for a wide and long-range perspective on how CLUW could work for all working class women. The majority of older women wanted to go back to their work places with concrete information on how they could change their present job situations and those of their union sisters. The different perspectives of the two groups of women and the style and attitude demonstrated by the movement women in communicating may have been factors in CLUW's failure to endorse the UFW struggle.

For information about local chapters write: Addie Wyatt, Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, 4859 South Wabash, Chicago, IL 60615.

Pay-offs

(Continued from page 1)
different figure, ranging from \$38,000 to \$70,000. The officers all say they are inclined to believe him."

"The Justice Department source said he could find 'absolutely no indication' that any additional money was paid but could not be certain it hadn't. He indicated his uncertainty stemmed at least par-

STATEMENT

The North Carolina Political Prisoners Committee is opposed to a new trial AT THIS TIME. We feel that it is important to let the governor act first and later to push for a new trial. If the defense tries for a new trial now, the case will go before Judge Snapp again. We believe that Snapp will deny the new trial, sending the case through the appeals system again. Thanks to the *Observer* articles, the three men stand a good chance of getting a new trial, but they would have to stay in jail until it is granted. We estimate that this could take a year. Commutation seems to be the quickest possible road to freedom and that is what we are mainly concerned with now. We hope that Grant, Reddy, and Parker get a new trial — after they are free.

You can help by continuing to send letters, postcards, and telegrams to Governor James Holshouser, Jr., Office of the Governor, State of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC 27611, asking him to commute their sentences.

tially from the fact that then-Assistant Attorney General Robert Mardian, who approved the Lazy B deal, was indicted last month for allegedly conspiring to seek secret payments for the Watergate burglars."

"The subsistence, reward, and relocation payments to the two totaled about \$18,000, not including salaries and expenses for the four federal agents assigned to protect the witnesses around the clock."

"Once top Justice Department officials became aware of the case, they 'were more interested in this case than in any others I prosecuted. They had copies of all the documents in their files in Washington and that was unusual."

"Hood and Washington, in describing the events leading up to the stable burning and the burning itself, contradicted each other and sometimes themselves nine different times, sometimes in substantive ways."

(Information for this article came from the North Carolina Political Prisoners Committee Newsletter.)



Photo by UE News

Leader of 'Rights of White People' Convicted

WILMINGTON, N.C.—Lawrence R. Little, propaganda minister for the militant segregationist Rights of White People (ROWP) organization, was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment Saturday, March 2, for the bombing of a black newspaper here last May (see June, 1973 *Patriot*).

The life sentence was imposed because the building was occupied at the time of the explosion.

Although the *Wilmington Journal's* offices were closed, two tenants were in a rear apartment when the May 28 dynamite blast ripped out the front of the building. Both escaped injury.

A niece of one of the tenants had resided in the upper front apartment until moving out on the day of the bombing. Her apartment was thoroughly gutted.

T. C. Jervay, publisher of the *Wilmington Journal*, has written critically of the unfair treatment given to black activists.

The bombing failed to halt publication of even a single issue of the *Journal*, and Jervay, a 45-year veteran of the newspaper business, has vowed not to be intimidated by reactionary threats.

Armed Vigilantes

The ROWP has been fighting Rev. Ben Chavis and several other blacks who have been convicted on a variety of charges stemming from a black insurrection here in 1971.

Black leaders have described ROWP as an armed vigilante outfit, and have chastised city officials for their failure to crack down on the group.

Little was acquitted last month of charges he had bombed B'nai Israel Synagogue here. He still faces charges resulting from other bombings.

Three witnesses, all white, offered the most damaging testimony against Little. Michael Burris said he first met Little while hitchhiking, and that Little wore a green beret, a black jacket, and a belt of shells.

Burris, in telling of Little's deep hatred for blacks, said at one time when he rode with Little in Jacksonville, N.C., Little saw a black man with a white woman walking on the streets and wanted to get out of the car and beat up the black man. He said he talked him out of it.

ROWP Had Dynamite

Little showed Burris a bombed-out bookstore in Jacksonville, N.C. and asked Burris where the mistake was made so that the entire building had not been blown up. Burris, who said he had knowledge of dynamite on a farm back home, told him where the dynamite should have been placed.

Burris said that Little asked him if he knew about the ROWP, which was out to exterminate blacks and Jews. Burris



Angela Davis and Rev. Ben Chavis.

replied that he was not prejudiced.

David H. Smith, a defendant in one of the bombing cases, testified that Little had stored dynamite and other explosive devices at his trailer. He said that he delivered some explosives to Little and quoted Little as saying that "justice will be done tonight." This was at 9:30 p.m. on May 28.

Ms. Peggy Brown, a friend of Little, told of his extreme hatred for blacks and of his showing her a chart which was intended to indicate that blacks and apes were alike. She said she told him that blacks were human and had rights as did white people. She said he admitted blowing up the *Journal* and that she turned him in, not for a reward, which she was not interested in, but because she was afraid of what Little would do to himself or to others.

Letter Sent To Publisher

In a letter sent by Little to the publisher of the *Journal*, Little accused the newspaper of supporting "Reverend Ben Chavis, who in turn is supported by Angela Davis, who endorses the murderous Viet Cong in the 'Nam.'" The letter ended by saying that "I can only do whatever my conscience commands me and will endeavor to see justice done, no matter the sacrifice it entails."

Nine other members of ROWP, including the organization's leader, retired U.S. Marine LeRoy Gibson, face charges stemming from a number of race-related bombings and cross burnings that took place in the city during 1973.

Publisher Jervay said in a telephone interview that he had received no threats since Saturday's verdict, nor did he expect to receive any. He said, "When they learn they're liable to serve time . . . then the threats become negative."

BOYCOTT

1. Don't buy grapes. Don't buy lettuce unless it has the United Farm Workers union label. Don't buy Gallo wine, or any wine from Modesto, California, Gallo headquarters.



2. Don't buy Campbell's soups with oysters or clams.
3. In Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida: Boycott Delchamps Food Stores

Birmingham Foundry

Workers' Story of a Strike

The February Patriot reported on the strike at Birmingham Stove and Range, a cast iron foundry where the workers, mostly black women were engaged in a militant battle for higher wages and improved benefits. In the end, the workers returned to their jobs after six and a

Our real problem was our international union, the United Steel Workers (AFL-CIO). They sold out the strike.

There were certain things that folks wanted to see in the new contract, like a \$2 across the board wage increase over a three year period, voluntary overtime, no more merit increases, and a good pregnancy clause. Quite a few folks signed a petition calling for these demands.



Photo by LNS

"Some folks went down to the radio station, to find out why they didn't hear about the strike on the news. And the man said, 'Your representative came down here and told my boss that we're not supposed to put nothing on the radio about it. I'd like to help you all out, but there's nothing I can do.'"

But before we even got started, the international union was gearing folks up to go in there and ask for some weak-kneed demands that didn't speak to the actual conditions that folk needed changed. The international union was trying to avoid a strike.

The Vote To Strike

They realized that the night shift was the weak link in the chain. If they could swing the night shift vote against the strike, they figured they had it whipped. They said, "Let the night shift vote first."

If that won, then folks would come in on the day shift and they would say, "Well look, the night shift already voted to stay in, and now we're going to take you-all's vote and see how you feel," figuring that a lot of folks would think, "Well damn, the night shift voted to stay in. I guess I may as well vote to stay in too."

But it backfired on them, because the night shift voted to go on strike. They read the proposals out just like the company offered them, and then they read what the union asked for. It was clear to folks that they didn't have a choice but to vote for a strike.

When the day shift got to the union hall to vote, word had already gotten around that the

half weeks, settling for the terms offered by the company before the strike began. In order to find out why the strike was defeated, I interviewed some of the workers there. They chose to remain anonymous, but here are excerpts from that interview. —Ken Lawrence

night shift voted to strike. So they did an about face. They didn't read what the union asked for. Instead, they just read off what the company offered, and then they said, "To our mind this is a good contract, and we think you should accept it." But they lost that vote too.

So then they said there was a whole lot of folks who voted to go on strike who weren't in the union. They said, "The vote's no good. You've got to do it over again, and you've got to do it by the checkoff list." So they came back to vote again two days later. The company closed the plant down to let the night shift come and vote.

They wouldn't let anybody in who wasn't on their list, and that stopped a lot of folks who thought they were already members of the union, folks who had signed union cards much earlier. But when they took the vote, it was 94-92 to still go on strike.

We Go On Strike

The strike started at 12:00 that night, and to the very end the international and the local union leadership fought that strike tooth and nail.

Like with food stamps. The representative went down to the food stamp office and told them, "These folks at Stove and Range aren't going to be on strike too long. We're negotiating now, working day and night to get them back in. Don't give them too much stamps, because they'll be going back soon. There's no need in y'all giving out all of these stamps and then having to take them all back."

The food stamp office would only take 20 people a day from Stove and Range, so a whole lot of people made a decision not to go down there if they will only take 20 a day, because a lot of folks needed the stamps a lot worse than they did.

No Publicity

Two of us went to the international rep's office and asked for the addresses of all the Steel Worker locals in this district so we could write to them and tell them we're on strike and that we need help. The folks there said, "Your international representative has got to do that." He was sitting right there, so he said, "I'll have to tell the district director to write the letter and send it out." But the letters never got written.

The union was paying bills for certain people — the people they wanted to. One woman brought her hospital bill to them, and it wasn't even from during the strike, and they paid it, \$187. Another one asked could they pay her gas bill, and they said, "No, because you're not the head of a household." But there was plenty more wasn't head of household that they paid, the ones they wanted to.

It was the international's refusal to give us publicity, to give us money, and the constant hassles they ran folks through trying to get food stamps, and their constant efforts to persuade folks that we had a contract that was worth while — all these things added up to kill the strike.

A Weak Contract

So we got 25 cents the first year, 20 cents the second year, and 20 cents the third year if you didn't want the pension plan. If you want it, you get 15 cents the third year, instead of 20.

Right now, most folks that come in there make \$2 an hour. Most folks that leave don't make much more than that. There's a guy who recently retired who had been there 45 years. He used to do something of everything in that plant. When he retired he was making \$2.35 or \$2.45 an hour.

Overtime still isn't voluntary. There isn't a lot of overtime, but that's because folks have fought it so hard. You used to work 9 or 10 hours a day but you still didn't get time and a half, because you only get paid overtime after 40 hours. So they were working you 10 hours for 4 days.

What stopped that was they went to 9 hours, and tried to go back to 10 hours again. It was



"When you get a free hand, Mary, would you scratch my back?"

the night shift that went in the office and told them they weren't going to work those hours any more, because of the fact that folks couldn't get any sleep. They would get off work at 2 or 3 in the morning and have to get back at 5:30 in the evening.

Divide And Conquer

They still have the merit increase, a clause in the contract that allows the company to give a raise to whoever they want whenever they feel like it. But it goes to a lot of people who folks think it shouldn't, and a whole lot that folks think should get it don't. What it boils down to is that the company uses it to reward traitors and sellouts, and to keep people divided.

If they give a merit increase to Tom and Sue finds out, she thinks, "I wonder why Tom got one and I didn't. I've been here three years and he's only been here six months. He must be doing something to get a raise — maybe ratting on folks." Then folks start looking at Tom all sideways and out of the corner of their eyes, and he begins to feel, "Hell, I work hard, I deserve a raise. Is it their business?"

And at contract time it divides folks even more, because that wage increase that the company offered sounds pretty good to the ones that were making \$2.80 or \$3.

We didn't get a good pregnancy clause. The way it is, if you're pregnant, you have to work. If you feel like you're sick, they send you to a doctor. If the doctor says you're able to work, you must come. If the doctor says you're not able to work, then they give you \$25 per week during your pregnancy.

"It's Going To Change Next Time"

The local union leadership sold us out as much as the international, but there won't be new local elections until 1976. We wanted to put new officers in last year, but the situation was so bad that no one ever came to meetings. And according to the Steelworkers' constitution, the only way you're eligible to run is if you come to half the meetings. And there wasn't enough folks who had been there long enough and who had been to half the meetings who were eligible to run. So they got re-elected just because no one was eligible to run against them.

That's going to change next time, because a hell of a lot of folks will be eligible. At the beginning of last year, you used to come to the union hall and there wouldn't be a good 10 or 15 folks there. But because of a move by a lot of us to bring about some change, a lot go to meetings now.

Black Dockers Stop Rhodesian Imports

BALTIMORE, Md.—For the second time in 3 months Baltimore longshoremen and their supporters have stopped the *African Sun* from unloading Rhodesian cargo in Baltimore. The *Sun* was also picketed by 150 people in Boston and boycotted by longshoremen in Philadelphia.

The International Longshoremen's Association (AFL-CIO) has also passed a resolution officially endorsing the boycott of all Rhodesian goods shipped into East and Gulf coast ports under its jurisdiction. The mass action of longshoremen and other rank and file working people, including farmworkers, hospital workers, steel workers, and shipyard workers has effectively closed down the East coast to all imports from white racist Rhodesia.

The March 14 boycott of the *African Sun*, unlike previous boycotts, has the official backing of Baltimore ILA's 2,500-member Local 333. The leadership of Local 333 had refused to back earlier boycotts by black dockers in 333. In one instance a white longshore leader, Bill Schonowski, had actively helped shipping companies unload Rhodesian goods.

No Scabbing On African Workers

Schonowski is the former president of the now-defunct all-white Local 829 and a close political ally of ILA president Thomas Gleason. He was sharply criticized by a rank and file longshoremen's group, Militant Action Dockers (M.A.D.), in their newsletter the *Dockworker* for "scabbing on the struggle of African workers in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)".

Gleason, who also came under fire for refusing to take any action in support of the boycott, was forced to order Schonowski to stop providing stevedoring companies with scabs to unload Rhodesian goods.

The ILA has been under heavy pressure from black dockers and anti-imperialist organizations in Norfolk, Va. and Philadelphia to support the boycott. In Norfolk, Tidewater Africans, a black anti-imperialist sailors organization; The Black Student Union at Norfolk State College; and the National Committee to Defend Political Prisoners have formed the Joint Task Force against Rhodesian Imports (JTF).

They have held mass meetings and leafletted the docks and working class communities, the JTF successfully pressured ILA international vice-president Miles Billups to introduce the resolution to support the boycott that was passed by the ILA Executive Council in Miami in mid-February.

Boycott Nationwide

Boycotts against Rhodesian goods are now taking place in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Norfolk. Dockers in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, La. are planning to extend the boycott to the port of Burnside, Louisiana, a non-union port on the Mississippi River near Baton Rouge, La.

Burnside is one of the few U.S. ports still effectively open to Rhodesian chrome and nickel. It was black dockers at Burnside and students at Southern University in nearby Baton Rouge who first boycotted a shipment of chrome from Rhodesia two years ago.

In Charleston, S.C., the Defense Committee, a G.I. group, is organizing a boycott of asbestos from Rhodesia.

The spearhead of the boycott movement has been black (and some white) dockers from ILA Local 333 in Baltimore. It was the black rank and file dockers in Baltimore who forced the *African Sun* (Farrell Lines) to return 56 crates of Rhodesian nickel to Africa last December 12. It was the first time U.S. dockers had forced imports from Rhodesia to be returned to Africa.

Nixon Administration Violates U.N. Embargo

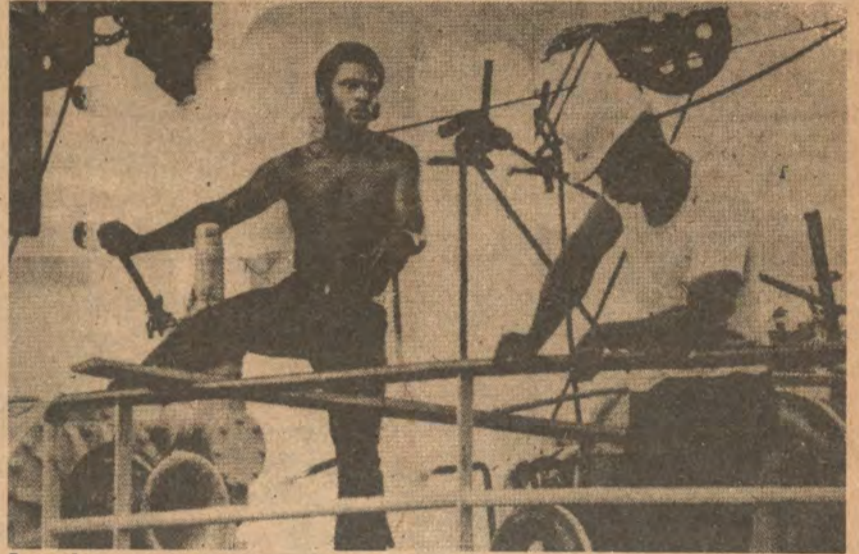
Six days later the U.S. Senate overrode a Southern filibuster and voted to repeal the Byrd amendment. Under the Byrd amendment, U.S. specialty steel producers have been permitted to import chrome and nickel from Rhodesia. The Byrd amendment is in direct violation of a U.N. embargo on all trade with white Rhodesia passed back in the late 60's.

In typical Watergate style the Nixon administration has been playing a double game on the issue of Rhodesian imports. While Secretary of State Kissinger is publicly supporting the repeal of the Byrd amendment, lower level State, Treasury, and Commerce department functionaries and Nixon aides are doing everything possible to bolster the white minority Smith government with secret arms shipments and economic aid.

Treasury and Commerce department officials have

quietly given Boeing and United Airlines permission to help Smith organize and equip Air Rhodesia. They also issued permits to Hertz, Avis, and Holiday Inn to do business in Rhodesia. The first Holiday Inn opened in Rhodesia last December. The Smith government is trying to build up its tourist trade with the U.S. Tourism is Rhodesia's second biggest industry.

Ten days before the arrival of the *African Sun* in March, Baltimore longshoremen and the Coalition



Longshoremen at work.

Against Rhodesian Imports held a mass rally in support of the South African Liberation movement and the dockers' boycott. The rally was attended by 300 working people and students.

"Stop Rhodesian Imports"

The same international corporations that pay black miners in Zimbabwe \$39 a month also give dockworkers in the port of Baltimore the hardest, dirtiest, and most dangerous jobs. It's not hard for a black longshoreman, a black woman hospital worker or a black coke oven worker to see that imperialism is just racism on a world-wide scale.

One black dockworker who led a successful boycott of Rhodesian chrome ore in Baltimore recently said, "Hell, I don't have to go to Rhodesia to fight racism. I can fight it right here in the port of Baltimore in my own union hall."

Another docker, a black woman who took part in both successful boycotts of the *African Sun*, put it this way: "If we don't work, we don't lost that much. If a black miner in Zimbabwe doesn't work, he starves". A member of Militant Action Dockers summed it all up on his handwritten picket sign: Solidarity Is the Game — Revolution Is the Aim.

For more information about what you can do to support the boycott of Rhodesian imports, contact: Militant Action Dockers, P. O. Box 4387, Baltimore, MD 21223; Joint Task Force Against Rhodesian Imports, P. O. Box 6289, Norfolk, VA 23508; American Committee on Africa, 164 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

(Information for this article was provided by members of Militant Action Dockers.)

(The following are some examples of the working conditions of black Africans as witnessed by a U.S. dockworker.)

"First, I'm actually afraid to work the ships that come in from southern Africa because of the dangerous working conditions aboard these ships. But the main reason I don't want to work the ships is because the African brothers that came here with the ships is treated so badly. They come into port in freezing weather with hardly any clothes on. The food they have to eat is worse than the food to feed to hogs — the brothers have offered me food while I sat and talked to them but I was afraid to eat it. I really felt sick about that.

"Some of the brothers have tried to jump ship so they wouldn't have to return to Africa. One brother broke his leg while we were unloading a ship and instead of getting him to a doctor, they just threw him back in the cabin. Me and some other black dockworkers have taken clothes to the African brothers when we went to work their ships, so they wouldn't freeze to death."

Beware Of This Man

HOUSTON, Tex.—Donald F. Cole, pictured at right, was recently expelled from the Progressive Labor Party for being an FBI agent.

According to sources, Cole has been an agent for many years and has infiltrated and spied on several left organizations. These have included the Young Peoples Socialist League, Advance, Students for a Democratic Society, and the Uptown JOIN project in Chicago.

After Chicago, Cole returned to his native Jackson, Mississippi, area where he was known as a PL member and "leading activist" in various organizations, including a Marxist study group.

In the late sixties, Cole set up the "Mississippi Committee", which supported the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee's grape boycott, as part of the cover for his activities, the sources said.

Over a year ago, Cole moved to Hous-



Photo from Progressive Labor Party

ton. He is believed to have been responsible for exposing communists working at the Hughes Tool Company, where he has been masquerading as a union activist.

In addition to the organizations he has infiltrated, Cole has also spied on meetings and workshops in many parts of the country. He also keeps tabs on members of other left organizations, including the Communist Party, Youth Against War and Fascism, the Training Institute for Propaganda and Organizing, and SCEF.

—KEN LAWRENCE

'Cost of Living' Strike

By KEN LAWRENCE

LOUISVILLE, Miss.—More than 500 workers at the Taylor Machine Works have been on strike since February 5. The strikers are members of Local 7772 of the United Steel Workers (AFL-CIO).

According to local president J. W. Sullivan, the major issue in the strike is the union's demand for a cost-of-living escalator clause, to protect the workers from skyrocketing inflation. Company negotiators called the demand "unheard of."

Workers on the picket line say the strike was "99 percent" successful, even after the company announced it would begin production with scabs. One worker said, "They won't find any workers. And if they do, they won't be able to do the work. These are skilled jobs."

(A company spokesman said that after the attempt to reopen, the company was able to hire "less than ten" new employees.)

Taylor has only been unionized for three years. Before that, organizing attempts failed. When the union finally won, the victory margin was narrow.

"But now everybody's sticking together, white and colored," said one man on the line. "And there's more support from the community than there was three years ago."

He explained that during the last strike, a director of the local bank put an ad in the local paper attacking the strike. The union promptly took its treasury out of the bank and deposited it in another, and the workers withdrew their savings. Members also stopped shopping at stores run by anti-union merchants.

Why is union sentiment so much stronger now? "That's easy," one worker said. "Before the union, I made \$2.42 an hour. Now I make \$3.26."

Strike benefits are small, so most of the strikers haul pulpwood to supplement their small income. Negotiations are scheduled to resume on April 30.