

the rank and file in action

# Labor today

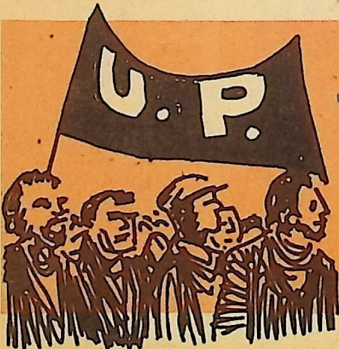
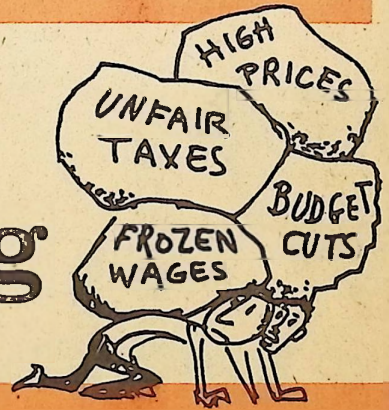
Volume 12, No. 10 Oct. 1973

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## Wiping out racism in the steel industry

## The crisis in everyday living



## What 'Popular Unity' meant to Chile

From Labor's Hidden History

### THE MINERS STRIKE AT CRIPPLE CREEK



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS



# A rank and file program to end racist seniority practices in steel

by AL SAMTER, LOCAL 1014, USWA; MEMBER, DISTRICT 31 RIGHT TO STRIKE COMM.

Recent court decisions on class action suits brought against major steel corporations under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, have brought the Steelworkers Union face to face with the need to change its policy on seniority.

These lawsuits were aimed at winning relief for Black workers who have been denied equal opportunity for advancement due to past discriminatory hiring and assignment policies. The perpetuation of inequality exists "courtesy of" the limitations of the USWA unit seniority system in the steel industry. The court rulings have brought the whole question of the union's position on seniority into focus.

In the years past, the USWA leadership did nothing to correct the situation of predominantly white and predominantly Black departments. And it entered the suits in Lackawana, Fairfield and Sparrows Point, hand in hand with the company, in opposition to proposals to remedy the situation.

## UNION RIGHTS AT STAKE

The rank and file of the USWA must understand the relationship between the issue of full equality for Black members, plant-wide seniority rights for all

members, and the conditions necessary to uphold our basic union right to strike to defend our wages and working conditions.

The strength and power of the trade union movement lies in the unity of its members. Workers may sometimes forget this. The corporations never forget it. Their "plan" calls for continuing efforts to divide workers and play off one section against another: white against Black; native-born against foreign-born; old against young; craft against production.

Before union organization of the steel industry, the bosses could even pit individual against individual. A worker got his promotion or his overtime--or even just held onto his job--at the expense of a fellow worker.

## SENIORITY THE CORNERSTONE

A program of strict seniority to protect workers on layoffs and insure equal opportunity for promotion lies at the heart of the union's fight for the dignity and independence of the individual worker. Strict seniority is the cornerstone on which the unity of union members is based. If the union cannot insure equal opportunity for every member, it cannot insure equal opportunity for

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## PAST DISCRIMINATION VIOLATES TITLE VII ...An Editorial

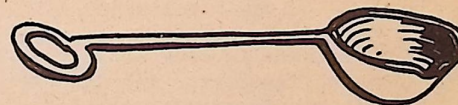
# We've opened the door a crack, now let's push harder!

A Policy Statement by the International Executive Board (IEB) of the United Steelworkers of America has been brought to our attention. It reveals that the union didn't really know what it was getting into when it "supported" Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. And its sorry now that it did.

"As you know, the labor movement generally--and the Steelworkers especially--supported the enactment of Title VII. THAT SUPPORT WAS BASED UPON OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT TITLE VII WAS TO HAVE NO EFFECT UPON SENIORITY SYSTEMS EXISTING

AT THE TIME OF ITS PASSAGE. (Our emphasis--LT.) All of the major sponsors of Title VII, including Senators Humphrey, Clark and Case, repeatedly stated in the Senate debates that Title VII was not to be 'retroactive,' and that existing seniority systems would not have to be altered to comply with Title VII, even in those situations

where--because of prior discrimination by the company--minority group employees occupied an inferior status in the seniority system. IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING--CONFIRMED BY TITLE VII'S SPONSORS--THAT SO LONG AS EMPLOYERS STOPPED DISCRIMINATORILY ASSIGNING EMPLOYEES AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF TITLE VII (JULY 2, 1965) NO SENIORITY CHANGES WOULD BE REQUIRED." (Our emphasis--LT.)



The USWA now acknowledges that in a "very high percentage of steel plants" the need for remedies exists and spells out the factors which establish that "minority group employees are presently disadvantaged due to prior discrimination."

The Policy Statement confirms that a violation of the court decision exists if:

"1. For some period of time, the Company discriminated against newly-hired minority group employees in their initial assignment, assigning all of them (or a disproportionate number of them) only to certain departments or seniority units, while assigning only majority group employees to other (usually more desirable) departments or units."

and,

"2. The plant has a seniority system under which the minority group discriminatees are 'locked in' to the departments or units to which they were originally assigned. The courts have made clear that this 'lock in' effect will be found

(continued on page 2)



# A program to end racist practices in steel (continued from page 1)

any. It cannot guarantee that unity of purpose which is the union's very strength.

Early USWA contracts established the principle of seniority but permitted the company to continue a system of unit or department seniority which victimized minority steel company employees.

In the assignment of jobs by the employment offices, Blacks were sent to the departments where the ultimate earning opportunities were lowest and where health and working conditions were worst. This established a pattern of departments of overwhelming Black majority and others with only token Black composition.

## UNIT SENIORITY PERPETUATES OLD SYSTEM

Our contracts allow for the retention of local supplementary agreements. Although a few local unions have widened the seniority structure to some extent, most locals have permitted a unit (rather than plant-wide) seniority rule to exist. The unit seniority system thus seals off any opportunity to break the pattern resulting from racist company hiring practices.

Even though our present agreement forces the companies to institute such modifications of the unit seniority system as posting of apprenticeship openings and applying mill-wide seniority to craft employees in cut-back situations, enforcement is dependent upon individual grievance committeemen, who all too often consider it "poor politics" to enforce these provisions.

## IF YOU'RE BLACK, GET BACK

The retention of the unit seniority system in posting of apprentice jobs perpetuates the condition whereby craft jobs in predominantly white units continue to exclude Blacks from opportunities to bid for apprenticeship training positions.

This discriminatory system of job assignment continues to be used by the companies, mitigated only in those areas where effective pressure is applied by local union civil rights committees or active Human Relations Commissions.

But even where there is some modification of these policies, the results of past discrimination are not corrected. The new Black employees may be assigned to predominantly white departments, while older Blacks are still locked into the less desirable jobs. Thus, a man with 20 years of service sees a new employee get a job he would like, and he can't do anything about it.

## BIRDS OF A FEATHER

The collaboration of the USWA leadership with the corporations in legal actions

designed to allow them to conduct "racism as usual," is a logical extension of the collaboration which gave us the no-strike Experimental Negotiating Agreement!

As indicated in the policy statement reported by the editors of LT, the Executive Board is reluctantly "going along." Don't look to Abel for leadership to outlaw racism. Instead of proposing a program to contractually eliminate discriminatory practices and increase seniority benefits, the Executive Board proposed to make the minimum changes to satisfy the court rulings.

The rank and file doesn't go for having the courts write the provisions of our union contract. Not only does this violate the traditional position of the labor movement on non-interference in union-management relations; but the court decisions are inadequate to resolve some of the problems. In addition, the courts are in no way concerned with the paramount issue of insuring the unity of the trade union movement.

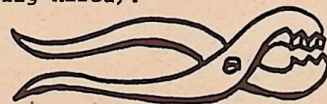
## OUR WORK IS CUT OUT FOR US

To unify the membership and strengthen the bargaining power of the USWA, the rank and file must insist on an agreement which contains the following provisions:



## We've opened the door a crack (continued from page 1)

wherever there are substantial deterrents to transfer, even though a contractual transfer right exists. In particular, the courts have said that a transfer right such as exists in our basic steel agreements (under which employees can go to other departments or units, but must begin with zero seniority and accept the rate of pay of the bottom job to which they transfer) has the forbidden 'lock in' effect. The courts reason that many employees will be deterred from transferring, because they will have to give up their seniority in the old unit and start anew in the new unit, and because they will have to take a pay cut to go from their current job to the bottom job in a new unit. The courts have further noted that employees in this situation are never able to reach their 'rightful place' in their new unit (that is, the place where they would be today if they had been assigned to that unit when originally hired)."



The IEB Statement even admits that since the 1950's, technological change and frequent recessions threw senior workers out of work when their departments were closed, leaving more junior workers unaffected, jeopardizing "sound trade union principles." It tips its hat to the courts with a pledge to achieve "true equity" by establishing "where necessary" plant-wide (vs. unit) seniority.

But while piously wringing its hands over "our legal and moral obligation to act," the IEB exposes its cynical intentions in a paragraph which we

**1** Abolish the "code system" which allows under-the-table discriminatory hiring. Establish union control over hiring and assignment of workers.

**2** Establish a contractually recognized union committee on seniority and transfer, to advise employees of their rights and to monitor and enforce the seniority and transfer provisions of the agreement. This committee must have representation from minority groups.

**3** Expand the seniority units with the ultimate aim of increasing opportunities for advancement on a mill-wide basis. This would also serve to protect older employees from displacement by technological change.

**4** Provide for the opening up of department transfers for Black workers, with no cut in pay; promotion in the new department on the basis of plant-wide seniority.

**5** Post craft job openings on a mill-wide basis with mill seniority the determining factor.

**6** Post apprenticeship openings on a mill-wide basis with mill seniority the determining factor.

AND QUIT WASTING OUR DUES MONEY ON THE BOSSES' LAWSUITS!

reprint below. To facilitate understanding the union's doubletalk, we have translated each clause into plain English:

"Unless the seniority problem has been disposed of in advance of the 1974 negotiations...

Unless we put together some fast deals...

"...there is a danger that it will be swept into the negotiating procedure."

...there could be trouble if the membership got the idea that just because they pay their dues, they have the right to tell us what they want.

"It would be unwise to subject the negotiating procedure to the stress of reforming seniority."

It's not smart to open up such a hot issue. The rank and file is raising hell about ENA already.

"The success of the new procedure will depend heavily upon the effectiveness with which it meets our members' needs in 1974."

The success of the new procedure depends on how much wool we can pull over their eyes.

"If the seniority issue were to be handled under the new procedure, the resulting tensions could seriously threaten the ENA."

If the membership ever gets it all together, we'll be out of a job.

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# 'Popular Unity' meant land, jobs for people of Chile.

by JOHN KAILIN, Co-Editor  
LABOR TODAY

In September, Chile's Popular Unity government was overthrown, and its working class leaders were hunted and murdered. More than 25,000 workers, farmers and students were slaughtered in a wave of terrorism that continues today.

Nothing is said in the U.S. media about the machine-gunning of all the workers in a textile factory who guarded it to the end. There is no mention of the napalming of working class districts. No mention of the houses that were bulldozed out of existence to drive out workers seeking refuge.

Only NEWSWEEK told of the book-burning, the psychotic hatred of foreigners, the terrorist murder of every adult worker in a workers' neighborhood. Its description of the hundreds of bodies of workers in Santiago's morgue, and of the students cut down by machine-gun fire, made the reporter no longer welcome in Chile.

## CRISIS WAS "NORMAL"

The U.S. media is saying that the Allende government brought economic chaos to Chile. The demonstrations of women against the government are recalled, with the implication that Chile's "middle class" is bringing things back to normalcy.

What was normal in pre-Allende Chile? It was normal for 30% of the people to earn less than survival wages. It was normal for another 31% to earn less than the government's minimum standard. 35% inflation and 7% unemployment were normal, as was a shortage of homes. Only 5,900 were built in 1970. There was no scarcity of meat...only 30% had the money to buy.

## A WEALTHY COUNTRY

These conditions were not due to any lack of raw materials or skilled workers. Chile has industrial centers working huge deposits of minerals, including copper.

But Chilean monopolies, and United States multinationals, drained the country. 284 monopolies controlled all production, distribution and finances. Corporations leaned heavily on public taxes, credits for reinvestment, and they took \$93 million from the U.S. treasury (foreign aid.) Latifundist control of agriculture kept output deliberately low and prices outrageously high.

U.S. style wage freezes, inflation and "shortages" were known to Chileans even before they became a way of life here.

## U.S./MULTINATIONAL CONTROL

A decisive 1/6th of all capital was foreign. The Rockefeller family owned 13 of the 25 largest corporations. In 50 years, U.S. "multis" took \$10 billion 500 million from Chile, an amount equal to the total value of everything built in Chile over the past 400 years.

"Our country had the sad record of being the most indebted country of the world

in relation to its population," said a CUT labor leader. The former Alessandri and Frei governments left Chile owing \$3,866 million. Huge interest repayments alone, more than equalled the aid coming in, making them a powerful weapon to hold over the new Allende government.

Kennecott's profit return on investment in Chile was 53%, compared to 10% in its plants in the rest of the world. Anaconda made 21.5% in Chile, 3.7% outside Chile.

## WORKERS' PROGRAM WINS

The Allende Popular Unity government changed this. Backed by a 36% plurality in 1970, Unidad Popular (UP) implemented the Agrarian Reform Law of the 1930s, restoring 2½ million hectares of land to farmers, including 400,000 to Indians, landless since the Spanish conquerors stole their land.



UP legally nationalized copper and other resources, dozens of strategic industrial and commercial firms, and the banking system. The law provided for nationalization of companies deliberately hurting the economy by holding back production.

## CRISIS POLICIES REVERSED

Under the Popular Unity government, unemployment was cut to 3%, wages were raised by 1/3, rents were frozen at 10% of family income. 150,000 new homes were built, and free health and medical care were established. Women were given equal pay, and job training. 180 day care centers were built in Santiago, and wages for household workers were raised.

For the first time there was a scarcity of meat: people could now afford to buy it! Consumption of beef and pork rose 15%.

## LABOR IN THE GOVERNMENT

The new Minister of Labor in the UP government was Luis Figueroa, president

of the Chilean Union of Workers (CUT), Chilean counterpart to our AFL-CIO.

See LABOR TODAY, April 1972. Luis Figueroa lays wreath at the graves of the Haymarket Martyrs.

The CUT negotiated a 100% COL increase, and an additional 40% to bring up the lowest scales. Its elected stewards had production control and responsibility for hiring the unemployed.

## U.S. INTERFERENCE AND MULTINATIONALS

From the very beginning, U.S. multinationals tried first, to prevent Allende's victory, and failing that to topple the UP and its base, the Communist and Socialist Parties. UAW President Woodcock said, "Those who killed Chilean democracy are, for the most part, self-declared friends of the Pentagon and certain U.S. multinational corporations."

Next month we will describe the role of the multinationals, the U.S. government, and, apparently, the top bureaucracy of the AFL-CIO in the fascist coup.

.....  
The staff of LABOR TODAY dedicates this two-part report of recent Chilean history to Frank "Randy" Teruggi, Des Plaines, Illinois, 1950-1973.

Randy was a union man, like his father and grandfather before him. A visiting student of economics at the University of Chile, his blood is mingled with that of the thousands of men, women and children of Chile who resisted the fascist military junta as long as their hearts beat.



### To our readers:

For several weeks, the National Coordinating Committee for Trade Union Action and Democracy, has been consulting with union officials and rank and file union leaders across the country about the CRISIS IN EVERYDAY LIVING. There is agreement on the need for emergency congressional action, and growing support for the GENERAL GOOD AND WELFARE ACT OF 1974, printed here.

LABOR TODAY urges its readers to get their local unions and central labor bodies behind this proposed legislation. The statement on this page can be submitted as a resolution on the floor of your next union meeting. The demands can be put into petition form for signatures from your shop mates and the working people in your community.

Let us hear news of your success.

THE EDITORS

End the crisis in everyday living

# THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW...

against high prices  
against high taxes  
against frozen wages

The rising cost of living--of food, of housing, of clothing, of medical care--has created a crisis in everyday living for millions. Especially hard hit are the children of the unemployed and retired workers who face hunger, malnutrition, and the specter of starvation.

But declining living standards threaten the families of all workers--Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Asian, Native American and millions of unemployed and underpaid white workers--boxed in by frozen wages, speed-up, high taxes and monopoly-dictated prices.

THE CRISIS IN EVERYDAY LIVING IS NOT CAUSED BY NATURAL DISASTER. It is the result of artificial scarcities created in the midst of plenty, while bulging warehouses, unplanted fields on corporate farms, idle processing plants and vacant feedlots dot the land.

THE CRISIS IN EVERYDAY LIVING is the result of the unbridled greed of the "profits before people" policies of the banks, the corporations and the Administration they bought and control. It is accompanied by heightened appeals to racism, as big business seeks to attack and weaken the power of the growing mass resentment to these policies. It occurs at a time when billions of dollars from workers' taxes are squandered on military spending, subsidies to agri-business and

**We call upon the Congress to put an end to government policies which create mass hunger, malnutrition and starvation.**

tax breaks for the banks, the corporations and the rich.

If properly used, the resources of our country--its land, its workers and farmers, its machines--can put an end to the crisis.

Cancer cannot be cured with aspirin. THE CRISIS IN EVERYDAY LIVING can only be solved by a bold program that handcuffs the perpetrators of the crisis, not the victims.

The Constitution charges Congress with the responsibility to promote the general welfare. It has the power to act. It must be given the will to act.

WE CALL upon the CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES to declare the existence of a NATIONAL EMERGENCY IN FOOD AND HEALTH, and to meet in an EXTRAORDINARY JOINT SESSION to enact THE GENERAL GOOD AND WELFARE ACT OF 1974 that will:

ROLL BACK ALL PRICES TO THE LEVEL OF JULY 31, 1971

REMOVE ALL CONTROLS ON WAGES

BUILD HOUSES, SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS

PROVIDE FREE HEALTH AND CHILD CARE

TAKE THE TAX BURDEN OFF WORKERS

CUT THE MILITARY BUDGET IN HALF

NCCTUAD Co-chairman speaks out on living crisis

## RAYFIELD MOOTY REBUTS

WGN Continental Broadcasting Company recently commented editorially on UAW contract negotiations. Following is the text of a rebuttal to that editorial, delivered by Brother Rayfield Mooty, Co-Chairman of the National Coordinating Committee for Trade Union Action & Democracy, on WGN Radio 720 and WGN Television 9.

WGN's Labor Day Editorial told us that the major battles of organized labor were "history"...that "they have been over for thirty years."

The National Coordinating Committee for Trade Union Action & Democracy disagrees with WGN, and with its plea that auto workers exercise "statesmanship" at the bargaining table.

Negotiations in the auto industry wind up the 1973 round of contract talks. This year, more than 4 million workers have been held to wage increases averaging 5.5% while prices, rents, interest rates and profits have risen more than twice as fast. What, in this situation, would WGN

consider to be a "non-inflation-fueling" settlement?

For three Labor Days in a row, U.S. workers, including auto workers, have seen their wages effectively controlled by government intervention.

For three Labor Days in a row, U.S. workers, including auto workers, have seen their taxes increase until today working men and women pay more than three-fourths of all Federal income taxes.

For three Labor Days in a row, U.S. workers, including auto workers, have seen the cost of food and health care skyrocket, until, on Labor Day, 1973, millions of workers--Black, Latin, Native American and white--young and old, are confronted with what can only be described as a crisis in everyday living.

These are the battles that the labor movement must take on--30 years after the organizing battles of the 1930's.

The fight is over? Ladies and Gentlemen--Brothers and Sisters--WE HAVE NOT BEGUN TO FIGHT!

## Self starter button hit in California

# COST OF HASH BROWNS HASHES BUDGET

To the Editors:



It took a while but you hit my self-starter button with the CRISIS IN EVERYDAY LIVING. It didn't register until tonight at the supermarket. It was the price of frozen hash brown potatoes which caught my eye. Each morning I have hash brown potatoes scrambled with eggs, toast and orange juice for breakfast. So I buy them often.

Here is what I found:

Last week I bought Southern hash brown potatoes (frozen)

net wt. 32 oz. (2 lbs.)--39¢

Tonight I bought

net wt. 24 oz. (1 lb. 8 oz.)--47¢

I noticed the bin was full of the same brand and same size package, but some had one price and a large lot had another price. Inquiring at the checkout stand, I found that the higher price was "the new order just put out." The clerk told me that she had been off two days and this is normal after her days off each week--that she has to learn the new prices when she returns to work.

And then...(after her two days off)...

same brand, same package, same weight

net wt. 24 oz. (1 lb. 8 oz.)--52¢

The August issue of LABOR TODAY carried a front page article, "FOOD: Who Pays? Who Profits?" I've reread the article and now realize I have a crisis, and so do the other millions of Americans from Boston to Bakersfield, and from Portland to Chicago and Mobile.

My thanks to LABOR TODAY. Keep up the good job you are doing. Just give us more of the same food-for-thought! My self-starter button has been hit with frozen hash brown Idaho potatoes.

We need to push some more self-starters of other workers, senior citizens, students, the Blacks, the Browns, the housewives and the little people all over the land. We need a GENERAL GOOD AND WELFARE ACT of 1973.



If our congressmen can't hear us call for action, then retire them in 1974.

Bob Hollowwa  
Local 374, Molders Union

P.S. I submitted the GENERAL GOOD AND WELFARE ACT to my local union as a communication. When it came to that point on the agenda, my communication was read and I moved for its endorsement. The motion carried unanimously. The local also voted to send copies of our resolution to the International and other locals of the Molders Union, and to introduce the resolution for adoption at the next meeting of the Riverside Central Labor Council. B.H.

## The Union makes us strong

# TAL DEAN BACK ON THE JOB

by PAUL AND LINDA NYDEN  
LABOR TODAY CORRESPONDENTS

LABOR TODAY, the issue of July, 1973, carried our story about Talmadge "Butch" Dean, the young white miner who made the company's racist hiring practices an issue in his campaign for office. He straightened out the thinking of a lot of miners.

When we wrote the story, Tal had narrowly escaped having his hand amputated after he had put it through a plate glass window in an accident. The doctor at the coal field hospital wanted to take it off right away--told him he didn't have a chance. Tal waited on the hospital table, bleeding, while his wife went home to get \$50 cash to pay for an ambulance to take him to Pittsburgh. The doctors there saved his hand.

### RANK & FILE WRITE A HAPPY ENDING

To every good story, there's a sequel! After Tal was hurt, a company boss made reference to his campaign leaflets. Tal ran on issues. The boss told him he would "have to cut that kind of stuff out" if he ever expected to get his job back.

Tal didn't "cut it out" and he has his job back too. The rank and file miners in UMW Local 1190 took care of that.

Tal Dean doesn't have full use of his hand yet, so he can't operate the complex mining machines, but he will be doing general work inside the mines, shovelling rocks and dust out of the haulage ways.

### THE MORAL OF THIS STORY

This story has two important lessons: one is that something has to be done about the terrible hospitals in the coal fields. Talk about a CRISIS IN EVERYDAY LIVING, the coal fields are crowded with victims of company greed and neglect.

The second lesson is about militancy and a strong local union. Tal has a job today because Local 1190 miners pushed for it. They forced the company to hire him back, and saw that he got assigned to a job that he could perform.

Usually, such consideration is reserved for company sucks, but this time the local union made the company help a member the bosses didn't especially like.



# from U.S. Labor's HIDDEN HISTORY

THE STRIKE AT CRIPPLE CREEK

## Bosses buy the militia in 8-hour day struggle

by CARYL ESTEVES  
LABOR TODAY STAFF

From the days just following the Civil War, working men and women had been raising the demand for an eight hour day. "Eight hours for work, eight hours for rest, eight hours for what we will!" appeared on placards and in songs. But resistance by the bosses to any shortening of the work day was fierce.

### FLOUTING THE PUBLIC WILL

The state of Colorado once had an eight-hour law, but the mine owners not only refused to comply with it, they managed to have it declared unconstitutional by the state Supreme Court. Two years later, in 1902, Colorado voters overwhelmingly approved a referendum authorizing the legislature to amend the state constitution to legalize the eight-hour measure. But the legislature, under pressure from the mine owners failed to do so.

In February, 1903, members of the Western Federation of Miners in the Cripple Creek, Colorado area walked off the job. Within nine months, the strike had spread throughout the state and included coal miners organized by the United Mine Workers. The miners were demanding union recognition, wage raises and the reinstatement of workers who had been fired for union activity. But the major issue was the eight-hour day.

### SUBVERTING DEMOCRACY

The suppression of this strike was one of the most brutal and high-handed in the history of the American labor movement. Despite protests from the sheriff and the City Council, the governor sent in 1,000 soldiers. As the state had no funds to pay these men, the Mine Owners Association assured Governor Peabody that they would advance the necessary cash, making the troops literally the hired flunkies of the mine owners. Despite massive protest by the public, as well as the Cripple Creek City Council, the governor declared: "The soldiers will stay in Cripple Creek until the strike is broken."

Military rule and vigilantism were the main tactics of the military commanders of Cripple Creek. Strike leaders were arrest-

We mean to make things over  
We're tired of toil for naught  
But bare enough to live on  
Never an hour for thought.  
We want to feel the sunshine  
We want to smell the flowers  
We're sure that God has willed it  
We mean to have eight hours.

Union Song, 1900

ed on grounds of "military necessity." When a judge granted writs of habeas corpus to free them, General Chase refused to comply and had the men thrown into makeshift stockades where they were kept for months. The editor of the local RECORD newspaper was imprisoned for editorially criticizing the tactics of the military commanders. City officials were arrested for publicly sympathizing with the miners. The counsel for the militia, Judge Advocate Major Thomas McLelland, insisted that under martial law, the militia was not bound by civil processes. "To hell with the Constitution!" he was heard to declare. "We are following the orders of Governor Peabody!"

### ATTEMPT AT FRAME-UP

A year and a half after the beginning of the strike, in June 1904, the railroad depot of Cripple Creek was blown up, killing thirteen and wounding sixteen men. Although the WFM convention was in session at the time, and the union, disclaiming any knowledge of the crime, offered a reward of \$5,000 for the capture of the perpetrators, the union officers were arrested and indicted for murder. The charges were later dismissed for lack of evidence, but the Mine Owners Association used the incident to launch its most vicious attack on the union. The sheriff was forced to resign. Militia attacked the union hall and completely destroyed

it. Union men were rounded up. Large numbers of strikers were herded into the stockades or run out of the area. On June 10th, 79 men were herded into box cars and taken to the Kansas border with orders never to return to Colorado. Another 33, including an attorney, were deported to New Mexico and cruelly mistreated by their guards. On June 28th, 39 more were shipped out.

### NONE WERE SAFE

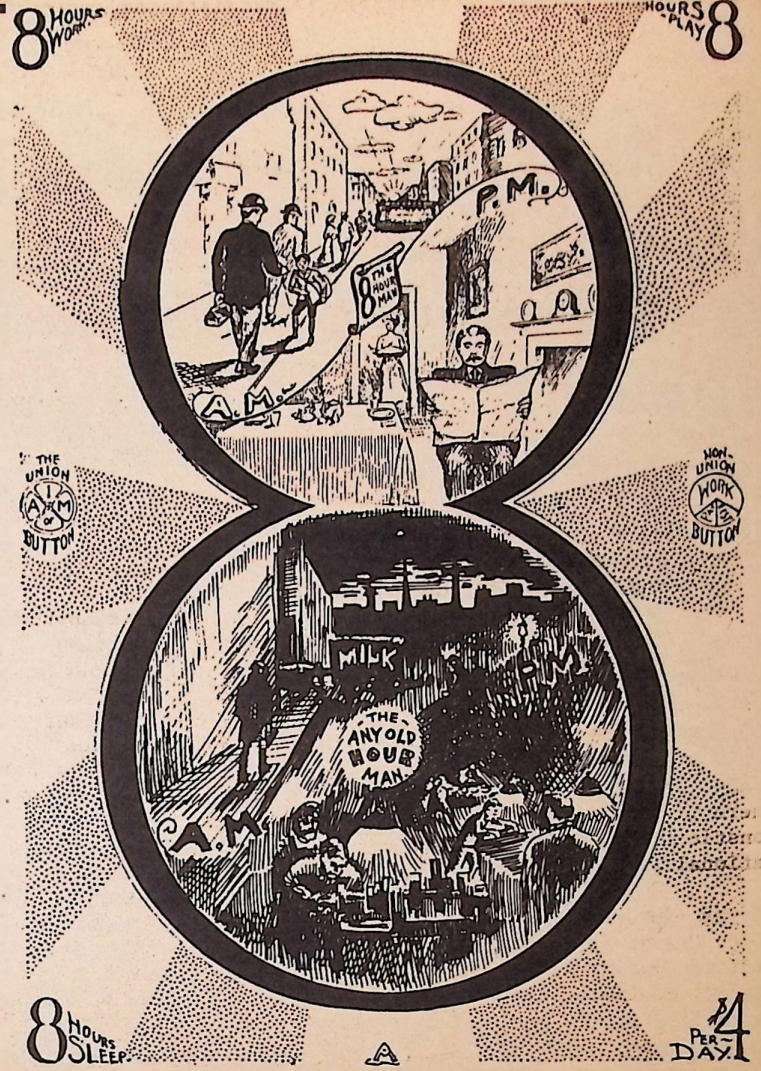
Not all of those deported were strikers; some were merely business or professional men who had sympathized with the strikers. But to the military rulers of Cripple Creek, this was crime enough, since local merchants were forbidden from dealing with the union. Civilian and police officials sympathetic to the eight-hour day movement were forced to resign. And, as if to abandon all pretense of impartiality, the military tribunal held court in the offices of the Mine Owners Association.

When the militia left the area on July 26, 1904, it turned the city over to a mob headed by the Citizens Alliance, a stooge for the Mine Owners Association. Union premises were ransacked and destroyed. The local newspaper was torn apart and the staff imprisoned. Strike sympathizers including lawyers, the former attorney general of the state, the former county attorney and a judge, were terrorized, or deported by Alliance men. Blacklisting became universal, and it became impossible for a union miner to get work in the area.

### A LESSON FROM HISTORY

The citizens of Cripple Creek experienced a military take-over different only in degree of brutality to that suffered by the people of Chile this summer. The corporate owners, whether of Cripple Creek coal or Chilean copper, are prepared to subvert the state military apparatus and wipe out democratic liberties to assure their profits.

The defence of democracy everywhere requires a united and militant defense of workers' rights and organizations.



### HOW ABOUT SAVING US SOME MONEY (and work)

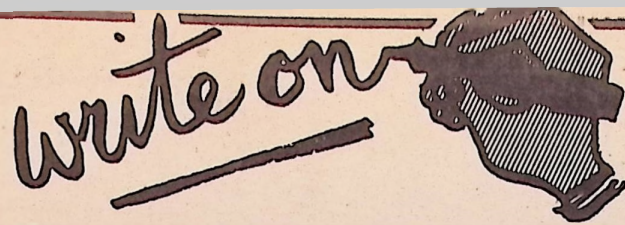
Labor Today is in its sub drive  
and since we don't have much staff  
help we are asking our readers to  
give us a break and .....  
**RENEW EARLY**

Introductory Sub 1 year \$2.00  
Renewal of Sub 1 year \$2.50  
Special...5 Subs for...\$10.00  
**BUY A BUNDLE**  
10 or more for 15¢  
Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

LABOR TODAY ASSOCIATES  
343 S. Dearborn - Rm 600  
Chicago, Ill. 60604  
312/922-5560

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Union \_\_\_\_\_ Local \_\_\_\_\_



Write on 

## Woodworkers' convention drops "anti-red" clause

The International Woodworkers of America (IWA), with about half of its membership in Region I--Western Canada--adopted constitutional prohibitions against members of the Communist Party, in 1941. The 28th IWA convention, September 1973, removed the prohibitions. Brother Moir attended both conventions as a delegate from IWA Local 2, Aberdeen, Washington.

To the Editors:

I have just returned from Vancouver, B.C., where I was a delegate to the 28th Constitutional Convention of the International Woodworkers of America.

It was a profound and inspiring convention. One of the most important decisions made there was the removal of the anti-Communist clause from the constitution. Resolutions on this action came from Region I and the International Executive Board. Delegates from Region I pointed out that they had national laws demanding political freedom for all Canadians. The Canadian Labour Congress is asking all unions to remove restrictive clauses from their constitutions.

I was one of the few dissenters when they put in the infamous clause at the convention in Everett, Washington, 1941, and I was proud to stand up and be counted when we voted it out.

### THE IWA vs. THE MULTINATIONALS

Another major convention decision made a start toward dealing with the giant, multinational corporations. There was unanimous approval of a motion empowering the International Executive Board to: 1) draft a workable formula of coordinated bargaining; 2) draft necessary constitutional provisions to make possible the implementation of such a program; 3) propose the means of financing a program of coordinated bargaining. The proposals are to be brought to the next convention in 1975.

We must begin to equalize the bargaining strength of Union with that of the monster corporations. This coordinated bargaining would eliminate the differential in wages of the Southern and Northern U.S. It would also eliminate the problem of "runaway shops" to areas of lower paid workers.

Another resolution stated that "Woodworkers all over the world are finding themselves increasingly menaced by common employers, utilizing common management personnel, common policies and common tactics." The International officers were instructed to strive to strengthen ties with the International Federation of Building and Woodworkers (IFBW) and all unions of lumber and wood products.

John Lofblad, General Secretary of the IFBW and guest speaker at the convention, citing the example of ITT interference in Chilean affairs, described multi-

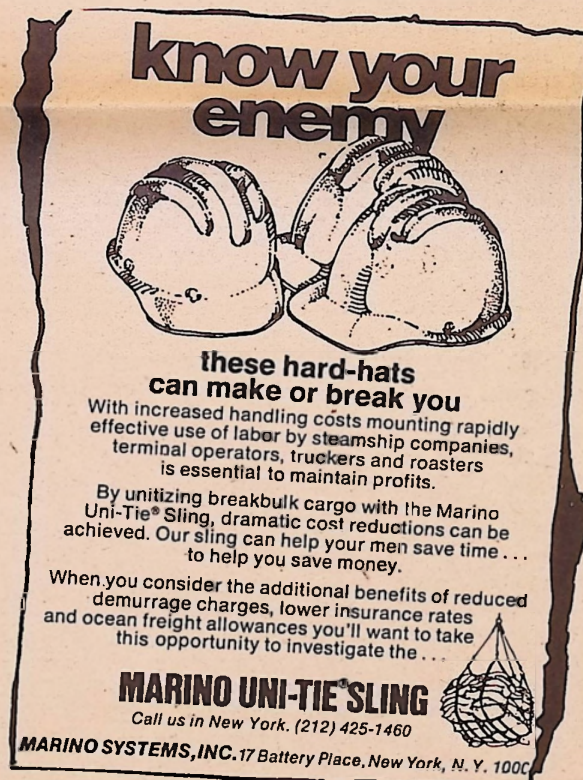
national corporations as "violently anti-union and totally lacking in social conscience." Lofblad emphasized that the need for international labor strategy is greater than ever before because "big business certainly knows no international borders."

In yet another display of unity at the convention, President Jim Munro of Region I made an impassioned speech in support of the United Farm Workers lettuce boycott which resulted in unanimous approval.

Before another year goes by, I hope to send more reports on actions resulting from "this most progressive convention of the International Woodworkers of America in 20 years," to quote Ron Roley, outgoing International President.

Brick Moir  
Woodworkers R&F Committee

**They love you to your face,  
BUT LOOK OUT BEHIND!**



**know your enemy**

**these hard-hats can make or break you**

With increased handling costs mounting rapidly effective use of labor by steamship companies, terminal operators, truckers and roasters is essential to maintain profits.

By unitizing breakbulk cargo with the Marino Uni-Tie® Sling, dramatic cost reductions can be achieved. Our sling can help your men save time... to help you save money.

When you consider the additional benefits of reduced demurrage charges, lower insurance rates and ocean freight allowances you'll want to take this opportunity to investigate the...

**MARINO UNI-TIE® SLING**

Call us in New York. (212) 425-1460

**MARINO SYSTEMS, INC.** 17 Battery Place, New York, N. Y. 1000

To the Editors:

For the past few years, the big business newspapers have widely advertised the racist and pro-big business policies of many Construction union officials. They try to convince their working class readers that things could be very cozy between business and labor if only the rank and file would be as "reasonable" and "statesmanlike" as certain labor leaders.

If there are strikes, the papers say, they are the fault of workers, because big business is trying to be friendly. Nixon, the businessman's errand boy, has even had his picture taken wearing a hard hat, and now has gone so far as to appoint a hard hat worker to his cabinet.

But the true feelings of big business are shown in this ad I enclose. It appeared recently in COFFEE AND TEA NEWS, a trade magazine for the food monopolies. Here, the "hard hat" is the "enemy" which must be eliminated. They can afford to print the truth in these magazines because workers almost never get to read them.

It is no surprise that a racist like Brennan, an important leader of the Building Trades Council, would agree to become Nixon's Secretary of Labor, and help big business carry out this two-faced hypocrisy. He has a history of wheeling and dealing with such notorious anti-labor elements as the Rockefellers.

Every time Nixon signs another anti-labor bill, Brennan has the task of getting on television and saying that he told Nixon the bill was no good, and that he is so sorry that Nixon signed it anyway. This baloney is supposed to make the rank and file feel good because it makes it look like Nixon was at least fair enough to listen to the other side.

Now you know, and I know, that this advertisement represents the true feeling of business toward "hard hats" and all other workers. We have the job of throwing out any union leader who tries to tell us otherwise!

And in particular, we have to tell Brennan to get the hell out of Nixon's cabinet. We need real fighters for workers, not someone who stages a fake fight and then takes a dive on signal.

West Virginia Rank and Filer  
name withheld by request

## PRINTERS SEE HANDWRITING ON WALL

To the Editors:

As a union printer, I am deeply concerned about the media wall of silence and the all-too-apparent apathy of organized labor in general regarding the lockout of union printers by the HAMMOND TIMES in the highly touted "union" town of Hammond, Indiana.

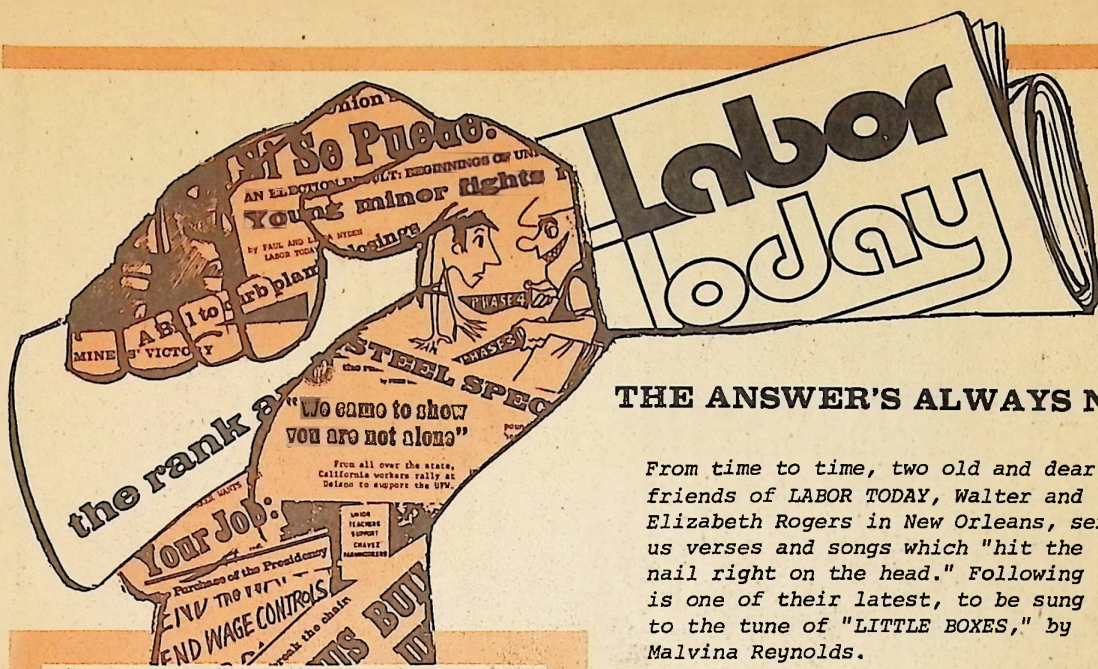
A precedent is being set by this lockout that can adversely affect all unions, particularly the printing tradesmen (job shops and newspapers alike). The question we all should be asking ourselves is: who will be next?

The HAMMOND TIMES is using automation destructively and the union printers who have served them well, as pawns. The human element is being completely negated. Since all union members are honest-to-goodness breathing human beings, the men and women who make up the labor movement in this area would do well to take a closer look at what's happening at the HAMMOND TIMES.

Strikebreakers and goon ("security") squads have been imported in violation of a city ordinance--another interesting "above the law" stance; management has refused to bargain in good faith. Their attitude is the classic dictatorial "take it or else" syndrome. It is evident that if they succeed with these tactics in a town inhabited by steel and oil workers, meatcutters, service employees and many other union members, immeasurable damage to organized labor will result and all the printing trade unions will, like Belshazzar, clearly see the handwriting on the wall.

E.G.G.  
Chicago





**THE ANSWER'S ALWAYS NO**

From time to time, two old and dear friends of LABOR TODAY, Walter and Elizabeth Rogers in New Orleans, send us verses and songs which "hit the nail right on the head." Following is one of their latest, to be sung to the tune of "LITTLE BOXES," by Malvina Reynolds.

THE EDITORS

Are the Nixons in the phone book  
 At all their private palaces?  
 Do they answer to the nation,  
 To the people down below?

Oh, they answer, sure, they answer,  
 With a shredder full of Liddy-lies  
 From the Watergate to the ticky-tape  
 And the answer is always "No!"

Don't his plumbers and his buggers  
 And five years of broken promises  
 (Which are just made of Hitler ticky-tacky)  
 Put the nation on the beach?

Ask the housewives and commuters  
 And then prod your flabby Congressmen:  
 "Swat the cockroaches in the driver's seat!  
 Get 'em outa there! Impeach!"

by WALTER AND ELIZABETH ROGERS  
 LABOR TODAY CORRESPONDENTS

.....  
 (continued from previous column)

Now they have to go on trial.

The company is paying the scabs \$225 a week to stay around. The miners need money and support. All good union men and women should come to their aid.

Mrs. Florence Reece  
 R 5 Ellistown Rd.  
 Knoxville, Tenn. 37914

**LABOR TODAY "DUES" CARD**

Here is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month in "Dues".

Put me down for a bundle of \_\_\_\_\_ copies at 15¢ a copy. Bill me monthly.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

UNION \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

=====

FILL OUT THIS FORM & RETURN WITH \$\$ TODAY  
 to  
 Labor Today Assoc., 343 S. Dearborn St.,  
 Rm. 600, Chicago, Ill. 60604

**WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?**

Florence Reece, miner's daughter, miner's wife, wrote the famous union song WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON. LT's EDITORS urge you to respond to her appeal for support to the striking miners of Brookside (Harlan County), Kentucky.

To the Editors:

I have just returned from Brookside, Ky., where the coal miners are on strike.

The men were taken off the picket line, but the women took over. They whipped the scabs and stopped them from working.