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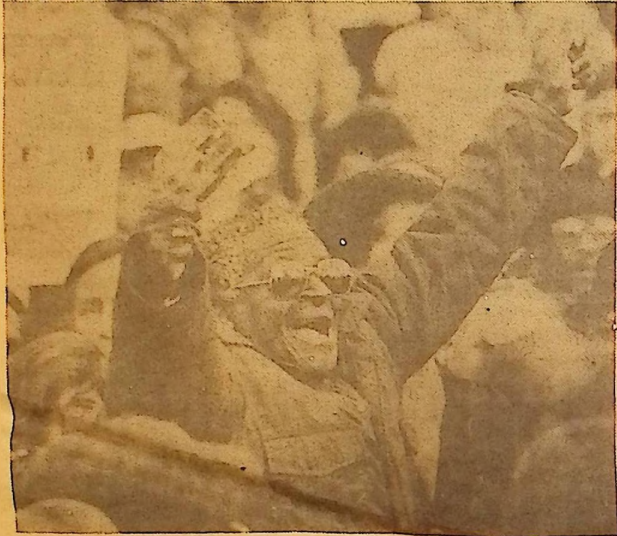
AFL-CIO UNIONS

Launch Shell Boycott

UNIONS LAUNCH SHELL OIL BOYCOTT

The AFL - CIO, United Mineworkers and National Education Association together with the Free South Africa Movement recently announced a nationwide boycott of Shell Oil Company and all of its products. Said Owen Bieber, President of the UAW, at the unveiling of the plan, "We're boycotting Shell because of its mistreatment of workers in South Africa and its refusal to act aggressively against apartheid. We hope this boycott will encourage Shell to disinvest in South Africa."

AFL - CIO NEWS



Bishop Desmond Tutu greets the actions by U. S. trade unionists to dismantle apartheid through the Shell boycott and the Freedom Letters campaign.

Union members are being asked to cut their Shell credit cards in half and mail them to AFL - CIO headquarters. Destroyed cards will be replaced with Shell "discredit cards" which denounce the company's unionbusting in South Africa and its support for the apartheid regime.

Shell has been targeted by the boycott because of its parent company Royal Dutch Shell Group, a huge multinational corporation with heavy investments in petroleum and mining operations in South Africa. The company's operations in the United States are estimated to provide 27

percent of all Royal Dutch profits.

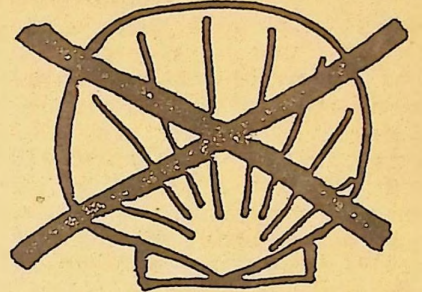
Some 350 U. S. firms operate in South Africa, including Exxon, Mobil and IBM. Taken together, U. S. companies control about half of the South African oil industry.

Richard Trumka, UMWA President said, "Transnational corporations provide a strategic pillar for the South African regime, without which the economic foundation of apartheid will collapse."

Not a stranger to Shell's repressive treatment of workers, Trumka's union had launched its own boycott of Shell last July when coal miners went on strike against A. T. Massey Coal Company, another "child" of Royal Dutch Shell. Massey demanded that each of its plants be considered separate bargaining units and withdrew from the Bituminous Coal Operator's Association. Tactics of terror have been used against the coal miners by A. T. Massey, from the bringing in of armed strikebreakers from other states, to the use of high-powered 24-hour video surveillance of the picketlines.

Randal Robinson, co - chair of the Free South Africa Movement indicated that Shell was only the beginning of a stepped up divestment

Labor Today



campaign. "Shell and other corporations profit from South Africa's system of semi - slave labor," he said, "and must be persuaded by the full force of international revulsion at apartheid to cease doing business there until that system is destroyed."

The campaign against Shell was announced the day after 40,000 "Freedom Letter" petitions were presented to Bishop Tutu by leaders of the trade unions and the Free South Africa Movement. Bishop Desmond Tutu, awarded the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, is on a two - week tour of the United States.

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE STRIKE

Where can we turn for justice?

Chicago Newspapers Union Unity Council on strike against the Tribune, a letter on the bulletin board caught my eye. Later, I called Bill, member of Local 2 of the Mailers Union, to ask if we could print his piece and how it was going.

"I've been working for the Tribune part - time since 1947 and full - time for the last 14 years, and I've never seen anything like this. I can't explain it except to say it's out and out union-busting."

Has this been a dramatic change from past management - labor relations?

"I always thought there was a lot of respect between us. People on top, many of them, had come up from the ranks and for the most part didn't have an attitude toward us union workers.

"But now, they want to say, you're not going to tell us what to do. Just say, 'Yes sir. No, sir. And do your job.' The strike's as much about that as it is about money."

Why did you and other strikers write to Dixon?

"Well, I didn't really expect government intervention. But, if you can't turn to your government for justice, where can you turn?"

"When I think of what's happening and what's going to happen to thousands of us out here on the streets — with all the cutbacks and everything — it makes my stomach turn — it makes me angry at people like Dixon who just turn their back to it."

Letter from Trib. Striker
Senator Alan J. Dixon
United States Senate



17,000 trade unionists rally in solidarity with the striking Tribune workers. See page 7 for related story.
D. Albano

D. Albano

Senator,

Sir, while checking our bulletin board today I had the opportunity to read a letter from your office to a fellow worker who pleaded for your help in regard to a labor dispute that involved him and his family and the Tribune Corporation, who as you must know are the owners of the Chicago Tribune.

Your stance that "you did not believe it proper for a U. S. Senator to become involved in labor disputes" was very pat and typical of the attitude of our leaders who once elected go to Washington and spend their time and our money defending us against hypothetical and make believe enemies while we are down here in the real world of the streets being destroyed by the exportation of our jobs, importation of foreign goods, and now exploitation by heartless corporations who see the average American worker as little more than red meat to feed into their hungry profit making machines.

Sir, in my immediate family there are fifteen votes that no longer belong to Alan J. Dixon. And I can assure you that this letter will be posted on the bulletin boards next to others.

W.L.W.





"Big" Bill Haywood — militant IWW leader

By Will Parry
AWPPW, Retired
Seattle

It is ironic that the Industrial Workers of the World, which scorned labor political action as a waste of the workers' time, was compelled throughout its history to engage in one ferocious political battle after another to defend its existence against its enemies. In the end, it was destroyed as an effective movement by the repressive political engine of the state, hundreds of its leaders imprisoned, its goal of "One Big Union" for all workers a dream unrealized.

But before it was crushed, the IWW contributed to our labor history magnificent chapters written, in the terse phrase of its foremost leader, William D. Haywood, "with drops of blood."

Haywood — "Big Bill" — was at the heart of most of that history. His unravished autobiography, raw and direct as a shot of Western saloon whiskey, is an imperishable classic, rich in lessons for today's developing era of sharp class battles.

Haywood was born in Salt Lake City on February 4, 1869. He died in 1928 at the age of 59. His life spans the decades during which our industrialized working class took shape and struggled toward union organization. These were the decades also of the rise to economic supremacy of the great industrial trusts and financial empires — the decades of the emergence of American imperialism.

Haywood chose sides early. Working in the mines at 18, he was moved by the heroism of the Haymarket martyrs. "The last words of August Spies kept running through my mind: 'There will come a time when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today.' It was a turning point in my life," Haywood said.

In 1900, Haywood was elected secretary - treasurer of the Western Federation of Miners, a proud and militant industrial union whose membership had been swiftly radicalized by ruthless mine owner exploitation.

When the IWW was founded in Chicago in 1905, the WFM provided its membership base. Gene Debs, Mother Jones and Lucy Parsons were there, but from the outset Haywood was the IWW's most influential leader. From 1915 until 1923, when he emigrated to the young Soviet republic as a political refugee, he served as the IWW's general secretary.

Haywood's quarter century of working class leadership was marked by a succession of venomous employer - instigated attacks on the organizations he led. The corporations cut wages, speeded up production, hired armies of Pinkerton spies, fomented attacks by sheriffs' deputies and state militiamen, organized vigilantes into "Citizen Alliances," and murdered, beat up, deported, framed and jailed thousands of working men and women during those years — all with the objective of destroying industrial unionism.

Haywood himself was the victim of a classic frame - up. In 1906 he, WFM



Haywood at Lawrence strike

Pres. Charles H. Moyer and George Pettibone, a WFM adviser, were kidnapped by the authorities in Colorado, taken to Idaho by special train under cover of night, and charged with instigating the murder of Idaho ex - Gov. Frank Steunenberg. After one of the most celebrated protest campaigns in our history, Haywood was acquitted and the charges against Moyer and Pettibone were dropped.

Under Haywood's bold and creative leadership, the IWW developed a strategy of labor defense that rallied support far beyond its ranks and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for bail and legal expenses. But IWW defense work involved much more than fund - raising. Its objective was also to educate millions to the miserable conditions on the job, the flagrant extremes of employer wealth and worker poverty, the role of industrial unionism in bettering workers' lives, and the wholesale trampling on Constitutional liberties of which the industrialists and government at all levels were guilty.

Thus the IWW's spirited defense campaigns not only freed many of its own "class war prisoners," but at the same time strengthened the protection of the Bill of Rights for all Americans.

Haywood's superb leadership was in great part responsible for the victory of the 25,000 Lawrence textile workers in 1912. His effectiveness was grounded in his class partisanship and his confidence in workers. Of the Lawrence strike he said: "It was a wonderful strike . . . not because it was so large numerically, but because we were able to bring together so many



BY TONY MICHAELS
FEBRUARY

- 1817:** Frederick Douglas, former slave, great orator, educator, and advisor to Abraham Lincoln, born
- 1830:** The Daily Sentinel, first daily labor publication in the U. S. published in New York
- 1869:** IWW founder and leader "Big" Bill Haywood born
- 1881:** William Z. Foster, leader of 1919 steel strike, born
- 1903:** Western Federation of Miners strike for 8 - hour day
- 1912:** Police beat up children in "Bread and Roses" textile strike, Lawrence, Mass.
- 1919:** 16,000 Silk Workers in Patterson, N. J. strike for shorter work-week
Dockworkers launch general strike in Seattle shutting down the city
- 1932:** Nationwide demonstration against unemployment in U. S.
- 1937:** GM workers sit down strike ends leading to first UAW National contract
National Conference of Negro Organizations formed in Pittsburgh. More than 100 unions represented. The National Conference formed to combat racial discrimination in steel industry
- 1946:** More than 2 million workers strike to gain demands postponed by the Second World War
- 1960:** Sit - ins for Civil Rights begin at lunch counters in Greensboro, N. C.
- 1969:** 42,000 W. Virginia miners strike and win black lung legislation
- 1974:** Farah clothing strikers win union recognition following international boycott.

different nationalities . . . The strikers had a committee of 56, representing 27 different languages . . . All the workers (leading) that strike were picked from material that in the mill was regarded as worth no more than \$6 or \$7 a week."

Haywood scorned the owners of mines and factories as parasites. "Management's brain is under the workman's cap," he said.

After the Lawrence strike, Haywood went to the convention of the interracial Brotherhood of Timber Workers in Louisiana to urge affiliation to the IWW. Seeing only white faces on his arrival, he was told that the Black delegates were meeting in a separate hall in conformity with Louisiana law.

"You work in the same mills together," Haywood argued. "Why not be sensible about this and call the Negroes into this convention? This is one time when the law should be broken."

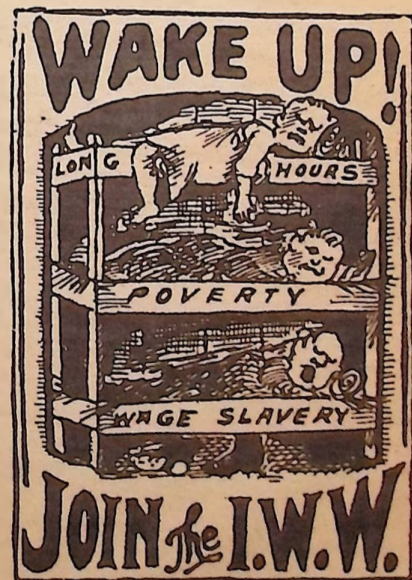
His advice was followed. The union voted to affiliate with the IWW, and it elected an integrated delegation to the next IWW convention.

Known simply as "Bill Haywood's Book," the IWW leader's

autobiography retains its class sting today. Here's a story Haywood tells of one young IWW halled into court for going on a hunger strike:

"'You're a worker, are you?' the judge asked. 'Let me see the calluses on your hands.'

"The young fellow replied, 'Take your pants down, judge, and let me see where your calluses are!'"



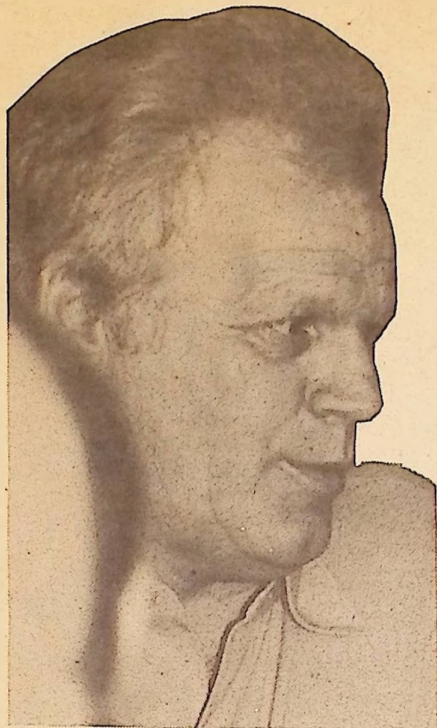
...T.'s Fred Gaboury accepts new post

On January 10, Fred Gaboury, editor of Labor Today for seven years and staff member since 1970, became the permanent Representative to the United Nations of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU). The post was vacated by the retirement of Ernie De Maio, former Vice-President of United Electrical Workers (UE) and WFTU representative for 11 years.

The WFTU is one of many non-governmental organizations with permanent representation at the United Nations. Worldwide, the WFTU represents 206 million trade unionists in 74 countries.

Gaboury came to Chicago as one of the founding members of the National Coordinating Committee for Trade Union and Democracy (TUAD). He had worked for 25 years as a high limber in the lumber industry of Washington state. He is the youngest member of the IWA (International Woodworkers Association) to be honored for 25 years of continuous membership, and served his union as a delegate to the central labor body, convention delegate, and grievor.

Debbie Albano, managing editor of Labor Today since October, 1984, will succeed Gaboury as editor. Albano is a member of the Chicago Newspaper Guild, AFL - CIO, a former English lecturer and teacher at the University of Arizona and staff representative for her department, textbook editor, and mother of two.



Fred Gaboury

Though Gaboury will work in New York City, he will continue to contribute to Labor Today through a monthly column on international developments in the labor movement.

Says Gaboury, "Just as unity in the U. S. labor movement is critical to fighting for peace, jobs, and equality, so it is in the international labor movement. At the U. N., I will have the opportunity to continue this struggle on a new level."



Debbie Albano

Tribune Strike Rally

Over 17,000 trade unionists turned out to demonstrate their solidarity with Chicago Tribune strikers in early January. Though the wind chill factor was well below freezing, the picketers' enthusiasm, helped along by the IBEW's coffee trucks, kept the crowd warm.

Close to 100 union locals marched with banners and signs at two plant gates. Early morning demonstrators, with the help of off-duty firemen, who blocked one of the entrances with an old fire engine, held up traffic and production of the Sunday paper for several hours.

This was not the first time the Firefighters put their equipment into "alternative" use. When USWA Local 15271 struck Danly Machine in Chicago, the firefighters "parked" an engine in front of the plant gates to keep out scabs and trucks. A large delegation of these steelworkers from the Danly - Ogden local marched again beneath their banner "We'll keep fighting until we win" at the Trib rally

—living proof that "an injury to one is as injury to all."

Chicago Federation of Labor's President Ed Brabec stated, "We're saying no to strikebreaking in Chicago by the Trib or anyone else."

One demonstrator, when asked why he had responded to the CFL's call for the solidarity rally, Charles Scott, an Operating Engineer from Harvey, Illinois said, "We're all working folks and we're all in this together. If we can help them protect their jobs, we'll be helping to save our own jobs, too."

The strike is mainly over the company's attempt to eliminate pension programs, slash medical benefits, curb seniority rights and install a three-tier wage system.

Strikers are asking the public to write to Stanton Cook, chairman, Tribune Corporation at Tribune Tower, Chicago, IL 60601, and urge that he sit down with the union negotiating committee and settle the strike now.

ROAST HIM and TOAST HIM!

In honor of his 15 years of outstanding contributions to Labor Today and to congratulate him on his new job at the United Nations, we invite you to put Fred Gaboury on the hot seat.

Many people have expressed their enthusiasm about the roast: Rep. Charles Hayes of Illinois, UAW Regional Director Frank Runnels, even Fred's own mother!

Reserve your tickets for the roast by sending in \$15.00 per person. If you will be unable to attend, but want to get your licks in, send us your written comments ("what I would have said if I could have been there") and \$15.00 (\$25.00 for organizations) and we'll be sure to add your log to the fire!

MARCH 29
MEMORIAL HALL
USWA Local 1033
11731 S. Avenue O
Chicago

Further details, invitations, etc. will be arriving soon to all of our subscribers and friends.



OUR CONDOLENCES

John Conyers, Sr., father of Rep. John Conyers, died New Year's Day at the age of 80 at his home in Detroit.

Labor Today salutes a fallen soldier in the army of those who have, for generations, fought the good fight. An early organizer of the United Auto Workers, Conyers, Sr. worked at both Ford and Chrysler auto plants. He was one of the founders of UAW Local 7 at the Jefferson Avenue Assembly plant in Detroit in 1936, and participated in the fight to organize the Ford Motor Company in 1940.

We pledge to continue on the path that John Conyers, Sr. helped to survey.

ANNOUNCEMENT

DETROIT LABOR FORUM

Detroit's Midwest Labor Institute for Social Studies will sponsor a forum February 23 to commemorate Black History Month. Presenting "The Untold Story of Paul Robeson - His Labor Connection" will be Dr. Charles H. Wright, a Robeson scholar and founder of the Detroit museum of African - American History. The program will begin at 2:30 p. m. (E.S.T.) at The Fisher YMCA Building, 2051 W. Grand, Detroit. Admission is free.

CARRY IT ON!



CARRY IT ON, A History in Song and Picture of the Working Men and Women of America, by Pete Seeger and Bob Reiser (see review in *Labor Today*, December, 1985) is a must for all trade unionists, whether you play a banjo or not.

Written to commemorate the Haymarket Massacre, 1886, **CARRY IT ON** is the result of many people's efforts to tell through pictures, songs, lyrics, and text, the history of the American labor movement.

It is not only an historic work, but it is also a celebration of the dreams

and accomplishments of the working people of our country, as well as an intended inspiration to continue the struggle.

It was written to be used. Let's do it justice.

By sending in 5 new subs to *Labor Today* or by subscribing to a prepaid bundle of 10, you will receive **CARRY IT ON** free.

Send in the order blank today and we'll send you back a book that'll put a little song in your fight! Carry it on!!

ORDER FORM . . . Reserve your copy NOW!

Here is \$25.00 for five new subs to *Labor Today*. (List enclosed)
Please send me my free copy of **CARRY IT ON**.

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