

"an injury to one is an injury to all"

# UNITED LABOR ACTION

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## Putting Profits Before Women's Health— Supreme Court Attacks Pregnancy Pay!

By a Telephone Worker, Member Communications Workers of America, Local 1101

NEW YORK, Dec. 18—On December 7, the Supreme Court ruled that pregnancy related illnesses could be excluded from disability plans and compensation benefits. The nine men who sit on the Supreme Court say that it is "discrimination" for women to receive pregnancy benefits. For working women this could mean that because of morning sickness or one of the many complications from a pregnancy, our bosses could refuse to pay us regardless of our contract. And for pregnant women in non-union shops, it could mean our jobs.

This vicious decision resulted from a suit brought by the International Electrical Workers on behalf of a woman member against General Electric company, charging that employers who pay general disability benefits for sickness or accidents but refuse to pay women for time lost due to pregnancy are discriminating because of sex. Despite the fact that only women can have babies, the Supreme Court ruled it wasn't discrimination.

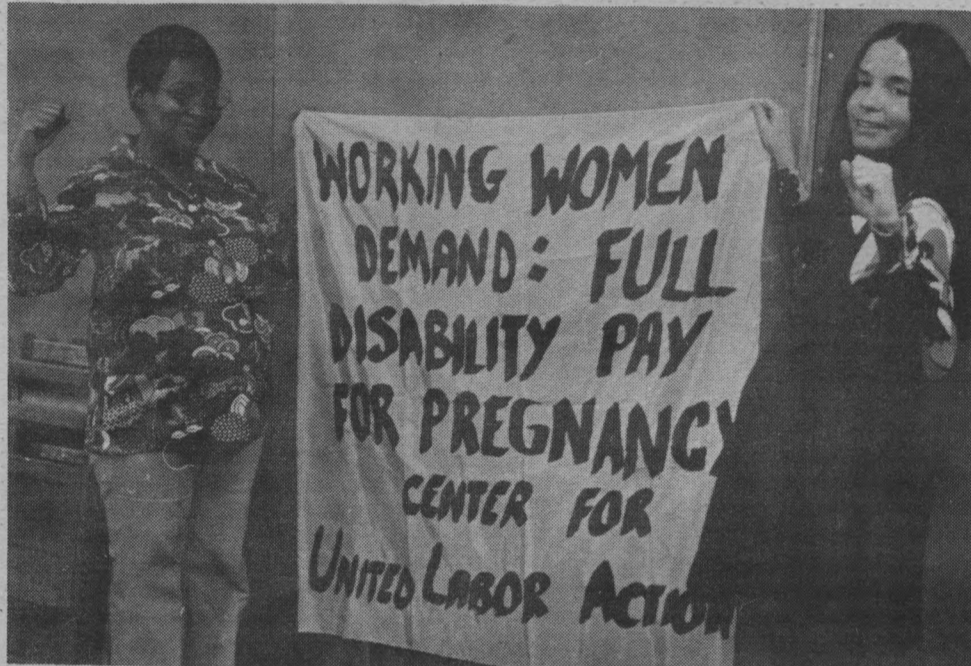
Of course its discrimination! And this Supreme Court ruling will not only result in a loss of pay, but in harassment, firings and a freeze on contract improvements that relate to women.

In my shop, we submitted a proposed bargaining article on pregnancy and seniority. As our contract reads now, it takes 5 years for a woman to regain her seniority lost due to pregnancy. If there is a lay-off, one year of seniority can mean the difference between a job and the unemployment lines. But because of the Supreme Court decision, the pregnant women in my office can forget about the improvements in the contract.

The basis for winning the right of continuous seniority was that men who are drafted and return to work do not lose any seniority.

This ruling is a calculated attack on women workers. And we make up 40 percent of the work force. The judges that made this ruling have opened up the door for an all out attack on the whole system of disability and have begun by singling out women workers. Most union workers receive company paid disability for a set time before going over for state paid compensation benefits. And for most non-union workers, state compensation is their only monetary source during lengthy illnesses.

This recent decision will mean that a company can refuse or challenge a pregnant woman's right to one day's sick pay. For non-union pregnant woman with a prolonged hospital stay, this could mean no state



compensation. For the pregnant woman on the job this could mean harassment, firings because of taking sick days off.

This not only could leave women penniless when they need money the most but it could also drive them from their jobs. And

unemployment for women is high and for Black women it is twice that of white women and four times that of white men.

But not only does the ruling set back the clock on women's disability payments that were only won through hard fought strikes but it opens the door for an overall attack on disability, one that will hurt both men and women.

This decision is a boom for our bosses. Because they no longer have to cover pregnancy related illnesses their insurance premiums will go down. And that is another reason why the corporations would like to see an end of disability for all workers.

This ruling is not only damaging the rights of women but it also is interfering with our right of collective bargaining. How can we negotiate a contract with AT&T on women related articles when the company will refuse to negotiate as long as the Supreme Court ruling stands.

Every year pregnant women risk their lives by working to the last possible day because women don't receive any benefits during and immediately after pregnancy. Unfortunately the mortality figures show dramatically how true this is. The U.S. mortality rate is 16.1 per thousand higher than most developed western countries. In the Black and Latin communities where hospitals and health care are neglected by the cities, and where women workers are mostly non-union, the risks and hardships are doubled and tripled.

The right to have a baby should not be in conflict with the right to have a job. The Supreme Court decision forces women to

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## Norfolk Striking Bus Drivers Take on City Hall, Call Nat'l Boycott

By GARY WILSON

NORFOLK, Va., Dec. 16—Earlier this year, the city of Norfolk dropped its school bus contract with Tidewater Metro Transit, which had a union and contracted with A.R.A. Services Inc., a non-union company.

Within one month after the union busting A.R.A. Services Inc. started operating, 215 out of 245 of the drivers, mostly Black women signed up with the union, Teamster Local 822. On October 26, they walked out on strike.

Under the former union contract, school

bus drivers were paid almost \$6.00 an hour plus benefits. A.R.A. pays per run, a flat rate of \$2.80 an hour with no benefits at all. At the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) hearings here, the drivers testified that the average route took from 5 to 6 hours, but they were only paid for 4 hours.

The N.L.R.B. has ruled, however, that the bus drivers are city employees and not eligible for collective bargaining rights. The union has denounced this decision and will appeal it. The union has called for a

national boycott of A.R.A., which is the largest food vending machine system in the country.

C.U.L.A. has written and distributed thousands of leaflets explaining the strike, especially to the parents of children who are forced to ride with the inadequately trained and dangerous strikebreakers.

Two of the drivers who have taken leading roles in organizing the strike have been singled out for revenge by the company and the cops. On December 20th, Ojay Simmons

and Claudia Gibson will go on trial in Norfolk on charges that they supposedly assaulted and threatened scab drivers. All the strikers and their supporters know that these are phoney charges and that Ojay's and Claudia's only "crime" was to want a union.

Support has been growing as more and more people find out about the poor working conditions and the strikers just demands. It is this support and the militant action of the drivers themselves that will win this strike.

## Phony Fact Sheet Won't Cover Up Racist Neglect of Schomburg

NEW YORK, Dec. 17— The New York Public Library recently released a paper entitled a "fact sheet" on the Schomburg Center to answer what they called "false rumors" circulating about the Schomburg Center. By "false rumors" they mean the well documented accusations being made by the Citizens Coalition to Save the Schomburg Library that the NYPL is guilty of a conscious policy of racist neglect and discrimination towards the Schomburg, the largest collection of Black history and culture in the Americas.

This "fact sheet" is unable to refute any of the charges made by the Citizens Coalition. For instance, the Coalition has charged that irreplaceable materials are being permanently ruined because the Schomburg doesn't have any air conditioning or other climate control system. The NYPL "fact

sheet" answers, "Materials in the Schomburg are, in general, in no worse condition than research materials in others un-airconditioned buildings in urban areas."

What the "fact sheet" doesn't explain is what other research libraries are "un-airconditioned." Certainly the glamorous Lincoln Center or 42nd St. libraries, both of which are located in high income white areas, are not without air conditioning which is vital to the preservation of the research materials. Nor do these luxury libraries have a leaking roof, falling plaster or over-crowded conditions (the maximum seating at the Schomburg is 36!).

The NYPL "fact sheet" even admits that the Schomburg is in an advanced stage of deterioration. They say, "a broken boiler

and resulting lack of heat has necessitated some service modifications during the fall of 1976."

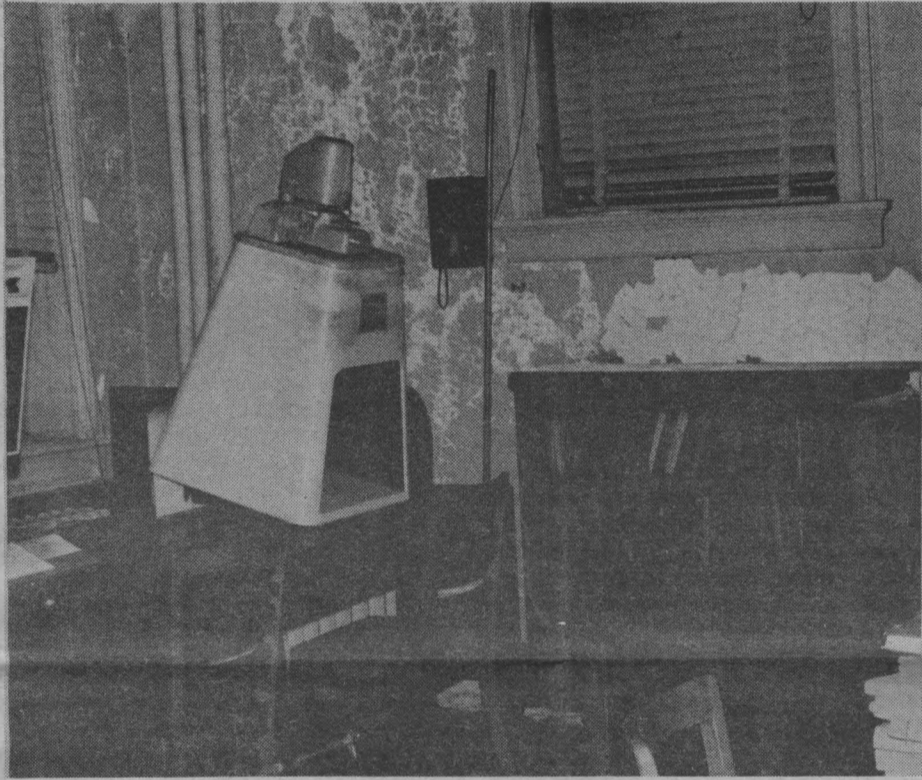
The "fact sheet" never answered the primary charge made by the Citizens Coalition—that the NYPL, while crying poverty when it comes to allocating funds to the Schomburg, has been able to find millions of dollars for constructions and renovations of the Lincoln Center library and the 42nd St. library. This is not some "false rumor" but the very real expression of a policy of racist discrimination practiced by the New York Public Library which by the way isn't really "public" at all. It is owned by the super rich Astor, Lenox, and Tilden foundations.

While the publication of the "fact sheet" signifies that the NYPL is on the defensive, the Citizens Coalition has continued to press forward with its campaign to win a new building in Harlem for the Schomburg collection and the reinstatement of the Schomburg archivist (Laure St. Juste) and the acquisitions librarian (Keith Kern), both of whom were fired without cause by the library administration.

The case of Keith Kern, a white librarian, formerly a member of the Schomburg staff who was fired last May is going to arbitration Jan. 4, 1977. Kern was fired because of his role in organizing protest activity in support of Laure St. Juste. St. Juste, a Black librarian was formerly the chief archivist at the Schomburg and was himself fired one year earlier.

Kern is seeking reinstatement and back pay. The Citizens Committee to Save the Schomburg is encouraging all friends and supporters of the Schomburg to show their support for Mr. Kern by attending the hearing Jan. 4.

The Citizens Coalition is planning future activities and urges others to join with them in the fight to save the Schomburg Center. For information about upcoming activities, leaflets, and buttons, write to the Citizens Coalition to Save the Schomburg, 166 5th Ave., New York, N.Y. 10010, or call (212) 741-0633.



Is this the inside of the glamorous Lincoln Center Library or the Schomburg—the world famous collection of Black history?

### Gov't Declares Mistrial—

## Post 15 Comm. Continues to Organize

By PAUL MELNICOFF, AFSCME Local 1072, delegate Greater Washington Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
WASH., D.C., Dec. 10—After a 14 month strike which began Oct. 1, 1975 against the Washington Post, after a nine month grand jury investigation, and after one suicide, a mistrial was declared in the trial of the 15 Post Pressmen. Charges against them ranged from assault to inciting to riot.

Citing the absurdity of "jury taint", and implying "jury tampering", D.C. Superior court judge Sylvia Bacon, sought to cover up the real reasons for stopping the trial before the jury selection was even half complete. The weak case the government had thrown together, the questionable nature of the government's witnesses (scabs, a professional strikebreaker) and the highly illegal rulings handed down repeatedly against the striking workers which clearly violated their constitutional rights and denied them their rights to actively participate in their own defense were the real reasons for the judge declaring a mistrial.

Because of the enormous media campaign of lies and distortions conducted by the Wash. Post against the Pressmen, their families and their union, the Local 6 Legal Defense Committee called upon the

National Jury Project (an established legitimate organization with offices in several cities) to assist them in selecting the most fair and objective jury possible. The Jury Project, operating in a strictly legal fashion, conducted surveys and researched information on prospective jurors (whose names were provided by the court) in an effort to give defense attorneys a better footing on which to stand when questioning prospective jurors. During this process, a juror was inadvertently contacted directly by a member of the survey team. This unfortunate error usually results in that particular juror being excused from jury duty, but Judge Bacon used this as an excuse to declare a mistrial.

Although a February 14 new court date has been "set", it seems the government is playing a waiting game until perhaps June or even September of 1977; the goal being the fading away of the popular support the 15 have received.

On December 6, the night before the trial opened, a rally was held. Over 250 supporters attended the program which included speakers, music and a film. The program's end was warm and moving, with the defendants and their families leading the crowd in singing "We Shall Not Be

Moved". This was followed by a spirited picket line the next morning of over 100 people in front of the Superior Court. Many individuals and organizations including the Center for United Labor Action, and the defendants and their families, walked the line for one and a half hours in bitter cold chanting "We say no to union busting—Stop the trials now!"

The mistrial declared is a clear example of a virtual conspiracy between the Washington Post and the increasingly anti-labor legal system. After 14 months of waiting for their day in court—to prove themselves innocent—the courts have left them hanging in limbo with full knowledge that the strikers' unemployment benefits are running out, and their resources sorely depleted. Through documented leaks of sealed testimony to Post scab reporter Steven Green, (by Lawrence Weschler, assistant prosecutor in the case,) the courts are seeking to further poison the minds of any person who might be called to sit on the jury. If anyone is to be charged with jury tampering it is the Washington Post, the U.S. Attorney's office and the D.C. Superior Court.

Support efforts on behalf of the pressmen are continuing through speaking engagements, leafletting and other activity to tell the story, and expose the courts for the job they are doing on behalf of the Washington Post Corporation. As sister O'Sullivan, a defendant's wife, said at the pre-trial rally, "Let's all go forth, now, in solidarity, and show the courts and the bosses that there are enough of us, and we are strong enough to demand the verdict—NOT GUILTY."

United Labor Action

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the  
Schomburg!**

**DEMONSTRATE**

**Against the NYPL  
Board of Trustees**

**Weds. Jan. 12**

**at 5 p.m.**

**42 St. & 5 Ave.**

**Sylvania's  
X-mas Gift  
—Layoffs**

By JOAN MARQUARDT

BUFFALO, Dec. 1—G.T.E. Sylvania executives announced today plans to meet with Gov. Carey before Christmas to talk about the permanent lay-off of 775 workers from their nearby Batavia, N.Y., plant.

This will be just one more in a series of fruitless talk sessions. These talks have been carried out because of public pressure. Since the Nov. 5 official announcement by Sylvania, (a subsidiary of General Telephone and Electronics Corporation), of the immediate move of its color television production to their Smithfield, North Carolina plant, reconsideration efforts by union members and Batavia merchants have been to no avail. Once a corporation decides where the money is more easily raked in, away they go!

By Jan. 1, 488 hourly and salaried workers are being permanently laid-off. This is in addition to the 287 workers furloughed from the Batavia plant in recent months for "inventory adjustments," and 240 on lay-off from the Seneca Falls, N.Y. television plant "because of lower demand," blamed on foreign imports.

The Sylvania workers' union, Local 352 of the International Union of Radio Machine Workers (I.U.E.), AFL-CIO, has made several attempts to "talk it over" with the management, with no results. They should know by now the ruthlessness with which Sylvania treats its workers.

The November announcement was the frosting on the cake of contempt the bosses have served up to the Batavia workers who've put years of their lives into the Sylvania operation. Back in 1971, after lengthy contract negotiation, union misleadership and intense pressure from management, the workers agreed to a wage cut to avert a threatened move out of Batavia right then. It now appears the entire incident worked to the advantage of Sylvania stockholders, as the years since the 1971 contract was negotiated when the union membership was generally intimidated, the company moved the necessary equipment into their North Carolina plant where they are now well-prepared to commence color television production.

Though they won't admit it at all, the reason for Sylvania's move is the lower wages they feel they can pay in the South to generally non-union workers. The cost in human suffering to the 1015 workers left jobless is in their opinion, just an unfortunate aspect of the quest for greater profits.

We must stick together in the fight to keep our livelihoods in such a way that the dumping of a whole plant full of employees, is met with such resistance and solidarity, the bosses will find runaway plants the most UNprofitable idea they ever had!

### UNITED LABOR ACTION

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# H.D.A. to Evict Tenants Because Welfare Won't Pay Rent

By JIM MOOTY

NEW YORK, Dec. 17—“It was a very good hearing,” said Ana Cruz, one of five Black and Puerto Rican tenants facing eviction from their homes at 233 West 15th Street in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan. “About 20 of our supporters were there,” she added. “When we all walked into the hearing room the officials just sat there making faces. They tried to clear us out of the room by saying it was a health hazard for so many people to be in such a small space. We said we were all healthy people and refused to leave. After a while they moved the hearing to a larger room.”

The five families with 17 children won the right to live at 233 West 15th Street by taking over the then empty building in 1970. After the arrest of the tenants, their children and forty of their supporters, New York City's Housing and Development Administration (HDA) agreed to lease the building from its landlord, renovate it and rent apartments to the five families involved. But HDA insisted that the Department of Social Services (DSS—New York's welfare department) agree to pay rents high enough to cover the costs of renovation. The “fair hearing” that took place on December 16 came about because the tenants are appealing DSS cuts in their rent allotments. Because of the cuts, HDA has started eviction proceedings against the five families.

“We're charging breach of contract,” said Marty Hotvet, the tenants' lawyer. He then produced several letters and memos showing that DSS had agreed to pay the necessary rents. To back up the documents, the tenants subpoenaed three city officials to testify. The most important witness was Neil Hardy, former Assistant Administrator of HDA.

“We became aware that a group in Chelsea had taken over a building on 15th Street that had been slated for luxury renovation,” testified Hardy. He added that the City had arranged a “unique resolution

(of a) potentially explosive situation because of similar cases in Chelsea.” According to Hardy, the resolution was a four way deal involving HDA, DSS, the tenants and the landlord. HDA would lease the building and lend the landlord \$235,000 to renovate it specifically for the five families. The tenants would move in and DSS would pay the required rents. Hardy insisted that the arrangements would not have been made if DSS had not agreed to pay the rents.

Regina Conick, DSS representative at the hearing, seemed unprepared for either the strong showing of community support or the legal case presented by Hotvet. In the morning session she simply established that the tenants had been properly notified of the rent allotment cuts. But after the lunch break she asked the tenants if any of them had looked for other apartments. None of the five had looked for new places to live because they intended to fight to stay where they were.

Hotvet then called Neil Hardy back to the stand as an “expert witness” on housing. This time Hardy testified that there is “nothing on the market, to my knowledge” that would meet the needs of the five families at rents they could afford. He added that waiting lists for large apartments in New York City public housing are “a mile-and-a-half long. And turnover in such apartments is almost non-existent.”

The transcript of the hearing and the Hearing Officer's recommendations will be sent to New York State's Welfare Commission in the state capital at Albany.

But the tenants are not depending on the Commission's decision to save their homes. “The most important thing about today's hearing,” said one tenant, “is the number of our community supporters who showed up. You can be sure that Neil Hardy will be telling the head of HDA that the city had better find a way to keep us at 233 or there will be trouble in Chelsea.”

# Taxi-Fleet Owners Fleece Workers & Riding Public

By a Rank-and-File Taxi Driver, Local 3036  
NEW YORK, Dec. 18—On Sunday December 12th, less than one month after thousands of rank-and-file taxi workers voiced their militant opposition to horsehiring (leasing) at the General Membership meeting of Local 3036, and less than a week after hundreds of drivers and inside workers marched on the World Trade Center (the site of the negotiations) to protest the fleet owners threat to pick the drivers' pockets of one nickel for every gallon of gas

new dime only 5 cents goes to the union fund while the other 5 cents goes directly into the bosses pockets. This might not sound like much, but it adds up to hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars for the fleet owners. Other major items to consider are that every time the fare has gone up, the drivers' tips have gone down. In essence, it means that the bosses wind up getting the drivers' tip. There are virtually no financial increases for the drivers whatsoever, except a mere \$10.00 per week



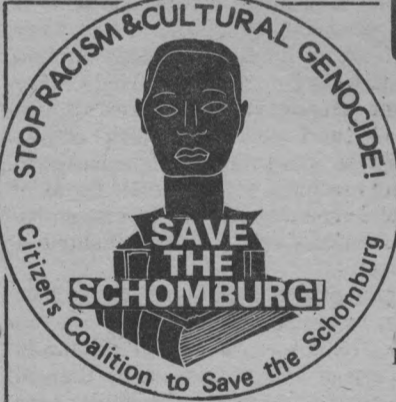
Taxi drivers line up with headlights on to protest fleet owners threatened plan to charge them for gasoline.

the drivers use during each shift, a tentative agreement was reached with the fleet owners after round-the-clock negotiations. The settlement, pending ratification by the rank-and-file and contingent on a 13 percent rate hike, was made after the union bureaucrats caved in to the so-called poverty pleas of the bosses.

The highlights of the agreement, which was opposed by many of the members of the negotiating committee, who demanded an impartial commission to examine the bosses' operations and evaluate their tax write-offs and loopholes before any contract is agreed to, are as follows, a 13 percent rate hike would mean the average fare would climb from \$2.30 to \$2.60 per trip, and an additional 10 cents would be deducted from each trip along with the existing 10 cents the contract now contains. (The present 10 cents goes to the union Vacation, Pension, and Health and Welfare Fund.) But out of this

increase for the inside workers for each year of the 3 year contract, which is practically nothing. In summing up it means the bosses are guaranteed increased profits while the workers aren't guaranteed one cent except a pair of new glasses each year. This is exactly what progressive chairmen pointed out in negotiations. The union officials in this agreement showed a lot of sensitivity to the bosses financial problems and a gross insensitivity to the workers financial problems.

As of this writing, the report from many garages is that the workers are 100 percent against the agreement. As a taxi driver with a wife and two children I have no alternative but to vote no at the ratification meeting. I hope my sister and brother workers do the same so that we can continue our fight for a decent contract and a living wage we justly deserve and has been long overdue.



## Buy this button and Support the Schomburg!

Buttons available \$ .50 from

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(actual size)

# Workers and Parents Demand N.Y. Banks Release Daycare \$\$

By a steward District Council 1707, Local 205 AFSCME  
NEW YORK, Dec. 14—Daycare workers whose contract terminated last February, have been held under siege by the city's refusal to negotiate a new contract. Parents have been so enraged by the deterioration in services for their children caused by the cuts and closings of daycare centers that both workers and parents demonstrated in front of the office of the Emergency Financial Control Board here today.

The principal demand of the demonstration was that the federal funds slated for daycare under the Packwood Mondale Bill go toward reinstating the cuts, refunding the closed centers and rehiring the laid-off staff. While a picket line circled in front of the office of the EFCB an armored truck pulled up to unload its money-bags into the vaults of the Chemical Bank in the next building. Police surrounded our line as the militancy of the demonstration heightened with a chant “give us our money right away!”

The federal funds promised to daycare

prior to the election have never been seen. One feeble explanation offered by the city was that the necessary monies (city and federal) were being withdrawn to keep the budget at previous disaster levels. J. Henry Smith head of the Human Resources Administration gave yet another version of the story when a delegation from the demonstration met with him in City Hall. He said that the \$14 million of federal funds slated for daycare was being drawn off to pay the bank deficits of other social services.

These stories all add up to the same thing. The banks are pressing ever harder to grab the funds needed to care for the children and for necessary services for the poor and working poor of New York. Members of Parents and Workers United for Daycare and the Daycare Workers Union Action Committee of Local 205 who sponsored the demonstration agreed that it is going to take a determined fight of parents and workers uniting with all the people of the city plagued by the banks assault to turn this around. But we won't stop fighting until our children's right to daycare is won.

# — Supreme Ct. Decision

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make a choice between having a child and having a job. This is no choice at all. Women will refuse to make such decision. Working mothers with children under 18 make up 38 percent of all women workers. We certainly won't give up our children nor will we stop having children and we can't afford to give up our jobs. We have a right to a decent

paying job so we can live happily with our children. And to do that, to have healthy babies we need the disability payments while we're pregnant and we need payments after our babies are born. And we intend to fight to win back our disability benefits and the right of day to day sick pay for pregnant women.

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## VEPCO Demands \$66 Million from Virginia's Poor, as

# C.U.L.A. Fights Rate Hike in Public Hearings

By BOB MAYES

NORFOLK, Dec. 7—On the cold night of Nov. 23, members and friends of the C.U.L.A. went before the city council demanding that the council do something they have never done before, that is, represent the people of Norfolk and not just look out for the interests of big business and the banks.

The C.U.L.A. demanded that the council pass a resolution calling on Virginia Electric and Power Co. (VEPCO) not to cut off the electricity in any more households this winter, and that the council set up a special fund to assist those individuals and families who have been or will be cut off.

Four years ago the C.U.L.A. brought the fight against high utility rates to Virginia and although VEPCO has gotten eight rate increases in the last five years, the publicity from our campaigns is making it harder for the crooks at VEPCO to find reasons to justify their "high-rate robbery" each time that a rate increase is proposed.

The last campaign six months ago was fought by organizing in many of the local poor communities and in the legal arena of the rate hearing held in Richmond, Va. The C.U.L.A. exposed VEPCO and the New York banks that own VEPCO for the profit hungry monster that they are. Numerous community rallies and public meetings were held to protest the present rates as well as the rate increase request of 102 million dollars. Picket lines were set up in front of VEPCO's Norfolk office and the offices of United Virginia Bank (UVB), the largest VEPCO stockholder in Virginia. The slogan "Say NO to VEPCO and the Banks. Boycott UVB" became a household phrase, especially in the middle of the month when VEPCO demands its ransom.

Ms. Ida Outlaw, C.U.L.A.'s legal representative in the fight against VEPCO, and Richard Watkins, expert witness for C.U.L.A. at the State Corporation Commission (SCC) rate hearing proved without

any reasonable doubt that a minimum of 25 percent of the Virginia households could not afford the current rates. This fact was confirmed by VEPCO's own figures that over the past five years cut-offs for non-payment have increased over 120 percent and that in 1976 VEPCO will cut off more than 80,000 households.

On Dec. 6, despite pages upon pages of testimony about the inability of the people to pay the present rates, the SCC "rubber-stamped" \$65.9 million of a requested \$66 million. But this slap in the face of the poor

and working people of Virginia will not go unanswered. The C.U.L.A. will continue to build a united organization to fight VEPCO until there is a roll-back in the rates and everyone can have light and heat at reasonable rates.

On November 23 the C.U.L.A. also demanded that the city council immediately rescind their resolution condemning the school bus drivers' strike. (See article on bus drivers strike.) The C.U.L.A. explained to council members that the city's budget crisis cannot and will not be thrown on the

backs of the workers and that the resolution was only an attack on all workers' right to organize.

After two hours of strong protest against the council, the C.U.L.A. turned the meeting back over to Norfolk's mayor and left the silent room with more determination than ever to continue the fight for all the poor and working people of Norfolk.



NORFOLK, VA., December 9—Members of the Norfolk C.U.L.A. picketing in front of the Virginia Electric and Power Co. (Vepco) offices in protest against a new rate hike. Just two days before Vepco was given a \$65.9 million rate increase by the State Corporation Commission. This increase came despite protests from thousands of people organized by the C.U.L.A. Evidence presented by the C.U.L.A. to the commission showed that 26 percent of Virginia's households could not afford the present rates. (See article for more information on the current anti-Vepco fight.)

## UE President at Cambion is Sentenced

By CHRIS MEYERS, a steward, United Electrical Workers and member of the Cambion Strike Committee.

BOSTON, Dec. 17—Sandi Polaski, president of the Cambion unit of the United Electrical Workers Local 262, has been sentenced to an indeterminate jail term of up to five years for an incident at a picket line during the recent strike at Cambion Corp., an electronics plant in Cambridge, Mass.

Eight months ago, the workers at Cambion went on strike for a decent contract, to improve the company's offer of only 20 cents an hour (13.8 cents for piece workers). Although we fought a hard strike, we have been forced back to work by the combined efforts of the company, the police and the courts.

After five months we were threatened by an intense back-to-work campaign by the company. Thirty of the 270 striking workers returned. We responded by re-doubling our efforts. The Strike Committee began to bolster the picket lines to discourage the scabs. This is when large numbers of Cambridge police were called in to escort the scabs through. Strikers were arrested and charged with assault and battery after they were beaten to the ground by the police. Several women were beaten so badly the cops were too embarrassed to arrest them. All of the people injured during the months of picketing were strikers. Four cops had earlier been suspended without pay for 5 to 15 days because of charges of police brutality. But the beatings, harassment and arrests continued.

Cambion refused to bargain seriously with the union, and switched much of its production to non-union plants in other areas, and hired the cops to escort the scab trucks. The strike ended on November 7th when the workers voted to return without a settlement.

The company is continuing its vicious campaign against all the workers at Cambion. The bosses have even refused to honor many of the provisions of the old contract, concerning working conditions for piece workers, and they are planning to decertify the union entirely and impose their own "model" non-union contract in April.

But several arbitration cases have been won by the piece workers in the past year, and the company has agreed to re-hire the five fired strikers, including Sandi Polaski, whose case is being appealed. This is in exchange for the dropping of charges against the company's "industrial relations" manager for assault. The return of these workers will strengthen the union in preparation for the future fight to keep Cambion unionized.

## Md. Community Organizes Against Racist Attacks

By ELEANA BROOKS

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY, MD., Dec. 3—Prince George's County, which is located in Maryland near the District of Columbia, has a long, long history of racism. Not just racism on the part of the police, but also the white gangs that the police let run wild. So it was not startling news to the Black community in Prince George's County when they heard that another Black family was the victim of an attack. The attack took place at the home of Mrs. Shirley Bussie in the community of Seabrook. Seabrook's population is about one half Black and one half white. One afternoon in late September, three white males forced their way into the house after following Mrs. Bussie's daughter and two nieces home. These racists tore off the front storm door, turned over the living room furniture, tore the kitchen phone off the wall and threw a large potted plant down a flight of stairs. The damage in the living room was so bad that parts of the floor had to be repaired. Mrs. Bussie's mother who was home at the time describes the attack as "15 minutes of terror."

The community responded by calling a meeting in a local church (which has since been vandalized). Present at this meeting,

besides the 75 people from the community, were 2 local TV stations, members of various local unions, the Center for United Labor Action, the Human Relations Office, and Chief of Police Rhoads. While most of the people were there to talk about the recent attack and other attacks which have occurred in Seabrook, the police were there to present a good image of themselves. They continually described the attack as an "isolated incident." To the Bussie family this was no isolated incident. The police's answer to the problem of "vandalism" is to set up radar in the neighborhood and keep a watch on the people. The people from the community got up and spoke of various attacks that have occurred to them or to friends and how the police responded in their same slow, unconcerned manner. It is common knowledge that the police can always be found at the nearest 7-11 store (rip-off chain store). Obviously, protecting these stores is more important than people's homes.

Since this first one, there have been several other meetings but the attitude of the police has not changed. They have been present at all of the meetings, against the wishes of some of the community. So in order to hold a meeting without the police

being there enabling the community to open up and say what they wanted to without being intimidated, a meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Bussie. The community was invited and so were the members and friends of the Center for United Labor Action. About 15 people attended and the discussion was serious. Everyone exchanged phone numbers and names so that in an emergency people could be called and gotten together to defend people and their homes.

What happened in Seabrook continues to happen in communities all across Prince George's County. And not only in Prince George's County, but also in Boston, Baltimore, Chicago, Louisville, etc.

So we want to make sure that these racists are prosecuted and not let off the hook (a judge has already hinted that they may go free). If these racists are allowed to go free, it opens the door for other cowardly racists to continue their attacks on the Black and poor in Prince George's County. We intend to work hard to organize against these attacks to see an end to such criminal acts!

### Trackmen Angered Over Proposed Cut-Backs!

This is what N.Y.C. trackmen in Transit Workers Union Local 100 had to say about recently announced transit cutbacks one night last week during their lunch hour on the graveyard shift.

"Of course, the proposed service cutbacks are another blow at N.Y.C. working people. The Transit Authority and the Emergency Financial Control Board may appear to be fighting, but that's just for show—they both really agree that it's fine for workers to be moved like cattle. Having to wait on crowded platforms or for hours late at night just so the banks can be fed."

"This thing about cutbacks directly threatens our jobs, it's also tied in with our up coming Cost of Living Allowance (COLA). They're going to try to trade jobs for the COLA. Since the COLA is tied by our last contract to productivity, they're going to try to offer the old timers the COLA in exchange for laying off workers with low seniority."

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