

"an injury to one is an injury to all"

UNITED LABOR ACTION

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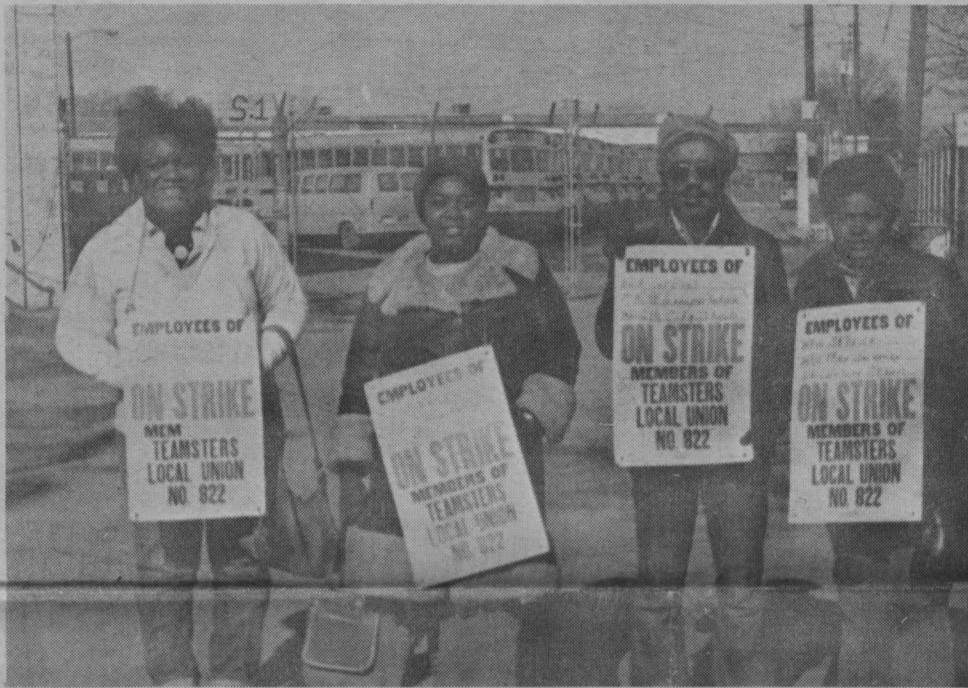
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TEN CENTS

January 1977

12,000 Women Call Gov't Agency After State Court Decision— NY Women Win Pregnancy Disability Pay!

Va. Striking Drivers Fight On— 45 More Walk Off Job!



Norfolk school bus drivers have carried on a determined fight for a union. credit: Larry

By ANNE and BOB MAYES

NORFOLK, Jan. 8—Norfolk's school bus drivers, after voting for Teamster membership in October, have been on strike for union recognition against ARA Services, Inc. On Jan. 3, 45 strike-breaking drivers walked out, forcing ARA to then offer the striking drivers their jobs back for the same pay and no benefits and no union. Members of the C.U.L.A. which has worked to support the strike, asked several leading Black strikers about the walkout. The following include these strikers' answers and statements on the importance of this struggle.

E.L. "What I think it is with this strike, is it mostly consists of women, Black women. If it had been white—all white—I do feel that there would have been negotiations much before now. But we're mostly poor

**"Anything worth having is worth fighting for.... We got tired of no sick pay, no kind of pay but \$2.80 an hour, no benefits, no nothing."
—a striking bus driver**

Black women not giving up. We haven't given up and don't feel that we're going to give up. And I do feel if it had been the other way around they would have recognized us. They didn't think we had sense enough to try to do something for ourselves. But we knew they weren't going to do anything for us.

"You don't strike just to be seen and heard. You don't stand and freeze because you want to. You do it because it's something you believe in, something you want to fight for.

"I'm out there simply because I'm tired of being under the man's thumb. And I feel that I'm able, capable, and knowledgeable enough not to always be under somebody's thumb. If I don't start trying to pull out now, I never will. I'll always be down and that goes for the rest

of us. If you don't have enough guts to stand up and fight for what you believe in—there's more than one way to fight—then you're sunk."

M.W. "If you have been out this long, then why go back now? We've been out nine weeks and that's a long time. The only way I'd go back now is the union would have to be there. Anything worth having is worth fighting for. We walked out because we wanted more, we walked out because we felt we were entitled to have more. We got tired of no sick pay, no kind of pay but \$2.80 an hour, no benefits, no nothing.

"Drivers must wash the bus, sweep it out, check the battery, oil, gas, tires, and everything twice a day. They hold you responsible for this and for cleaning the bus, for paper work—reports as you haul the children. We like the kids, but it

was more of a principle than anything else. There's a lot more to be given and we feel that if anybody else can have it, we can have it too.

"We are highly skilled and qualified drivers and want to get paid for our work. The drivers now are improperly trained and are not safe to ride with. The kids are in great danger. Some of the strike-breaking drivers have cursed, abused, and actually struck the kids. We're on strike because we're mothers too."

W.M. "Well, on the latest walk-out, I feel that they have seen us out striking yet they didn't know what we were striking for, but since they found out, they got dissatisfied over the \$2.80. Our demands are only natural—self-preservation—the first law of nature and \$2.80 will not heal it. They have been calling us back,

By a District 65 Steward

NEW YORK, Jan. 10—After a three year legal battle, the New York Court of Appeals ruled in December 1976, that to deny women disability benefits or sick pay, to which they are ordinarily entitled, for pregnancy is sex discrimination. This court decision confirms a 1974 Human Rights Division order that employers must include disabilities caused by pregnancy as part of that right.

This is certainly a victory for working women and their families. The movement for women's rights and many trade unions in N.Y.C. have for years demanded that pregnancy disabilities be treated as any other disability. This decision comes only days after the U.S. Supreme Court made the opposite ruling. The N.Y. ruling is the law in New York State and covers all workers in the state. Furthermore, disability plans which cover public employees must also include pregnancy disabilities.

WHAT IS PREGNANCY DISABILITY?

Pregnancy disability is when a woman is unable to work because of illness or complications due to her pregnancy. This can be unexpected, such as miscarriages, complications, or during delivery of the child while she is hospitalized. It must be certified by a doctor.

This is not the same as maternity leave pay, which is non-sick pay for the time a woman might stay home after delivery. This, unfortunately, few women have, and there is no law requiring this, even though there should be.

A pregnancy disability should be looked at as any temporarily disabling problem, such as prostate operations. In states where pregnancy disabilities are not guaranteed, most women who have this benefit have won it through their union contracts.

This does not mean that pregnancy is usually disabling and prevents women from working. In fact, firing a woman because she is pregnant is illegal. Pregnant women have the right to continue working as long as

they want to. But it does mean that pregnant workers will not have to work when ill because they are afraid of losing all income and that they and their families will not starve if they are ill. This is especially important for Black and Latin workers, who because of discrimination generally have lower pay and usually little or no savings. And as pregnancy disability should be seen as all other disabilities, it is also illegal to fire a worker because of a disability claim, or charge a woman worker more for disability insurance (where the worker contributes part).

Hundreds of companies in N.Y. have been found guilty of discrimination against pregnant workers. Women who were recently disabled due to pregnancy may be eligible for back benefits.

But these companies, like American Airlines, N.Y. Telephone Co., Brooklyn Union Gas, and industry mouthpieces, like the Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries, are going to continue to oppose giving women pregnancy disability pay, law or not. They are also seeking to change the law. Just this week insurance companies went to court to try to end the guaranteed four days hospitalization coverage for maternity that women won last year.

This decision is a victory for New York women. But unfortunately women cannot follow the relatively easy process of filing a form with the Workman's Compensation Board. Instead they must file through Human Rights Commission because the decision was won under the Human Rights law.

We all know that bosses do not always comply with the law. A lot depends on how many women know their rights, how to get their rights, and who will help them if they must fight to get their rights. Many legal groups, women's organizations, and unions, along with the C.U.L.A., are pledged to help women workers keep this right which they have fought long and hard for.

If You are A Working Woman and Had a Baby in 1976—

In New York State you should:

- J1) Keep records of all pregnancy disabilities.
- J2) Get your doctor to complete a disability form right away.
- J3) File it with your employer. (C.U.L.A. will get you a copy of the law if you want to attach that to your claim).
- J4) If your boss refuses, contact:

The Pregnancy Disability Task Force of the Human Rights Commission in your city, or the Center for United Labor Action.

trying to get us as weak as possible with false promises but no reward at the end of it.

"People think we're city workers, which we're not. That's where ARA started lying at the NLRB hearing. This is the whole thing, they're hiding behind the city. That's why the labor board wouldn't take action on our strike because they said it was the city and they wouldn't take jurisdiction over anything that the city has to do with. The strike is nothing to play with. It's a job.

We mean business, we're not just out there to catch the weather!"

The strikers ask supporters to boycott ARA products. Their Teamster Local 822 has called a national boycott of ARA Services—mainly vending machines and cafeterias at hospitals and schools. In Norfolk, this includes several cafeterias at the hospitals and Virginia Periodicals, an ARA company, which distributes magazines and books to these stores: 7-11, Peoples Drug Stores, and Tinee Giant. Victory to Teamster Local 822!

Virginia's Worst Winter Since 1913— C.U.L.A. Demands Heat for Everyone

By GARY WILSON

NORFOLK, Jan. 9—This is the coldest winter to hit Virginia since 1913. And utility prices have gone up here 8.5 percent; cut-offs because of inability to pay topped 80,000 last year in Virginia. We are facing the prospect of suffering, and even deaths, due to inadequate heat and housing.

In recognition of this fact, over 30 members of the C.U.L.A. angrily confronted the city of Norfolk at a City Council meeting. The C.U.L.A. has demanded an end to shut-offs, and emergency funds for those whose utilities have already been cut off.

The city council's response was to "study the problem." Their response was to say the problem isn't really a problem. A

representative of the C.U.L.A., John Lewis, condemned this and stated, "The Center for United Labor Action is holding this city council responsible for the injury or death of anyone due to lack of heat or lights."

Vice Mayor Joseph Jordan, the only Black person on the council, proposed an immediate \$20,000 emergency fund. Mayor Vincent Thomas, a bank director and president of the area's largest fuel oil company, responded with, "We can't bend to every protest group that comes in here and makes demands." Thomas had one month earlier supported the city financing of a \$25 million project that includes building 80,000 townhouses in downtown Norfolk. Jordan answered with, "I cannot just sit back and wait until some elderly couple freezes to

death this winter because they can't afford heat." But without a single other supporter, he was forced to withdraw his motion.

The C.U.L.A. has joined with the Client Involvement Committee (a welfare rights organization), the Salvation Army, STOP (Southeastern Tidewater Opportunity Project) and the Church Social Ministries to fight for an emergency fund.

The city manager has refused to meet with this group. The C.U.L.A. has responded by organizing broad community support around their demands for an end to cut-offs and an emergency fund. "Heat and electricity are necessities, and the city should put up the money to guarantee it for all," declared one C.U.L.A. member. "We won't take no for an answer."

Norfolk Councilman Under Racist Attack

By WARREN SECREST

NORFOLK, Jan. 9—City Councilman Claude Staylor has earned the reputation of being a vile disgusting leader of racist forces here in Norfolk. In the spring of 1976, he launched an all out campaign of slander and lies against the late Martin Luther King, Jr. His source of information—the John Birch Society. This year he is using the discredited Louisiana Un-American Activities Committee report of 1950 to intimidate Joe Jordan, the lone Black Councilman in Norfolk.

In both instances, the Center for United Labor Action rallied to counter Staylor's racist slanders. Last year, the C.U.L.A. helped form the Committee to Defend the Memory of Dr. King, Jr., which drew broad community sponsorship for a program to commemorate King and to present the film "From Montgomery to Memphis". To counter this latest attack, an open letter to Joe Jordan was written which follows in part.

"The C.U.L.A. sees Staylor's vicious attack against you as an attack against all Black people, against all working people. Because we are a fighting organization, we are bound to defend you and anyone else that Staylor and his backers single out in a racist campaign. We address you here to say that insofar as yours is a fight against racism, your fight is ours; insofar as yours is a fight against poverty in all its ugly manifestations, your fight is ours; insofar as yours is a fight against the brutality of the police and the courts, your fight is ours."

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Dear Editor, I was Fired...

Dear Editor,

I am a former employee of the city of Norfolk. The city's supervisors are famous for not treating employees right. That's why we need collective bargaining.

I was fired February 5, 1975, and it has taken me until December 1976 to get a good job. When I was hired, the supervisor's brother-in-law was also hired, even though this is supposed to be against the law. When two people had to be cut from the work gang, me and my neighbor were harassed by the supervisor. He wanted to make sure his brother-in-law stayed on the job.

We had to do the hardest jobs. Faced with this intolerable situation, I had no other choice but to get help from a union to file a grievance. The city's blue collar workers are fed up with these "dirty tricks" of the supervisors.

Also, the new Norfolk City Council repealed the collective bargaining law. The blue collar workers understand that this legal attack is another of the city's "dirty tricks."

There is still an atmosphere of intolerable treatment and firings. Most of the council members, supposedly representing the city's workers as well as citizens, don't give a damn. If we had collective bargaining, I'd still have my job.

The Center for United Labor Action here has been a great supporter of city workers. I encourage any city employee who wants a better life to join them in their fight for a better life for all.

Yours for collective bargaining,
Michael, an ex-city worker

NYC Transit Workers and Riders Protest New Cuts in Services

By a member of Local 100 TWU

NEW YORK, Jan. 14—"No cuts—No way!" was the response of angry mass transit riders and workers to the proposed further cuts in subway and bus service, the subject of "public" hearings held at Hunter College on January 5th.

The hearings were held in response to public pressure. The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) would have been much happier just going ahead with the cuts, as it has before, or as it did with the latest 38 percent fare increase.

Inside the room 500 people, including riders and members of the Transport Workers Union, Local 100, shouted and jeered at MTA Chairman, David Yunich, to show their opposition. Outside, about 100 pickets organized by the TWU carried signs opposing the cuts and pointing out that low paid workers suffer most from cutbacks in the mass transportation which they have to ride to and from work daily.

President of Local 100 of the TWU, John Lawe, testified at the hearings restating the union's longstanding policy of supporting a "free fare" and pointed out that while there were "billions of dollars for B-1 bombers and Westways" (the multi-million dollar superhighway funded to be built on the west side of Manhattan), there seemed to no way to "...find a few hundred million to help mass transit that is so vital to the very existence of our lower paid citizens—to get to their jobs, to go to school, to shop and to enjoy their few moments of entertainment."

These banks through Big Mac and the Emergency Financial Control Board (EFCB) have pushed their servants, Mayor Beame and Governor Carey, aside and have directly taken over the task of fleecing the city's workers and poor. The last two years have seen collective bargaining agreements negotiated by municipal unions overridden (as they have seen with the Transit pact)

N.Y. Banks Demand: Close More Daycare Centers, More Layoffs

By a steward, District Council 1707, Local 205 AFSCME

Why must children suffer so that the banks can collect a greater and greater percentage of the city funds needed for their care?

NEW YORK, Jan. 14—New York State's Governor Hugh Carey and New York City's Abraham Beame have announced budget plans for the coming year which reflect the crushing pressure from the bankers to cut funds needed for all the social services in the city.

It is feared that this loss of funds will cause cuts and closings for the city's daycare program far worse than those already instituted. Although daycare should be the right of every child, the politicians and bankers who hold the purse strings would like to limit its use to only those who can afford the exorbitant costs of private care.

Governor Carey has proposed the closure of between 90 to 135 publicly funded daycare centers as part of his plan to cut the state funds allotted to social services in

Workers and riders come out together to protest subway cuts.

and by imposing their will through various state and city agencies.

The MTA dared to put only one official on the stand to testify for the cuts, and he met with thundering hostility from those attending the hearings.

The TWU had called some of its members on to a picket line to show organized opposition from the union—to the union the cuts mean lost jobs and speedups. The TWU made an important gesture toward building unity between poor and working people who ride the subways and the workers whose jobs are threatened or made more dangerous or difficult by transit cutbacks.

On Friday Jan. 14, despite all the people who turned out for these hearings, the MTA disregarded their testimony and the

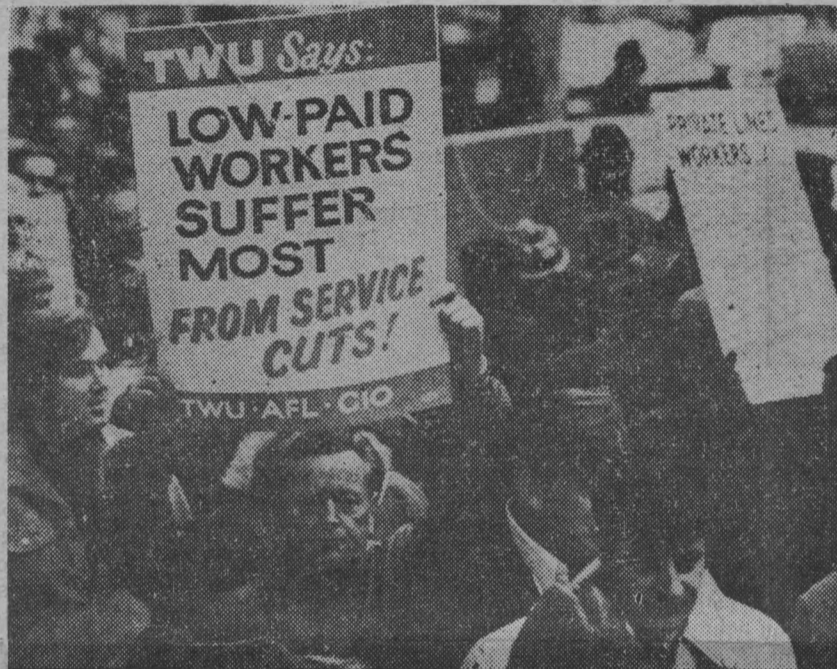
testimony from the T.W.U., and ruled that they would begin the cutbacks immediately. This is in callous disregard for what this means to the poor and working people of N.Y.C., especially in the Black and Latin communities. This makes it clear to everyone that the hearings were meant to be nothing but a charade and that the joining of forces of the riders and workers is the only way that we are going to stop the cutbacks of the MTA.

Editor's note: The New York chapter of C.U.L.A. has been active in the fight against subway fare hikes. During our last two campaigns we forced the MTA to begin holding hearings. We are continuing our efforts to demand an end to all fare increases and that what we need is a rollback.

New York City. If his plan passes through the state's legislature, 11,000 children out of the 42,000 presently enrolled will be forced out of their daycare centers. There are no alternative plans being made for a way to educate or care for these children. A great number of parents will be forced to give up their jobs and go on welfare so that they can stay home and care for them.

The trained, experienced daycare workers who have cooked hot nourishing meals, built and maintained beautiful play areas and prepared educational as well as entertaining programs for these children will join the swelling ranks of those unemployed. It has been estimated that 2,600 workers will be laid off because of these cuts.

Even before the budgets were announced Beame was plotting to close many more daycare centers. The central city Agency for Child Development, presently responsible for enrolling children into the centers, has instead used restrictive eligibility laws to force the children out. Beame is using the results of this tactic to call the centers



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Victory! Boston Bus Driver Rehired— He Refused to Drive Unsafe Bus

By a member of the Local 829 organizing committee
BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 13—On December 7, 1976, William S. Carroll Bus Inc. was forced to re-instate Roosevelt McCain, a Black school bus driver fired by that company for refusing to transport young children on a totally unsafe bus (see Nov. '76 U.L.A.) and for his participation in the Teamster Local 829 organizing drive. The company was forced to reverse its firing of Mr. McCain because of community and labor pressure generated by a month long reinstatement campaign organized by Mr. McCain with the help of the Center for United Labor Action.

On November 2, 1976, Roosevelt McCain refused to drive a bus that was so unsafe that it couldn't be controlled on the road at 20 miles per hour. It also had no safety lights or emergency brake. He called the dispatcher and repeatedly requested a replacement bus. The company point blank refused, ordering him to complete his run with the unsafe bus. Knowing too well that his actions might cost him his job, Mr. McCain still refused, saying no job is going to make him endanger the lives of anyone's children. Finally the company sent a replacement bus, however, when McCain returned to the dispatch yard, he was fired.

He was told he was a troublemaker and had no business associating with a particular worker who had been fired for union activity that week.
Mr. McCain immediately set out to get back his job. With the aid of the C.U.L.A. a campaign was initiated to mobilize the broadest community and labor support. Because of his efforts in the current organizing drive and because he put the safety of the children above his job, Mr. McCain received support from the other school bus drivers, monitors, the N.A.A.C.P., and hundreds of parents of children who ride the buses. The Parents Multiracial Council of the Tobin School also passed a strong resolution supporting him. The Teamster Local 829, which was involved in the organizing drive, backed McCain by filing an unfair labor practice charge against Carroll's. A lawyer for the C.U.L.A.

also prepared other legal actions against the company. WEEI, the C.B.S. radio news network, had coverage of an interview with McCain on the hour, for an entire day. The company caved in when it appeared that there would be a demonstration in front of the School Committee itself.
William S. Carroll, the racist and labor-hating owner of Carroll's made a point of personally telling many drivers that he would "never, never rehire that McCain". The day McCain started work, many drivers who were undecided about the union signed union cards. The union now has the support of a clear majority of the drivers there. The reinstatement of Roosevelt McCain has shown every driver at Carroll that the company can be beaten. It is a victory for every school bus driver in Boston in their struggle for dignity and justice on the job through union representation.



These 6 mothers are part of the 43 working mothers who sued GE to collect pregnancy leave pay.

Coalition Formed to Fight Court's Pregnancy Ruling—

By a member of the Communication Workers of America, Local 1101

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15—On January 14, I attended a meeting at the Communication Workers of America headquarters in Washington, D.C., of the Campaign to End Discrimination Against Pregnant Workers. This was the fifth in a series of meetings to discuss how to overturn the Supreme Court decision that denies women the right to pregnancy disability pay. The Campaign was co-chaired by Ruth Weyand from the International Union of Electrical Workers and Susan Ross of the American Civil Liberties Union. Many unions, women's organizations, legal organizations, and representatives of various congressional committees, as well as congresspeople and individuals from government agencies have been attending these meetings.

Although many of these groups do not usually work together, and some are often on opposite sides of the fence (for example, unions and the Department of Labor are usually opposing one another and rarely work together), but in order to overturn this vicious decision, this wide-ranging coalition has been formed.

The Campaign has put out a fact sheet that not only explains the decision but also lists what activities can be helpful, for instance: holding meetings, passing resolutions, distributing the fact sheet, writing congress, etc. However, the main focus of the meetings has been the drafting of legislation that will override the Supreme Court decision by amending the Equal Employment Act of the Civil Rights Act.

At the previous meeting on Jan. 6, several representatives from different unions proposed that the pregnancy legislation include the repeal of the Bennett Amendment. The Bennett Amendment came up because it was interpreted by the Supreme Court majority to back up its anti-woman, anti-worker lies in the pregnancy decision that "pregnancy has nothing to do with sex".

What is this Bennett Amendment that caused such a heated debate? From the discussion it was obvious that the amendment severely affects not only women workers, but all workers, and yet I don't think any worker or anyone outside of the

halls of the courtroom, Congress and international union headquarters know what this amendment is.

The Bennett Amendment states that corporations can "differentiate upon the basis of sex in determining the amount of wages or compensation paid" to workers when conditions of work are "comparable" and not exactly "equal". This means that a woman working on a specific job which differs even slightly from a job performed by a male worker, who might be working right next to her doing basically the same work, can get paid less for her work under the excuse that the two jobs are considered "comparable", not "equal". For millions of women, particularly those in industrial jobs, who now work in different job classifications than their male co-workers whether because of desire, tradition, discrimination, or lack of seniority, the Bennett Amendment highly restricts and in most cases eliminates their chances of using legal recourse to attain truly equal wages.

This amendment doesn't only affect women, but it affects all workers because it states that bosses can apply different standards of compensation on the basis of seniority, merit or piece work. And for Black and Latin workers, who are the last hired and get the worst, lowest paying jobs, and for non-union workers also, this amendment sentences thousands and hundreds of thousands of workers to low paying and discriminatory wages.

Unfortunately, the Campaign meeting voted against including the repeal of the Bennett Amendment in the drafted pregnancy bill. The coalition will limit their fight to win legislation that will give women the right to collect disability pay for the period just before and just after having a baby. Doing that will be a victory for not only women, but their husbands and children. Cutting off the salary of a woman during and after pregnancy can brutally hurt a family and the health of the baby immeasurably.

But while we are fighting to overturn the Supreme Court decision, we cannot forget the Bennett Amendment and the many other laws on the books that discriminate, and are there just to benefit the bosses and their profits.

Textile Union Calls J.P. Stevens Boycott

By PAUL WILCOX

NEW YORK, Jan. 13—"Boycott J.P. Stevens!" is the growing cry of the labor movement, as the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) is fighting to unionize one of the most viciously anti-union bosses in the country. The 500,000 member union is opening boycott headquarters in 27 cities and already has held demonstrations in Washington, D.C., Detroit, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and St. Louis.

The struggle to unionize J.P. Stevens dates back to the 1930's when the company began moving from the mills of New England to the South in order to pay the lowest wages possible, under the worst working conditions. Under so-called "right-to-work" laws authorized by the infamous Taft-Hartley Act of 1947, organizing a closed union shop is illegal in most of these states.

Textile workers in these shops are the lowest paid industrial workers in the country, with an average hourly wage of only \$3.46. An estimated 100,000 workers suffer from "brown lung" disease, caused by breathing cotton dust. The company claims that it cannot afford to lower the dust levels. The six-day work week is standard in the mills.

J.P. Stevens has used every possible means to prevent the workers from organizing. Outright firings for union activity, racism and sex discrimination, and the closing of plants where union elections are won, are only some of the hundreds of

cases that the ACTWU has brought before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Although many of these cases have been won, with over a million dollars of compensation awarded, such victories come only years later in the courtroom, when union drives have long since been defeated by the crimes of J.P. Stevens.

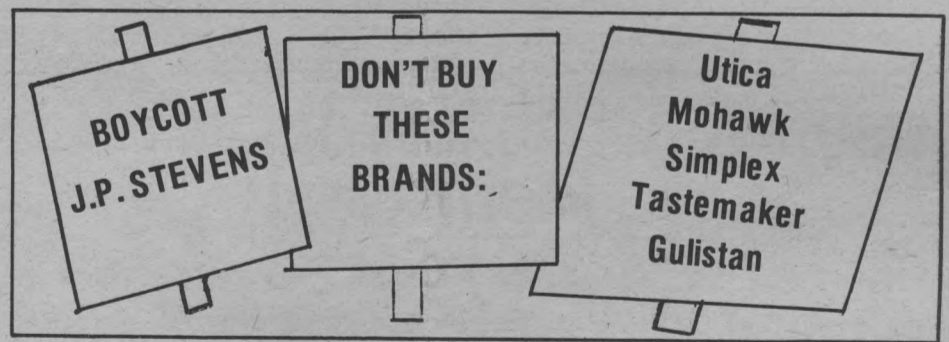
The ACTWU won a victory at Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, in 1974, when, despite the illegal firing of 23 workers, over 1200 workers at seven plants voted to join the union. But the company has still refused to bargain seriously with the union.

Since J.P. Stevens operates 85 plants with 44,000 workers, it is difficult for the union to win recognition by striking only a few shops at a time. But there is new determination among the textile workers to win, reflected by the union's renewed effort to take on the entire company.

Solidarity is the key to victory for any union drive. A strike of over 3,000 Farah workers in the Southwest, mostly women workers, along with a nation-wide boycott of Farah Pants, forced arch union-buster Willie Farah to bargain with the ACTWU, in 1974. Inspired by this victory, the workers at J.P. Stevens will win. They need the support of all working people.

Major labels under which Stevens' products are sold are: Utica, Mohawk, Simtex, Tastemaker and Gulistan.

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Coalition Demonstrates in Freezing Cold Against Library's Bd. of Trustees No More Fires- Stop the Racist Neglect at the Schomburg Center!

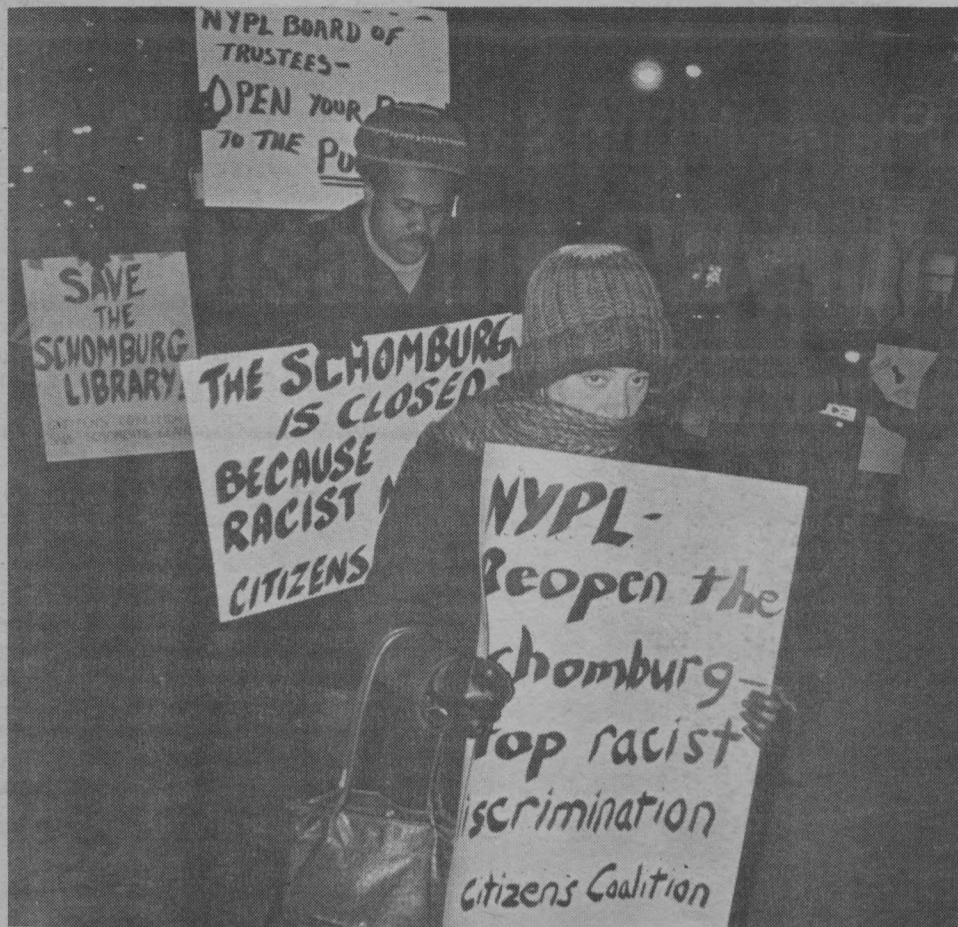
By BRIAN HURST

NEW YORK, Jan. 12— Over seventy five members and friends of the Citizens Coalition to Save the Schomburg Center held a spirited picket line outside the 42nd Street library in protest of the callous neglect and racist discrimination that has characterized the policy of the New York "Public" Library (NYPL) in regards to the Harlem based Schomburg Library. Today's demonstration, which is only the latest activity of the seven month old organizing campaign by the Citizens Coalition to win justice for the dilapidated Schomburg center and its staff, was timed to coincide with the meeting of the board of trustees of the NYPL that was held at the 42nd Street library.

A delegation of the Schomburg workers and other members of the Citizens Coalition went inside the library and confronted NYPL administrators and demanded a meeting with them to take up the demands of the Coalition. The nervous officials of the library system agreed to meet with the Citizens Coalition in the very near future. This is the first time during the seven month campaign that the Board of Trustees has agreed to meet with the Citizens Coalition.

Due largely to the successful struggle of the Citizens Coalition, a national coalition of labor, community, and legal groups and individuals, the federal government was forced to allocate \$3.7 million from public works money to build a new facility for the Schomburg collection in Harlem. While the \$3.7 million grant constitutes the first concession in the thirty year long struggle to save the largest collection of Black history and culture in the Americas, the struggle to win real equality for the Schomburg is far from over.

The present Schomburg building is in advanced stage of deterioration. Irreplaceable manuscripts have been permanently damaged because of the leaking roof and lack of any air conditioning or climate control system. The seventy-three year old building has been plagued by a broken boiler, falling plaster, lack of shelf space, and overcrowded conditions (the



Demonstrators at the main 42nd St. Library continue struggle for a new Schomburg library building in Harlem.

maximum seating capacity is 36 !). Ten days ago an electrical fire caused by the faulty boiler threatened to destroy forever the world famous collection of Black history. Luckily the fire was contained to the basement but the resulting breakdown in the heating system has caused the Schomburg to remain closed since the fire.

In addition to demanding that the promised new building actually gets built (the NYPL has only been an obstacle in the process) the Citizens Coalition demanded at today's demonstration that the fired

Schomburg staff be re-hired immediately and that the Schomburg receive equal annual funding with the glamorous Lincoln Center library which is located in a high income white area. While being a part of the research division of the NYPL along with Lincoln Center, the Schomburg is outside the research library funding structure and is forced to generate its own funds for operation and maintenance. This overtly discriminatory policy by the NYPL has left

At Arbitration Hearing— Supporters Demand Rehire Schomburg Workers!

The Coalition is also fighting to win the reinstatement of Lauore St. Juste (archivist) and Keith Kern (acquisitions librarian) both of whom were fired by the NYPL without cause. On Jan. 4, 25 friends of the Schomburg came to Kern's arbitration hearing to show their support for the demand of Local 1930 of District 37, AF-SCME, AFL-CIO, that he be rehired immediately with full back pay.

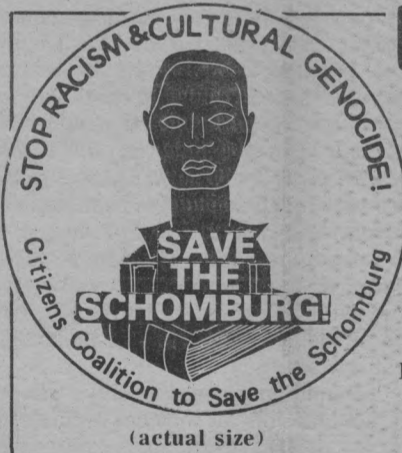
Among the 25 supporters were seven Schomburg workers, community activists from Harlem, members of the Center for United Labor Action, and other trade unionists from AFSCME. It was obvious from the outset that the arbitrator had no intention of hearing the case and instead moved to adjourn pending a decision by the Human Rights Commission on a complaint filed by Kern in regards to the firing. After protests by the union and Citizens Coalition members the arbitrator was forced to stipulate that if the Human Rights Commission failed to take action by March 15, Kern's case could come back to the arbitration body.

credit: Fabian

the Schomburg in shambles and left open the question of the center's existence on a year to year basis. The deteriorating conditions of the Schomburg center has made the Citizens Coalition work all the more urgent.

For information, leaflets, and buttons, contact the Citizens Coalition to Save the Schomburg, 166 Fifth Ave., NYC 10010, or call (212) 741-0633.

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