

"an injury to one is an injury to all"

# UNITED LABOR ACTION

IS PUBLISHED BY THE CENTER FOR UNITED LABOR ACTION

Volume 7 No. 8

LABOR DONATED

TEN CENTS

AUGUST 1977

"Why don't you call a general strike of all miners or call a ten day memorial?—It's in the contract," said a miner.

## 70,000 Coal Miners Wildcat—Strike Spreading!

By BOB RUSSO

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5—The wildcat strike of over 70,000 miners is spreading throughout West Virginia and the entire coal mining region. The militant walkout is in response to the bone deep cuts in the union health and medical benefits imposed by the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA)

The strike began in southern West Virginia and quickly spread to other appalachian coal states. The cuts instituted by the BCOA will force miners to pay \$250 in order to gain admission to a hospital; plus miners will have to pay 40% of all medical expenses. Previously miners had fully paid medical coverage for themselves and their families. In addition many clinics and coalfield hospitals may be closed. This would be like eliminating Blue Cross and Blue Shield benefits.

The strikers see this as an attempt by the coal operators to punish them because of the many strikes by miners against the coal companies' flagrant health and safety violations. With these cuts the BCOA, according to Jack Perry, president of UMW District 17, "will literally cause some of our people to die."

The coal operators own at least \$17 million in back royalties. The company claims a shortage due to the many wildcat strikes. One point not generally known is that since the last contract the royalty payments made by the company are no longer based on tonnage of coal produced, as was the case previously, but also on man hours worked. The companies did not announce these cuts until two weeks after the recent union elections which resulted in the reelection of UMW President Arnold Miller. The BCOA is refusing to reallocate money to the fund.

As part of this strike, close to 1,000 miners converged today on Washington D.C., to press their demands for a reallocation of funds by the coal companies. Miners picketed and chanted outside the White House, the Capitol, the BCOA building and the Wealth and Pension building. Fearful of the miners' militancy, BCOA officials locked their doors, windows, and elevators and refused to meet with miners who represent the 70,000 who are on strike. President Carter also refused to meet with the miners.

When Sam Church, Vice-President of the union and a top aide to Arnold Miller, came out of the UMW headquarters he was surrounded by angry miners demanding to know why Miller and the leaders were not doing anything for them. Many miners exploded when Church told them to go home and let the union leadership handle these problems.

"How can you let them get away with taking away our benefits? Have you forgotten what it's like to work in a mine?" one miner told Church. "Why don't you call a general strike of all miners or call a ten day memorial—it's in the contract," said another. "Why are you defending the coal companies—we worked for those benefits with our sweat and blood, we have a right to them. I have three kids and if we have to starve we'll stay out until we get our benefits back," exclaimed James Pack, an electrician at Mark Mine in West Virginia.

Some miners explained some of the problems and conditions they face. Craig Danron, from Snap Creek Mine #7 in Logan County told how the company and mine inspectors worked hand in hand to hide the extremely unsafe conditions in the mines. "If you complain about some unsafe condition, the company will blame you for it. One guy complained about loose roof bolts—the company threatened to fire him." Brother

Continued on page 4



On August 5, in Washington, D.C., 1,000 striking miners protested the drastic cuts in their medical benefits.

photo: LNS

## AT&T Contract Settled

### Vote NO on National Contract!

By a member Local 1101 Communications Workers of America

NEW YORK, Aug. 13—New York State telephone workers in the Communications Workers of America (CWA) walked off the job at 12:01 a.m. Sat. night as CWA local unions were unable to settle local bargaining issues. The main issue of the strike is job security which is essential for telephone workers whose jobs are rapidly being automated into oblivion.

At 10 a.m. on Saturday, Ed Dempsey, President of CWA Local 1101, informed 1101 members that the company presented a bargaining proposal which contained only retrogressive demands. In response, the union locals walked out of bargaining and the talks broke down.

CWA locals around the country have had one week in local bargaining to settle local issues since the tentative settlement of a national contract reached on August 6. Telephone workers around the country had been prepared to strike for job security, no

compulsory overtime, no layoffs, halting speed-ups and other important issues. Unfortunately, the CWA international bargaining council, led by President Watts, settled for a monetary package rather than one that focused on job security.

The only real victory achieved in the national settlement was 6 weeks pregnancy disability pay which has been a heated issue ever since the Supreme Court decision denying women these benefits. Women in 1101 have been very active in the fight for pregnancy disability benefits, suggested it for national bargaining and presently have a suit for back seniority lost due to maternity leaves.

The tentative national settlement created a situation for local unions of bargaining on their own without the threat of a national strike. As a result, AT&T has taken a hard-line in local bargaining and has refused to bargain on any vital question.

There is a growing mood around the country to turn down the national contract. Many locals are instructing their members to

vote no. The worst aspect of the proposed contract is the lack of any significant protection in the area of job security. Given the technological revolution sweeping the telephone industry, this omission presents the telephone workers with a time bomb on their laps. In the last 3 years alone, nearly 100,000 jobs were lost in the Bell System due to automation and AT&T has announced plans to layoff an additional 9,500 workers in N.Y. State.

The company's national offer includes a first-year hike of 8%, with 3% hikes in the second and the third years. In addition, assuming present inflation rates continue, a cost-of-living allowance (COLA) is expected to bring another 3 to 4% in the second and third years of the contract.

The so-called job security provisions of the contract offer a mere three paid "personal" days by the end of the agreement, and a "cushion" for downgraded workers in the form of a short lag in the execution of their

Continued on page 3

## Largest Steel Strike Since 1959— 19,000 Ore Miners Out!

### Health & Safety, Wage Parity Demanded

NEW YORK, Aug 11—Over 19,000 iron ore miners have been on strike for nearly three weeks, in the first major steel strike since the industry-wide walkout in 1959. The miners are demanding wage equality with the workers in basic steel, health and safety measures to improve dangerous working conditions, and solutions to the 1250 outstanding grievances piled up against the companies over the past few years.

The strike is concentrated in northern Minnesota and Michigan. The iron ore miners spirit and determination was shown in the 80 percent vote in favor of going out.

This strike has national significance for all steelworkers. In 1974, I.W. Abel, then the president of the United Steelworkers of

America, signed away the workers' right to strike, in what is called the Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA), on all but local issues. The companies are claiming that the iron ore miners are not striking over local issues, and that they are violating the ENA.

But the 80 to 90 cent wage difference between iron miners and workers in basic steel, and the local grievances over health and safety, show that the strike is over local issues that are most crucial to the miners.

But the companies are not really concerned whether there is a strike over local or national issues. Corporations like U.S. Steel and Bethlehem Steel, who own and control the steel industry from the deep iron mines to the scorching blast furnaces, have been leading

an offensive against the entire labor movement. The ENA represents an attempt by these companies to stifle the militancy of the workers on any issue, to take away the right of the steelworkers to struggle for their just demands.

There has been strong rank-and-file opposition to the ENA. This was shown earlier this year in the steelworkers' union elections. The sections of the union under the thumb of the ENA voted overwhelmingly for Ed Sadlowski, a presidential candidate who built his campaign largely on a promise to end the ENA.

Support for the iron miners strike is important for all workers who are fighting for decent wages and better working conditions.

# Texas Farm Workers March Arrives in Atlanta Demanding: Repeal Right to Work Laws!

By DIANE MATHIOWETZ  
ATLANTA, Aug. 7—The dramatic Austin to Washington, D.C. March for Human Rights of the Texas Farm Workers Union reached Atlanta this weekend. The group of 50 men, women, and children marchers were met Friday afternoon by Atlanta supporters who joined the march into Georgia's capital city.

One hundred and thirty people gathered Saturday under a blistering hot sun for a march and rally which started at the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s gravesite and marched to the state capitol building. The many signs and banners reflected the demands of the Texas Farm Workers Union for collective bargaining rights for agricultural workers and repeal of right-to-work laws. These laws have been an important factor in strangling the growth and strength of unions in the South, in particular, and in keeping wages low and working conditions bad.

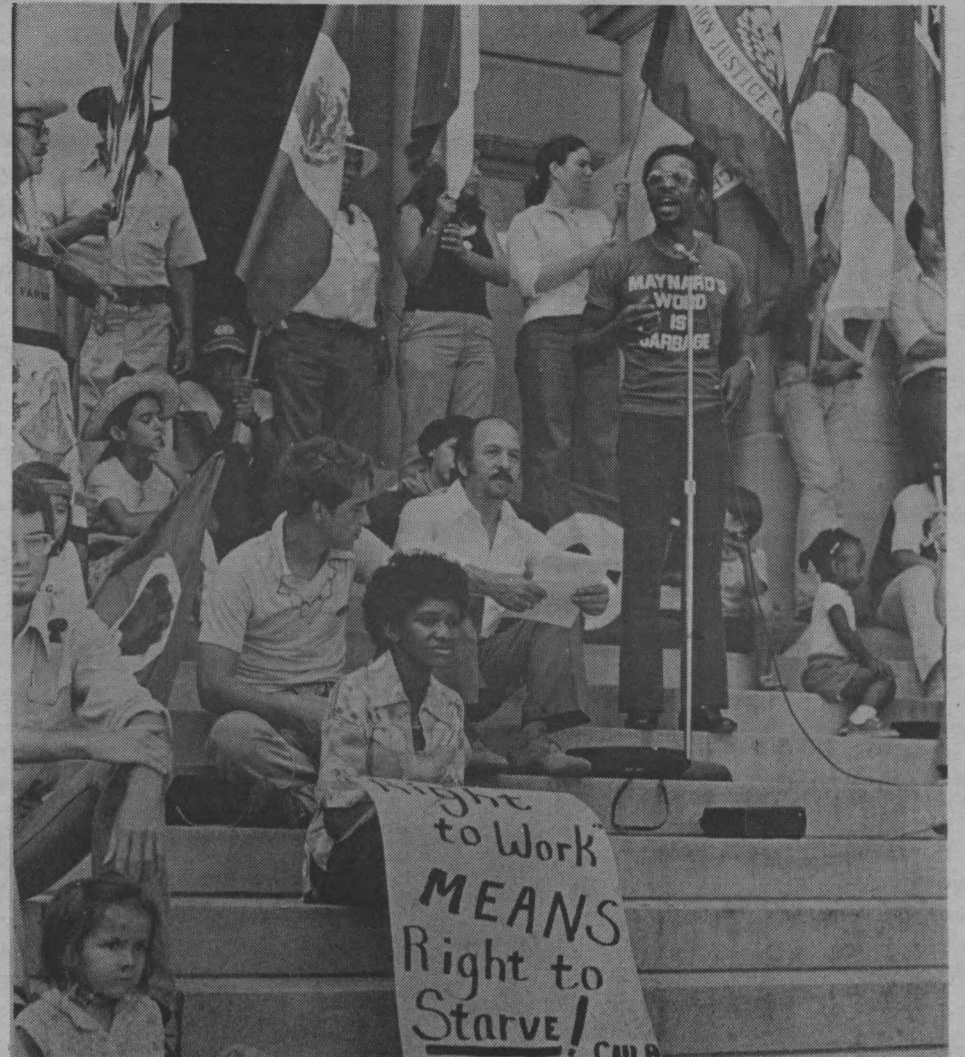
Antonio Orendain, leader of the Texas Farm Workers Union, was the featured speaker, at the rally on the capitol steps. Other speakers included veterans of the civil rights and labor movements such as Tyrone Brookes of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Leon Hall of the Martin Luther King Center for Social Change, Rev. Ralph

David Abernathy and Willie Bolden of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the city workers' union which is under vicious attack by the city government and the Chamber of Commerce. Statements of solidarity were presented from those active in the movement for justice, including the opponents of the racist death penalty, welfare and tenants' rights organizations and students fighting for equal education.

That evening a fiesta in solidarity with the Texas Farm Workers was held at Christ the King Cathedral. Over 200 people, most of whom were from Atlanta's Spanish-speaking community, attended.

Events in support of the Texas Farm Workers were organized by a diverse coalition of religious, labor and community groups and individuals, including the Center for United Labor Action.

The Texas Farm Workers March for Human Rights is continuing northward and is expected to reach Charlotte, N.C., on August 16; Greensboro, N.C., August 19; Richmond, Va. August 31 and Washington, D.C., September 4, where a demonstration of agricultural workers and their supporters from all over the country will present their demands to President Carter.



Willie Bolden, Pres. of AFSCME Local 1644 brings greetings of struggling Atlanta city workers to Texas Farm Workers Union March. C.U.L.A. photo: Tom Gardner

## Carter's Welfare Reform Means Less for the Poor

By PAUL WILCOX  
NEW YORK, Aug 11—At the bottom of President Carter's so-called welfare "reform" plan is a scheme of forced labor for welfare recipients, of reduced benefits for large numbers of people, and the elimination of the Aid for Dependent Children and Food Stamp Programs, which will have devastating effects upon millions of poor and working people across the country.

In place of the present system, which is already miserably inadequate, Carter's plan would require even single mothers with children under seven years of age who can be taken care of in day care centers to work for their subsistence benefits. Carter, of course,

or face starvation. This would immediately threaten the jobs of many public employees and ultimately affect the wages of all workers.

Carter's plan is also a direct attack on all those who have jobs, since many would be denied Food Stamp benefits, and those facing layoffs would find unemployment benefits difficult to receive after 26 weeks of unemployment.

While Carter is spending so much time and effort forcing the poorest people to take jobs at the lowest pay, he isn't saying anything, or doing anything, about the real welfare fraud, the welfare for the rich, the ones who pay little or no taxes on millions of dollars of income, who receive millions of dollars more for not



Latest government figures show 86% of all Black and Latin teenagers are without jobs. Here, 12,000 N.Y.C. youth apply for 2,000 Emergency jobs.

has said nothing about building new centers or improving the few existing ones.

The new plan would compel the disabled, the aged, and others unable to work to try to survive on \$4,200 a year for a family of four—\$1,650 less than even the official poverty line. According to the Department of Labor, an urban family of four requires about four times that amount for a moderate standard of living.

Those sent to work would be forced into jobs in private industry and into public service jobs at the minimum wage, of \$2.30 an hour. Regardless of how degrading or dangerous a job might be, once it is "offered" to someone in the program, he or she would have to take

growing the food that people need, the billions of dollars paid to the banks every year in interest, or even the over \$100 billion paid for swollen Pentagon contracts to produce something that no one needs, etc. etc. He isn't even talking about the huge welfare payment he received from the milk companies to raise milk price supports.

No, the thrust of Carter's "reform" is not for the millions of people desperate for jobs. It is nothing but a cruel hoax aimed at cutting welfare benefits, forcing people to work at starvation wages, and driving down the wages of all working people.

**BOYCOTT J.P. STEVENS!**  
**DON'T BUY STEVENS' PRODUCTS**

Utica	Tastemaker
Mohawk	Gullistan
Beauticale	Finesse
Simtex	Spirit Hosiery

## LNG Strikers Arrested in Fight with Cops to Shut Plant Down

By MARIA STONE  
BOSTON, Aug. 7—At midnight, July 18, the usual noise and activity stopped at General Dynamics Fore River Shipyard in Quincy, where Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) tankers are built. A strike had started and the 200 night shift workers marched out of the plant and set up their picket line.

They were joined in the morning by the day shift and soon the picket line was 2,000 men strong. A picket line was set up that was reminiscent of the old times when strikers shut down the plants completely and no one entered the plant without a fight.

And a fight it turned out to be. Between the militant strikers and soft management who used the police as body guards and storm troopers to try to force their way into the plant.

Finally, the police and management had their way and the management finally got in. But not without casualties! Seven policemen were forced to seek medical attention, and 26 of the picketers were arrested. The picketers were released after being arraigned for being disorderly and their trials will start in October.

After the first day, picketing has been orderly, and no attempts have been made to stop management from earning their fat salaries. Because as each worker knows, no boss is able to do the work of even one worker, and the LNG tankers are not being built while the workers are walking the picket line.

The company took the mass picketing as a

challenge and retaliated by firing ten of the most militant workers, seven of them union officials. The workers saw this as a provocation. But the only effect the firings had was to strengthen the workers determination and to add another demand to the negotiations—rehire the fired workers. "It will be a cold day in hell before we go back to negotiations under these conditions," Stan Kyller, the president of Local 5 of the Shipbuilding Workers Union, AFL-CIO, said. And when the federal mediators called another meeting, the union showed up, but refused to negotiate any other demands until the workers were rehired.

The main demand, of course, is a living wage, the same wage that other shipyard workers in the area are earning. Ever since General Dynamics bought the shipyard in 1966, the workers have earned less than other shipyard workers. They have been put off with promises about parity when the company was "profitable again."

The company now has a contract to build eleven LNG tankers with work guaranteed through the middle 1980's and the workers feel that it is about time that the company delivers on its promise.

The workers are militant. And although they don't want another 17-week strike as they had in 1974, they are prepared to fight the bosses for however long it's going to take.

**UNITED LABOR ACTION**  
published monthly by The Center for United Labor Action  
166 Fifth Ave. 2nd Floor, New York, N.Y. 10010  
Phone (212) 741-0633

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y.  
Editor: Susan Steinman  
Managing Editor: Serge Sonin  
Technical Editor: Marsha Goldberg

Emergency Com. for Prisoner Release Initiates Suit, Holds Demonstration to Demand:

# Release the Poor!

By LARRY HOLMES

NEW YORK, Aug. 11—Chanting "Free the poor" and "We need jobs, not jail," the Emergency Committee For Prisoners Release held a demonstration of 500 people outside of Manhattan Criminal Court, and the notorious Manhattan prison, the "Tombs", on July 19th to protest the mass and indiscriminate arrest of Black and Latin people during the blackout rebellion of July 13th and 14th, and the inhuman, illegal and fascistic manner in which those arrested were treated by the police, the jailers, and the courts.

The day after the demonstration the Emergency Committee filed a class action suit in Federal Court against Mayor Beame and other public officials for unconstitutionally conspiring with the judges and district attorneys to impose heavy charges, high bails ranging from \$500 to \$35,000, and harsh sentences on all arrest victims. Attorneys working on the suit, which seeks \$500 million damages for distribution among the 4500 arrest victims, include William Kuntsler of the Center for Constitutional Rights, Lennox Hinds, President of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, and Michael Russek, President of the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys.

On Thursday, the Committee forced attorneys for Beame and others to Federal Court to show cause why they should not release all "blackout" prisoners immediately. Of course the Federal Court, which works in collusion with the cops and the mayor, was not about to do this. However, due to the political pressure the Committee had generated, the courts were compelled to order city officials to take special measures to speed up the arraignments, as well as bail hearings for the many who were unable to pay the exorbitant bails. The committee also sent the

following telegram to Mayor Beame:

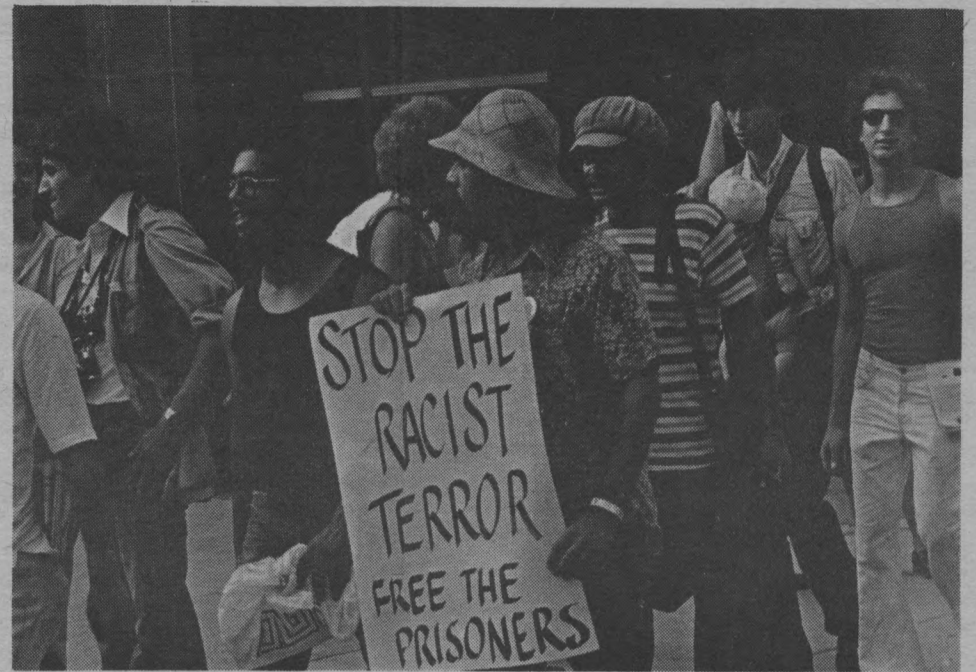
"The Emergency Committee for Prisoner Release demands the immediate release of the nearly 4,000 people arrested during the blackout. Their arrest and detention are illegal and invalid.

"By conducting massive sweeps in the oppressed Black and Latin communities, and then opening only a few courts to handle 4,000 arrests, the city has in effect instituted 'preventive detention' against the poor. This is an illegal procedure, common in fascist dictatorships, that violates due process and the presumption of innocence, since punishment is meted out before arraignment, indictment, or trial.

"The conditions now existing in the reopened Tombs and other city prisons are so barbaric—with severe overcrowding compounded by blistering heat—that the lives of many prisoners are endangered. One man has already died in Brooklyn, while others with diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, epilepsy, and other serious ailments also face possible death under these concentration camp conditions. This is in effect meeting out capital punishment to people who have yet to be even charged with a crime.

"You, Mayor Beame, have added to the mood of racist hysteria whipped up by the press and police by staging a meeting with the judges trying these cases and urging them to set stiff penalties. By intervening with the judiciary, you have violated the Constitutional doctrine of separation of powers, yet another example of the thoroughly illegal and racist way in which the city has reacted to the blackout crisis.

"You cannot be surprised that the poor and hungry of this city have rebelled. You were at Governor Carey's side when he told a Congressional hearing that the choice for New



On July 19th in front of the Tombs a crowd of 500 voiced their anger at the illegal round-ups and arrests of 4,000 people.

photo: Paddy Colligan

York City was either federal aid or federal troops. You agreed with the governor that rebellion is inevitable when in vast sections of the city unemployment is 40 and 50 percent, incomes are way below what the government itself declares necessary for mere existence, and the future is hopeless for young people.

"But there has been no aid for the poor—just massive layoffs and more cuts in services. Any federal aid has gone to pay off the banks, while the people of this city have grown more desperate.

"You have asked that the city be declared a disaster area so that businesses hurt by the

rebellion can get federal aid. But what about the poor, the jobless, the homeless? Every day of the year has been a disaster for them.

"These conditions have made a rebellion inevitable, and you and those in authority bear ultimate responsibility for it. We demand, therefore, that you use your office to invalidate the proceedings against all those arrested and release those still detained to their families and communities immediately."

The Emergency Committee is holding a meeting on Friday, August 12th at the Harlem State Office Building to discuss its progress and plans for the future.

**BOYCOTT COORS! BOYCOTT COORS!**

**BOYCOTT COORS! BOYCOTT COORS!**



## BOYCOTT



### Coors' Strike & Boycott Continues

By DAVID DAWE

GOLDEN, Colo., August 10—The Coors strike entered its 19th week. Recent figures show that the nationwide boycott is gaining momentum and having a damaging effect on Coors' sales and profits. In an attempt to save face, Coors due to a 12% drop on production has forced many scabs to take a 2 week vacation without pay as well as reduced their working days to three per week. It has also been confirmed that two production lines are shut down in the can plant.

The everyday hardships and inconveniences experienced by the strikers and their families have taken their toll forcing some of them to seek other employment. This has resulted in the death of Local 366 member Alan Frederickson who went to work in the Anshutz Corp. #1 coal mine near Carbondale, Colo. Frederickson was decapitated while operating a company coal train which had faulty brakes.

The strikers who receive a mere \$25 a week strike pay, contributed a total of \$225 out of their own pockets for Frederickson family.

The importance of all workers sticking together to force Coors to negotiate was best expressed by a striker who had worked with Frederickson on the Coors keg line. "If those people hadn't gone and scabbed, he wouldn't be dead now!"

The denial of Coors to negotiate a fair contract forced Alan Frederickson out of economic necessity to seek employment in the hazardous Anshutz Corp. Coal mine. Though the companies bear different names, Frederickson was victimized in the same way by Coors and Anshutz Corp. because both companies put profits before human safety and human dignity!

**BOYCOTT COORS BEER!**

### Atlanta March Demands Justice in Cop Murder

By BOB BRUTON

ATLANTA, July 27—"What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!" The old houses of this poor community, laying in the shadow of Fulton Cotton Mill, shook as 80 spirited Black and white supporters and McQuarter family members marched today to demand justice for Bennie McQuarter.

Bennie was 25, a veteran and unemployed. On July 18, he was beaten and choked to death by two Atlanta city cops, Kenneth Duncan and R.K. Burdette.

Three witnesses testified they saw the cops beat McQuarter bloody and choke him. Cheryl Hood, a patient in the hospital where Bennie was taken for booking, saw the cops bring McQuarter into the hospital "slumped over in

a wheel chair, covered with blood. They withheld medical treatment from this guy for thirty minutes." She stated she overheard (officer) Duncan say, "I oughtta beat this SOB up again. . .this is just another junkie we've gotten rid of."

Today's march from "Cabbagetown" to the Courthouse demanded murder indictments against the two cops.

As the courtroom filled, supporters squeezed together to allow more room for those outside wanting to get in. The courtroom was surrounded by cops; most were in uniform and carrying guns. In Atlanta, warrants can only be served on police and public officials after a police "investigation" and a court hearing of the evidence.

As he was leaving the courtroom, Bennie's father asked his supporters and the press, "Where's justice, where's justice?"

Lawyers from the Southern Conference Educational Fund, and the McQuarter family and supporters, vowed to continue the struggle demanding "justice for Bennie McQuarter" in the courts and in the streets.

As we go to press, **United Labor Action** has just learned that the Fulton County grand jury, after twelve hours of deliberation, has dropped all charges against Officer Duncan in the beating and murder of Bennie McQuarter. On hearing the news, over fifty supporters and family members held another march to again demand "justice for Bennie McQuarter."

### — AT&T Contract

Continued from page 1

pay cuts.

Other provisions include a miniscule improvement in the pension formula, bringing it to 1.2% of a worker's wage for every year of "service." Slight improvements in the medical and dental plans are reported, but details have yet to reach the members.

Overall, the proposed contract is hardly an impressive document. AT&T is the world's richest corporation, and the workers who make it all happen certainly expected more than this.

**10 AM Sunday morning:**

As we go to press, the New York State CWA strike is over and a package was accepted. Whether any real provision for job security was achieved is unknown. But in the few 12 hours that we were on strike, union stewards and workers went to their buildings and work locations [manholes, etc.] at midnight to empty them out, set up picket lines, and showed how serious they were about the strike and the need for job security.

#### Center for United Labor Action

National Office: 166 Fifth Avenue, 2nd Fl. New York, N.Y. 10010 (212) 741-0633

**Atlanta**  
P.O. Box 5592  
Atlanta, Ga. 30307

**Chicago**  
P.O. Box 5916  
Chicago, Ill. 60680

**Maryland-DC**  
P.O. Box 2473  
Washington, D.C. 20013  
(202) 783-6531 (eves.)

**Baltimore**  
Box 4376, Franklin St. Sta.  
Baltimore, Md. 21223  
(301) 947-6169 (eves)

**Cleveland**  
P.O. Box 2404  
East Cleveland, Ohio

**Milwaukee**  
P.O. Box 92216  
Milwaukee, Wisc. 53202

**Boston**  
P.O. Box 8875  
Boston, Mass. 02114

**Detroit**  
P.O. Box 643  
Detroit, Mich. 48231  
(313) 832-4847

**Norfolk**  
2710 Lafayette Blvd.  
Norfolk, Va. 23509  
(804) 857-5193

**Buffalo**  
831 Niagara St.  
Buffalo, N.Y. 14213  
(716) 884-0141

**Houston**  
P.O. Box 52513  
Houston, Tex. 77052

**Rochester**  
656 South Ave.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14620

Va. Meatcutters, Teamsters & C.U.L.A. Leaflet Baseball Game to Say:

# Don't Buy Stewart Sandwiches

By PHIL WILAYTO

NORFOLK, Va., August 9—On June 1 over 120 Stewart Sandwich workers, mostly women, walked out of the plant to win a decent contract for their chosen union, Meatcutters Local 305 and Teamsters Local 822. The strike is now in its eleventh week, with sympathy and support for the strikers growing every day. Stewart Sandwich is a rich and growing company that had sales last year of over \$32 million with 67% margin in profits over the year before.

President Theodore Broecker and Board Chairman Van Cunningham each own 20% of the company stock which brought them over \$1 million-a-piece last year in stock dividends. This does not even include the regular inflated salaries and bonuses. In addition at least two Stewart officials sit on the board of the powerful United Virginia Bank, the largest Virginia stockholder in the local rip-off utility company, VEPCO.

And yet despite all this wealth and power Stewart pays its workers a mere \$2.30 an hour with practically no benefits of any kind. The only way these workers are ever going to win a decent life for themselves and their families is

through a union, and the knowledge of this fact is what's keeping them strong in their fight.

News of the primitive conditions at Stewart, the strength and determination of the strikers, and support from the Center for United Labor Action have been winning many poor and working people in the area to the strikers side. Rank and file members of Operating Engineers Local 147, Carpenters and Joiners Local 2514, and the National Maritime Union have joined the strikers on the picket line. Financial contributions to the strike fund have come from the United Auto Workers and the Seafarers union. Ironworkers Local 79 has publicized the strike in their union newsletter and Distributive Workers of America (DWA) Local 26 is fighting to get Stewart sandwiches removed from the Planters peanut factory cafeteria in Suffolk, Va. where the DWA has a contract.

Also impressive has been the spontaneous support shown by area rank and file workers. For example, early this month when a group of strikers were trying to convince a truck driver not to cross the picket line, a train engineer on the Norfolk and Western

Railroad which runs by Stewart Sandwich stopped his train, got out, and came over to help talk the driver into leaving!

On August 4, a Stewart worker described their strike to thousands of people when the Meatcutters, Teamsters, the Center for United Labor Action, co-sponsored a massive leafletting at a baseball game at Met park. Stewart had announced plans to pass out 10,000 free hotdogs at the game, obviously worried about its public image. A large group of strikers, union officials, C.U.L.A. members and other supporters held picket signs at the parking lot gates and distributed thousands of leaflets to the people going into the ball game.

The leaflet explained issues of the strike, asking people not to buy Stewart sandwiches and asked, "If Stewart Sandwich can hand out 10,000 free hotdogs at Met Park, why can't they afford to pay their workers decent wages!"

The response from the crowd, many of them union members themselves, was overwhelmingly for the strikers. "I am with you 100%," said one woman, "Nobody can live on \$2.30 an hour."

## Auto Workers Fired in Heat Wave Walkout—900 at Union Protest Meeting

By a member of

Local 51, United Auto Workers

DETROIT, Aug. 8—More than 4,000 workers hit the bricks with a wildcat strike on July 20-21 at the Chrysler Lynch Road assembly plant here. Members of Local 51, United Auto Workers (UAW) went out to protest the firings of three workers and the disciplining of 359 more after a series of heat walk-outs in the preceding two weeks.

Almost every day in July, the temperature in the city climbed past 90 degrees, one day reaching 102 degrees. Inside the 50-year-old, poorly ventilated plant the temperature was much higher. Adding the heat to the back-breaking line speed, the broken water coolers, the filthy bathrooms, no new gloves, no sweatbands, and racist foremen, the working conditions were unbearable. Union officials actually had to argue with management to convince them to turn off heaters and to open some windows. (Of course, management "works" in air-conditioned comfort in their offices.)

Workers who asked for heat passes to go home were usually refused. One brother who fainted from the heat was sent back to his job by the plant medical department.

In the face of all this, there was no choice but to walk out. More than 1,000 workers participated on both day and afternoon shifts in heat walkouts, usually shutting down production.

Chrysler, furious that the workers would consider their own health and safety more important than assembling cars, decided to crack down. Bypassing contract obligations, they sent telegrams to three workers' homes telling them that they were fired for leading work stoppages. One of these brothers ac-

### Can you imagine working this line in 102°?



tually had received a heat pass before a heat walkout, yet he was still fired.

The union shop committee responded by calling the membership to a meeting. More than 900 workers came, demanding that Chrysler rehire the fired workers, rescind the disciplines, and take steps to relieve the heat situation.

In the middle of the meeting members on the afternoon shift left, supposedly to go to

work. But when they got there, they took matters into their own hands, massed in front of the gates, and kept almost everyone out except the vulnerable probationary workers. Not a car ran off the line, and a huge number of workers returned to the meeting eager to continue the strike. The strike vote was a unanimous yes.

The next morning hundreds of workers again massed in front of the gates, and again the plant was shut down. Chrysler management told the union they would negotiate on the workers' demands if they would return to work. On the afternoon shift, hundreds of workers, determined to make sure that Chrysler had gotten their message loud and clear, persuaded enough workers to leave at lunch, and the plant was again forced to shut down.

Now, an uneasy truce hangs over the plant. On the one hand, the three workers are still fired, and the original disciplines remain. On the other hand, the company has not yet dared to discipline or fire anyone else for heat walkouts or the wildcat. The shop committee has said it will announce the results of the negotiations.

The rank-and-file workers have had a glimpse of their own strength. Chrysler may soon see a lot more.

## Carter's 'Amnesty' for Undocumented Condemned!

By PHILLIP RENARD

NEW YORK, Aug. 9—The new "amnesty" plan for undocumented workers mapped out by President Carter is another blow aimed at working people and an attempt at dividing workers in this country.

The Carter plan will give permanent residency status only to undocumented workers who have been living in this country for at least seven years. This covers a small minority of all the workers who have entered the U.S. under the pressure of poverty and unemployment in their own country. It leaves literally millions of others with only the protection of a temporary visa which will expire after five years. It will not give them the indispensable social service benefits such as Social Security, unemployment insurance, welfare, etc. . . and they would not be permitted to bring their own families here.

Mexicano and Latino groups were prompt in exposing the true significance of the plan by forming the National Committee to Stop the Carter Plan (NCSCP). Felipe Aguirre, working on the Committee said: "They want to use our labor when they need it but they don't want to legalize our status. They want to regulate us and then declare us illegal and throw us away when they no longer need us. The plan will also result in massive discrimination since it creates a subclass of people—Mexicanos and Latinos."

Last Thursday the NCSCP announced its own program in a series of new conferences held in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., San Antonio, Chicago, and San Francisco where three demands were raised: (1) that a moratorium be enacted on all deportations until Congress acts on the amnesty legislation, (2) that national hearings, sponsored by the federal government be held in local communities to allow people to voice their own solutions to the inadequate act and (3) that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) concentrate all its efforts in processing the hundreds of thousands of backlogged applications for immigrants status.

The NCSCP is also suing the INS and calling for National Mobilization for Unconditional Amnesty demonstrations to take place August 28 in Los Angeles, Chicago, San Antonio, and Seattle.

## — Miners' Wildcat Spreads

Continued from page 1

Damron, who has to crawl to work in a 26 inch wide shaft, asked, "What happens if there is an explosion—how can I run out?"

Brother Day, a member of UMW local 5922, CP Coal Company #18 mine, will be immediately affected by the benefits cuts: "My daughter, Atlanta, was severely burned when she was six years old—now she needs a chest operation that will cost \$60,000, and I have to pay 40%. Where am I going to get that kind of money?"

Brother Danny Abbott, a miner at R.J.F. coal and member of Local 1078 in Gilbert West Virginia, also discussed conditions in the mines: "One man had a hip broken because there was no hip bar on the car—well, we had no first aid, no phone, and no place to put him. We had to carry him out and build a fire with tube grease to keep him warm—we didn't even have an ambulance, we had to get one."

"One time I was thrown in jail because I helped an injured man outside," Brother Abbott went on, "If you complain about safety conditions, the foreman will give you the hardest job—like pulling 60 lbs. of steel. First the company silences you, then they claim no one told them about safety hazards when an accident occurs. And the mine inspectors go along with it. The mine owners are holding us hostage with this cut."

As we go to press, we have received word that the wildcat strike is spreading over the entire coal region as miners are taking the struggle into their own hands to make sure that they do not lose the health and welfare benefits that are so necessary for their jobs and families.

**SUBSCRIBE TO**  
**UNITED LABOR ACTION**  
One Year . . . \$1.00 Free to Unemployed



NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_