

# United Labor Action

*an injury to one is an injury to all*

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## Four Years of Owed Money — Bulk of Deal —

# Wall St. Dictates Terms of N.Y. Labor Contract

By SUSAN STEINMAN

NEW YORK, June 14—Last week the Municipal Labor Coalition which represents over 200,000 New York City workers negotiated a new contract. But this was no ordinary settlement that was negotiated with a boss. This contract was negotiated with Koch doing the threatening for the bankers and financial institutions of New York City through the Emergency Financial Control Board (EFCB). This board was demanded by the bankers to guarantee their loans and set up by the New York State Legislature during the 1974 default crisis in an atmosphere of hysteria.

The constant pounding by politicians and press about the impending collapse of the city not only led to the formation of the EFCB but also forced the hand of the municipal union officials to give in, give up and go along with the EFCB and its anti-worker, racist and anti-poor policies that have plagued the city ever since.

And ever since then the EFCB has functioned as a shadow government dictating the wages and job conditions for city workers. They have also decimated the health, welfare and educational services in the city, especially in the poorest and neediest communities, like Harlem and East New York. This banker-politician board has arrogantly taken the quality of life into their hands and ever since the people in this city have suffered from it.

Who is this EFCB anyway? The board is dominated and controlled by representatives of the banks and stalwarts of N.Y.C.'s financial holdings. New York Telephone has sat on the board and helped to mold its original policies (N.Y. Tel's anti-public, anti-worker notoriety needs little elaboration). Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, which has vast real estate holdings in N.Y.C. as well as a finger in almost every pot around the world, is presently on the EFCB. Allen & Co., a huge brokerage house handling the accounts for Columbia Broadcasting, is an all-important link to the media for a control board which has sold on TV and radio some of the most

vicious cut-backs against the workers and poor of this city. Politicians like Koch and Gov. Carey also sit on the board as insurance for the bankers that they are intimately involved in carrying through all of the board's "bite the bullet" policies.

The EFCB has not only held a tight rein on the city of N.Y. but they have just gotten the N.Y. State legislature to extend its life for at least 19 more years, or until federally guaranteed bonds have been redeemed and the city's budget balanced for three consecutive years. The EFCB will have the power to approve or reject labor contracts as well as having the right to challenge any benefits at arbitration proceedings—a real threat to the collective bargaining process.

It was under this anti-labor atmosphere that a settlement was reached. The terms of the economic package includes an 8% increase over two years (but, because this will not begin until next October it is really a 5.5% increase), and a \$750 raise each year instead of a cost-of-living clause in the contract. Also included in this agreement are monetary settlements on raises and COLA productivity-tied raises owed the workers from as far back as 1974.

The total cash settlement for workers gained in this contract is \$1550. (This figure does not include what was owed the workers from previous contracts.) If multiplied out, this equals a total wage package for the 200,000 N.Y.C. workers of \$31 million. But unfortunately, N.Y.C. unions have already given up \$624 million according to Jack Bigel, the financial consultant for the unions. In a recent speech, this is how Jack Bigel broke down the unions' give-backs to the city given before the settlement:

"The \$624 million was made up by welfare fund contributions waived. Changes in work rules. A reduction in overtime. The elimination of summer hours. A deferral of a 6% wage increase for one year. \$110 million of pension fund contributions to buy the city bonds that the banks were unloading as shaky investments. \$48 million given up in fringe benefits since 1976 and in the most recent contract a waiving of a 4% cost-of-living increase. And in case you're wondering what the banks gave up during this financial crisis period... they gave up their municipal bonds so as not to risk their own corporate ratings... bonds they forced the city unions to buy with their members' pension funds."

Mayor Koch and the banks were forced to back down from their demand of 60 more give-backs during negotiation. They did this only because Koch feared the smoldering anger of the rank and file city workers.

The \$624 million worth of give-ups by the unions does not even calculate the cost of the cuts and losses of city services to the workers and poor of N.Y. What is needed in this city is a resounding NO. No to any givebacks. No to any give-ups. No to the cuts in services to the poor and working communities.

We need a strong coalition in this city not to collaborate with the bankers as Victor Gotbaum, head of the municipal Labor Coalition, has done, but a coalition that will rely on the strengths and angers of the people of this city; a coalition of the trade unions and the oppressed who will demonstrate that daycare is a necessity—that hospitals must remain open and be well staffed—that 70 percent unemployment for Black youth is intolerable—that the quality of life in this city will only go down at the hands of the bankers' bankrupt policies and not with the united effort of the people.

### What our Taxes Could Get if the Pentagon budget is slashed

Drastic cutbacks, layoffs, and a rapidly declining living standard have become a way of life for millions of people, and every aspect of social spending has been tagged "inflationary." At the same time military expenditures have soared from year to year. The \$126 billion military budget for 1978 (which come from workers' tax dollars) if channeled into housing, health, education, and other vital services could provide jobs for 1,301,600 people. According to a study done by the Public Interest Research Group, \$1 billion spent by the Pentagon causes the loss of 11,600 jobs. The California cry for tax relief should have been directed against the military spending an not against the poor.

#### Some examples of the price we pay for excessive military spending

	2 "Surface Effect" ships for the Navy: Price: \$110,000,000	=	Funding to double personnel and maintenance in all parks and recreation facilities: Price: \$110,000,000	
	1 B1 Bomber Prototype Price: \$500,000,000	=	Cost of Co-op City, housing 50,000 people: Price: \$500,000,000	
	1 M60 Tank: Price \$630,000	=	14 single family homes at \$45,000 each: Price: \$630,000	
	1 trident submarine with nuclear missiles: Price: \$1,100,000,000	=	Cost of all health services provided by NYC in one year: Price: \$1,100,000,000	
	2 F-15 fighter planes: Price: \$32,000,000	=	Cost of 50% increase in services for all NYC public libraries: Price: \$32,000,000	

It is estimated that Federal spending for 1979 will be: For social services \$5.6 billion, for education \$10.6 billion, for social security & aid for dependant children \$48.6 billion. While on May 24, 1978 the House of Representatives passed a bill proposing \$2.13 billion be spent for one nuclear aircraft carrier, \$1.1 billion be spent for one nuclear Aegis cruiser, and an undisclosed amount for F-14 and F-18 fighter planes.

## Proposition 13—Attack on the Poor— Big Business the Real Winner

By PAUL WILCOX

NEW YORK, June 15—Proposition 13 a state constitutional amendment in California that will cut property taxes by 57 percent, had hardly been passed into law last week before the anti-worker, anti-poor meaning of this vicious measure began to surface.

City, state, and local governments immediately announced draconian cutbacks in jobs, schools, and social services. In Los Angeles, dismissal notices were sent to 21,000 teachers, and 8,300 city workers are to be fired immediately. The summer school program, affecting 260,000 youths and 80,000 adults, has already been almost entirely eliminated.

In San Francisco, a 33-point program of cutbacks has begun, including transit fare increases, service reductions, and a wage freeze for municipal workers. Massive layoffs in government jobs will hit hardest minority workers, who have always been the last hired and the first fired. While many politicians are afraid to predict just how severely people will be hurt by drastically reduced services, economists have estimated

that as many as 350,000 jobs will be lost in California by 1980.

Proposition 13 has been sold to the public in a well-financed campaign, under the phony label of a "taxpayers revolt". In fact, the \$5 billion surplus that the state has accumulated could have been used to lower taxes immediately. However, this money was held back to show "good credit" to the banks. Now all government agencies must re-apply for these desperately needed funds.

While this law is projected to cut property taxes by as much as \$7 billion, over two-thirds of this will go right off the top to big business interests. Among the many big corporations who will reap a huge windfall from Proposition 13 are the Pacific Gas and Electric Co., who will save \$3.1 million, while General Motors and Kaiser Aluminum each stand to pocket over \$1 million each. Whatever savings are left for the great majority of people will eventually be eaten away by fewer and more costly services, as well as higher sales and income taxes.

It is certainly true that poor and working people who have been able to scrimp and

save to buy a home, need relief. The tax bite that takes away such a large part of all of our paychecks hurts more and more every week, as well as the ravenous inflation that takes the food right off our dinner table. But what is left completely off the hook by this law is the absolutely criminal military budget, totalling over \$126 billion, which remains completely untouched and ever increasing. While we face a harder struggle to get by every day, the tycoons of the war industry grow ever richer from fat Pentagon contracts and endless cost overruns. But the sponsors of Proposition 13 are not interested in using any of this money to save jobs or government services for the people.

Proposition 13 is a bludgeon against the poor and working people not only of California, but across the country, where similar propositions are threatened. It is a challenge that the labor movement must meet head-on, to expose its demagogic, anti-worker nature, to battle every layoff and every painful cutback. Millions of people will be hurt by laws like Proposition 13, and these millions will be ready to fight back.

## Supreme Court Rules Pregnant Women Can Work As Long As Able—

## Pregnant Workers Win New Victory!

By BETH MARINO, NYC Teacher

NEW YORK, June 7—A major victory was won today in the continuing struggle by working women for pregnancy disability benefits. The Supreme Court ruled 7-2 in favor of giving municipal workers who are forced to take unpaid maternity leave the right to sue the city.

The verdict, which might cost New York City up to \$16 million in damages to the women involved, was a significant milestone

because it succeeded in overturning precedents that have kept cities immune from civil rights damage suits.

An estimated 10,000 city employees were forced off their jobs due to pregnancy until the city changed its archaic policy and allowed women to work as long as medically feasible. A class action suit was thus filed by four women—three city teachers and one social worker—all who were asked to leave their jobs earlier than they had planned due

to their pregnant condition. Officials of the American Civil Liberties Union have rightfully called this decision one of the most important in recent years.

This ruling is certain to have ramifications on the entire struggle presently being waged nationally for pregnancy benefits. New York State now has a pregnancy disability law which covers women for eight weeks disability during pregnancy. There is also a federal bill being held up by anti-women, anti-worker forces in the House of Representatives which would cover all women for pregnancy disability benefits.

In addition to this recent victory, CWA (Communications Workers of America) women recently won a national contract that includes six weeks benefits at full pay. And CWA women in New York are presently fighting for a full eight weeks coverage as well as having a suit against New York Telephone for past discrimination against pregnant workers.

The Supreme Court ruling and the N.Y. State law are victories won in the legal arena as a direct result of the pressure brought to bear by working women who are seeking in ever increasing numbers to advance their rights on the job. It is the right of all working women to be able to bear children and maintain their jobs with full benefits, and these legal victories are an important step in that direction.



In May, 1977, a press conference was held for Pregnancy Disability Benefits in front of Brooklyn Union Gas. Women telephone workers participated.

## Dear Editor: Rank & File Construction Workers Fight Union Busting Contractors' Association

Dear United Labor Action,

The current tightening of the economy is generating storm clouds that threaten organized labor. Conspiracies of union-busting businessmen are on the loose.

Thirty years ago, 40% of the U.S. labor force was in the unions. Today that figure has been cut down to slightly over 20%. In the nation's biggest industry—construction—it is estimated that 90% of all housing and 30% of all commercial construction is now done by non-union labor.

Here in northern California, rank-and-file construction workers have begun to fight back. They have launched the **Carpenters' Rank and File Forum**, which has exposed the organized anti-union efforts of Associated Building Contractors (ABC), a well-financed organization started by non-union contractors 25 years ago in Baltimore.

Last November ABC bought a 14-page advertising supplement in the New York Times, and they regularly advertise in local California papers, screaming such lies as "union workers are unproductive," and "government works with unions to break down free enterprise." The ABC solution is the so-called "Merit Shop"—which translates to longer hours and shorter pay.

Together with the Associated General Contractors—an umbrella bargaining agent for construction contractors—ABC has published pamphlets and conducted seminars for bosses on how to break unions: by introducing more and more non-union workers, side-stepping the collective bargaining process, and teaming up with the courts to minimize the effectiveness of picket lines.

The ABC recently boasted growth to a total of 800 member contractors nationwide, with 200 of them in northern California. Forty percent of these contractors are "double-breasted," which means they have both union and non-union workers.

But these union busters can only get away with it if the unions and rank and file let them. On a regular work day last February, 30 rank and file construction workers showed up with signs at an ABC seminar on "What To Do When the Union Knocks." The surprised ABC sponsors of the seminar called the cops and began taking pictures of the pickets. But the workers countered with cameras of their

own, and printed a picture and some names of scab contractors in the **Rank and File Forum**.

The workers are also showing up in strength at job sites where contractors use scab labor. They talk union to the workers, pointing out that they'd be safer with a union, and would make more money. But they also let the bosses know they're going to lose time and money if they try to destroy workers' livelihood with scab labor.

Workers have to fight back—it's one thing to read statistics about how many

contractors pulled out of the regional contract last year. It's quite another thing to hold in your hand slick union busting manuals, advertising supplements in local and national papers, and witness day-long seminars that dispense the profit-hungry science of tearing down the conditions and wages of hard-working men and women.

Construction workers are determined to fight the non-union trend by relying on the rank and file, and building a democratic union under rank and file control.

—Robert Evans, Oakland, California

## Supreme Court Ruling Disables OSHA Textile Workers Fight & Win Dust Standard

By RACHEL DUELL

NEW YORK, July 14—In 1970, the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) was won through the efforts of workers who had engaged in a bitter fight for a safer and healthier workplace. The companies, who have worked night and day to stop the passage of the law, lost no time in plotting ways to circumvent it.

On May 23, the Supreme Court gave industry a helping hand. In a three to five decision, the court ruled that OSHA safety inspectors may not enter a workplace to investigate health and safety violations without first obtaining a search warrant.

OSHA's enforcement powers have already been whittled down by chronic underfunding and understaffing. At the present annual rate of inspection visits, it would take OSHA 230 years to visit the estimated 4.1 million jobsites.

The high court decision will only further undercut OSHA. For example, when an inspector seeks a warrant from a federal judge, the bosses will resort to quick but temporary measures to cover up such daily hazards as dust ridden mines and mills, radiation leaks, and deafening noise levels.

Job safety will have to remain a major demand of workers themselves, and the right to walk off an unsafe jobsite, as is common with miners, should be central to safety enforcement.

Recently, a partial victory was won by workers exposed to dangerously high levels of cotton dust in the textile industry when President Carter, under heavy fire from organized textile workers, was forced to back down on his decision to delay implementation by OSHA of a desperately needed cotton dust standard.

No details of the new regulations have been released, but government representatives have announced that "engineering controls" will be required. These controls, which include machinery to extract cotton dust from the air, were fiercely contended by the textile industry owners.

The original proposal for the cotton dust standard had the support of the Carolina Brown Lung Association and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU). The standard would have set stricter limits on cotton dust levels in the workers environment through the use of industry financed dust-catching machinery.

Brown Lung, caused by repeated exposure to high cotton dust levels, is a

crippling lung disease which can be fatal. Today, over 35,000 active and retired textile workers have Brown Lung.

Carter, himself a peanut plantation owner, showed his one-sided concern for the textile owners. Opposition to the proposed cotton dust standard came from Carter's Council on Wage and Price Stability because of the "inflationary impact on economy." The Council, in a move to let industry off the hook, instead suggested that face masks (to be worn by workers), and not industry installed equipment, would provide adequate protection. The Council also raised the dust limit.

Southern business interests, such as textile giant J.P. Stevens, which engage in cutthroat union-busting campaigns, had hailed Carter's earlier decision—which allowed them to put their profits well before the lives of the textile workers.

But the textile workers flexed their muscles and showed these bosses that this time they weren't going to get away with it. The 18-year-old battle for a safe dust standard in the textile industry still continues.

sped off, only to be forced to stop by a taxi cab. Strikers rushed up to the car, started pounding on it, and called for the cops to arrest the driver for hit-and-run. The cops came, pushed the workers away and said, "On your way, sir."

The strikers started Wednesday evening off by joking with the cops, and ended it by calling them "Pigs worse than scabs."

The strikers were aware that their jobs are at stake. One pressman's apprentice told this reporter, "This same management has been trying to break the unions at the Chicago Tribune for three months. Look at how the Pressmen at the Washington Post were busted. If we don't all support each

### Daily News Strike—

Tuesday and Wednesday at least 17 strikers were arrested, three strikers were hit by cars and one striker was smashed over the head with a lead pipe by a goon driving a delivery truck.

In order to back up traffic around the Daily News plant, the mailers were dawdling across Second Ave. and the pressmen did the same on Third Avenue. Two pressmen were actually hit by cars.

On Second Ave., a mailer was hit by a

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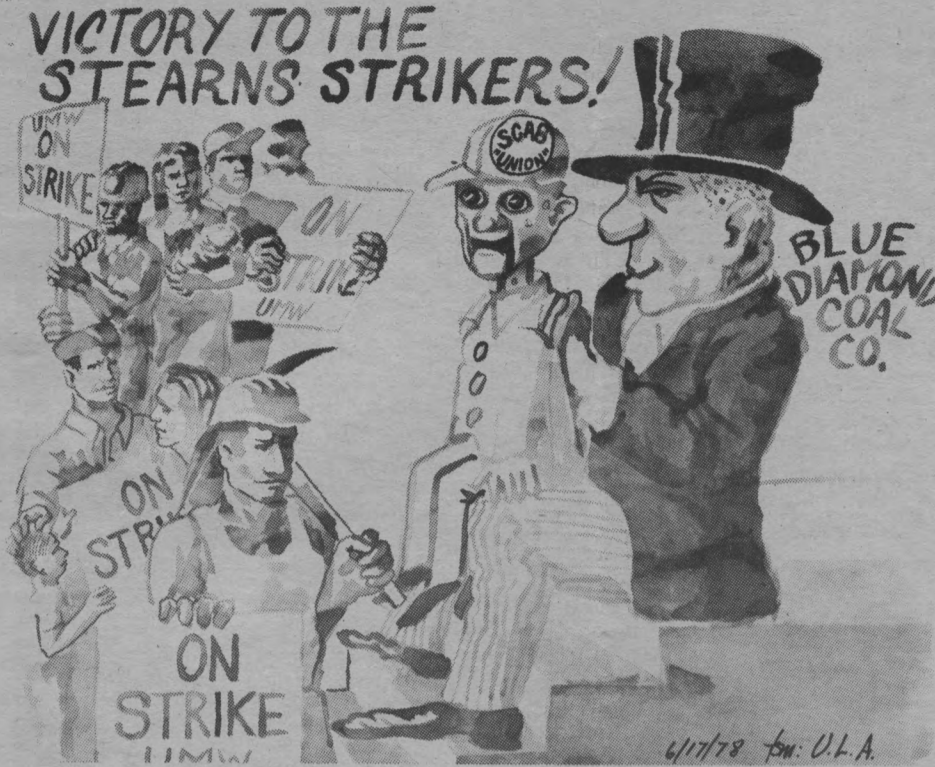
THE CENTER FOR UNITED LABOR ACTION

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Editor: Susan Steinman

# Blue Diamond Coal Co. Sets Up Union— Stearns UMW Strikers Plan Suit to Stop Scab Union



By JACLYN O'MALLEY

NEW YORK, June 14—The two-year-old fight of 150 miners of Stearns, Ky. is again heating up, as the Blue Diamond Coal Co. announced at the end of May that the 80 scabs presently working the mine are "forming a union." These strike-breakers, it should not be forgotten, are only in the mine because of the hand in glove relationship between Blue Diamond, the courts and the state police. The state police have served as the scabs's escorts, and have beaten and harassed the miners and their supporters continuously since the strike began in July 1976.

The supposed "union" being formed is nothing more than a company tactic devised to crush the miners' hard-fought battle to force Blue Diamond to recognize the United Mine Workers (UMW) as the workers' chosen bargaining agent. And as Faye Keith, Vice-President of the Stearns Miners' Women's Club put it, "The companies are buddying together to try to break the union (UMW) by breaking this strike. They're out to hurt the union."

Mrs Keith also pointed out the role the state police and the courts have been playing in the strike. "Every time anything happens here, they blame the miners, they're always

arresting a miner for something. We've got no law down here to protect the miners. There are more guards at the mine than the supposed limit, and the state police are telling them to hide their guns in the car trunks."

The UMW is planning a suit to stop Blue Diamond's maneuver to form its own "union" and the miners Faye Keith says "are more determined than ever now" to win their UMW contract.

"We just can't put into words how dirty the men are being treated," Faye Keith said. After returning from a recent trip to Pittsburgh, Pa. where the Women's Club spoke at meetings to raise support for the Stearns miners, she said that the workers in Pittsburgh after hearing their story thought, "stuff like we've been going through only happened in the '30s. They couldn't believe it was happening now."

But it is happening now and the brutality and violence the Blue Diamond bosses have been using against these miners is their way of saying that to maintain their profits they will not tolerate safety, and decent working conditions in the mines. The mine bosses can live with the conditions that caused 200 miners to be killed last year and another 14,000 injured in the mines.

These are the reasons that the miners at Stearns have been fighting so long and so hard to win a UMW contract, with its safety provisions.

Faye Keith said it best. "We need support from everyone. We see how dirty the company is doing us, and it's hard. But we're still going strong."

Funds are needed to help the miners face many battles against the company and scabs in court. Urgently needed letters and contributions should be sent to: Stearns Miners' Women's Club, P.O. Box 488, Stearns, Ky. 42647.

## Stearns Miners Picket 2nd Largest Stockholder in Atlanta

By BOB BRUTON

ATLANTA, June 2—The John Bulow Campbell Foundation of Atlanta was the target today of a group of striking coal miners from Stearns, Kentucky, and supporters, including the Center for United Labor Action. The miners and supporters urged downtown workers and shoppers to contact the Campbell Foundation to use its influence to get Kentucky miners safe working conditions. The Campbell Foundation owns over 26,000 shares (its second largest stockholder) of the Blue Diamond Coal Company.

Families at Blue Diamond Mine in Stearns, Ky., have been on strike trying to win rights to a safe mine and better working conditions. So far Blue Diamond has refused to sign the contract with the United Mine Workers that the miners' lives in Stearns depend upon.

Charitable as it seems giving money to hospitals, schools, etc., the Campbell Foundation gets much of its money from

investments in east Kentucky coal mines.

According to a leaflet the miners handed out, "for every charity dollar it gives away, coal miners and their families must pay with unsafe mines, crippled limbs, lung disease, and poor living conditions."

As one striking miner said about the Campbell Foundation, "we don't object to

their helping crippled children and other good causes, but do they have to cripple miners in order to do it?"

(NOTE: There will be a benefit for the Stearns miners in Atlanta July 8, but the place is not yet firmed up; for information as to time and place, phone (404) 627-2801 or 523-8990.

## Ford Romeo Plant Shut Down by Wildcat

By C. FRY

DETROIT, June 1—Hundreds of Ford workers walked out on a wildcat strike at the Ford Romeo Tractor plant in Romeo, Michigan, on May 11. With strong 24-hour picket lines, the strikers, members of UAW Local 400, shut down the plant completely for 10 days.

The strike was sparked by the firing of a welder for "failing to meet production

standards." The general foreman and the superintendent harassed the welder, ordering him to speed up his work beyond any possible level, and then fired him when he couldn't do it, even though the welder had a clean record.

When the welder was fired, other workers in his department met for several hours in the plant cafeteria. Then they fanned out into the plant, spreading the news to others, not just about this firing, but also about Ford management's whole speed-up and harassment campaign. Everyone immediately walked out.

The strikers quickly organized themselves. Defying local union officials who told them to return to work, they kept up all day and all night picket lines for a solid week. Ford management viciously hit back, firing 17 workers picked at random from the strikers' lines.

Finally, on Thursday, May 18, the union

held a meeting for the strikers. Ford was set to gain a court injunction against the strike. Ken Morris, UAW regional director of Region 1B was at the meeting.

Morris told the strikers that the union would never back the wildcat strike. However, he pledged to file money grievances for the 17 fired workers, as well as 2,000 other grievances over conditions and job standards at the tractor plant, leading to an official strike vote. The strikers, vowing to make sure he union leaders keep their promises, voted to go back to work on the next Monday.

The working conditions, the gruesome speed-up, brutal harassment, unjust disciplines and firings that triggered the Romeo wildcat, are common at Ford and the rest of the "Big 3" companies. The spirit and determination of the Romeo strikers, and their skill in organizing themselves, is the only way that safety and decent working conditions will be won.

### Strikes in the Coalfields Continue—

NEW YORK, June 15—The March 25th national agreement between the coal bosses and the United Mine Workers (UMW) marked the end of one of the longest and most militant strikes in the history of the union.

But the settlement of the longest national strike by no means meant a let-up in the tremendous struggle that mine workers face day after day to protect their rights and their union. The strike settlement has not halted the coal operators' continuing attempts to crush the UMW.

The miners' fight to defend and strengthen the UMW is illustrated by the following report that appeared in the June 2, Wall Street Journal, "More than 6,500 miners in western Pennsylvania were idled yesterday by an

unauthorized work stoppage that began at North Cambria Fuel Co. in New Alexandria, and spread to half a dozen other mines in the area.... (our emphasis)

"...The work stoppage occurred over miners' frustration with industry negotiators' inability to reach agreement on a new three-year contract with members of UMW Local 1880.

"The 95 members of the local have been on strike for about two weeks in an effort to win a new agreement.... The striking miners closed down neighboring mines by posting picket signs...."

So, you see, the coal miners of the UMW are sending a message to the coal bosses: **The mine workers will fight to protect their union, their jobs, safety and their rights.**

## Center for United Labor Action

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### Upcoming N.Y.C. Anti-Bakke Activities

The New York Chapter of the National Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision (NCOBD) is continuing its activities following the massive demonstration in Washington, D.C. on April 15th of 35,000 people. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to decide very soon on the Bakke Decision, which was made by the California Supreme Court, that threatens to end all affirmative action programs for minorities and for women.

The following calendar lists some of the upcoming events sponsored by the NCOBD:

- Friday, June 23rd—** Forum called by the Latin Focus of NCOBD, 7pm at Hostos Community College, 500 Grand Concourse at 149th St., Bronx.
- Tuesday, June 27th—** Brooklyn Community Action Meeting called by the Brooklyn Chapter of NCOBD, 7-10 pm at P.S. 56, 170 Gates Ave.
- Friday, July 7th—** The Women's Focus of NCOBD will be showing a film entitled "The Women's Film", at the ASPIRA office at 310 East 149th St., Bronx. Time to be announced.
- Friday, July 14th—** A Public Meeting called by the Labor Focus of NCOBD, Tentatively at the Martin Luther King Center of Local 1199, 43rd St. between 8th and 9th Ave. Time to be announced.

For information about the fight to overturn the Bakke Decision and defend all affirmative programs, please call 255-0352 or 741-0633 in New York.

# RCA Strikers Fight Union Busting by Billion \$\$ Co.!

## Special to United Labor Action

NEW YORK, June 5—The American Communication Association, Local 10, has been on strike since May 10, when RCA Communications without rhyme or reason threw 50 people out of work. The company has also refused to negotiate with the union, as provided for in the contract.

Local 10, which is affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, is composed of 1,400 workers, from New York; Hawaii; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Chatham, Mass.; and Lodi, California. It was in the Lodi plant that the shutdown took place. After the company refused to bargain, the workers in New York sat in at the facility here for 30 hours in solidarity with their brother and sister Teamsters.

Failing to starve out the workers who had been sitting in by refusing to allow any deliveries of food, RCA Vice President David Stackhouse got the police to evict everyone who was sitting in, with several being seriously injured. The company then retaliated and fired 6 workers, including Local 10 Vice President Vincent Itardi, and suspended 100.

"They want to bust this local union. And we're not going to let that happen," said Itardi. The union has set up four large picket lines at the RCA building near Wall Street.

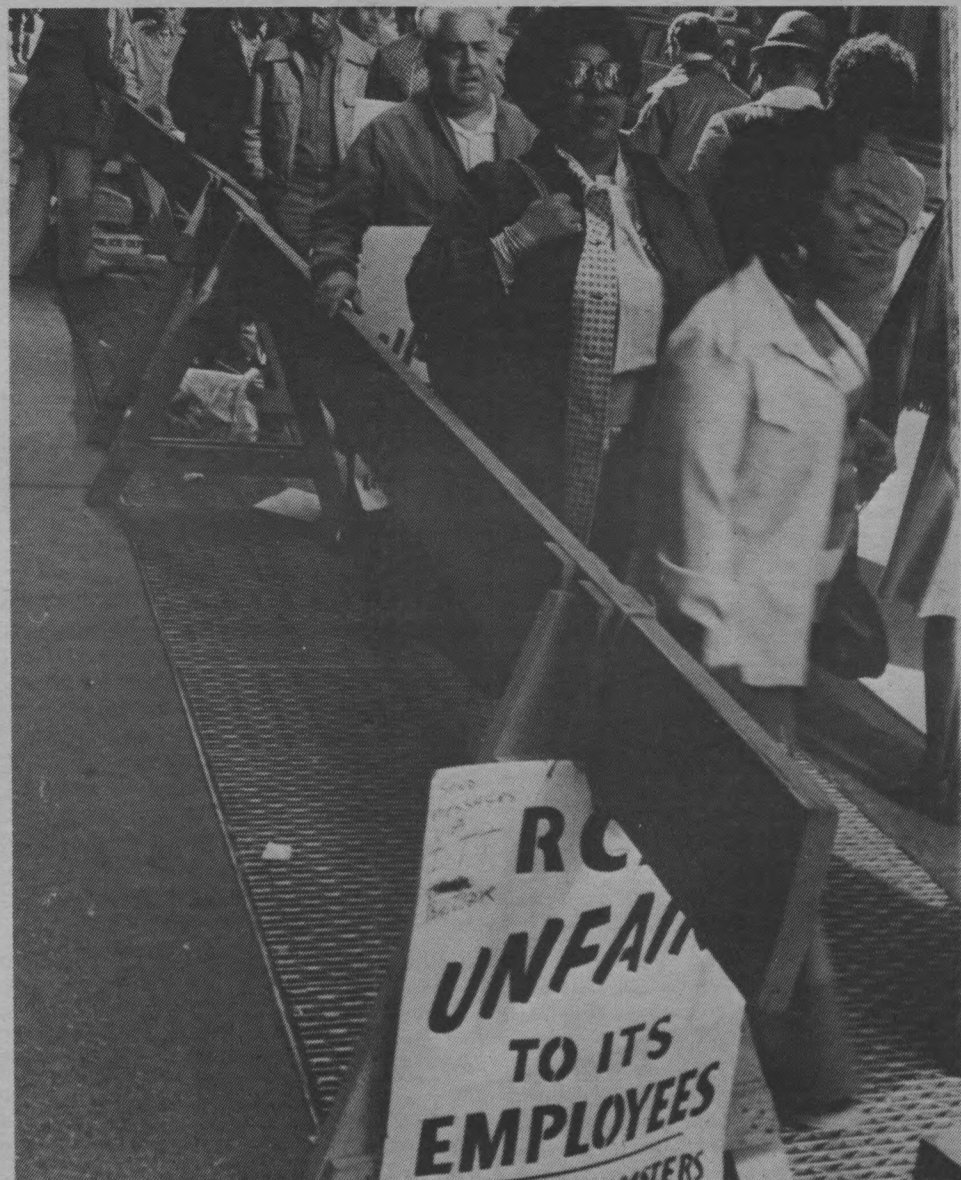
Commenting on the strong determination shown by the union members on the picket line, Bill Kaessinger, Executive Board member and Press Officer of Local 10, stated that "We had spit, glass, and garbage

thrown at us. There is a member at home with 20 stitches in his head. We have another walking the picket line on crutches. But the union spirit was never higher," adding that at one point the picketers were even threatened with a pistol by a company thug but were not intimidated.

RCA has closed its facility at Lodi both in defiance of the union contract as well as against the regulations of the Federal Communications Commission, which by law must issue clearance to RCA before it cuts back on any of its operations.

At a meeting of the Teamsters' Joint Board Itardi declared that Local 10 has "one hundred percent support of the Teamsters." Press Officer Kaessinger said that "We are fighting a billion dollar corporation on a nationwide basis. The cops are completely on the company's side. The mayor of this town is obviously a union-buster."

But despite the constant harassment by the company and the police, the workers have not wavered in their strike effort. Commenting on the present situation, Kaessinger stated, "There is absolutely no doubt in our minds that these violent acts have been organized and committed under the direction of RCA officials. We are warning the company. Their next act of violence will force the union to swear out a warrant for the arrest of an RCA officer. If this fails and the police continue to refuse to act, then we will take every necessary step to protect ourselves."



Angry and determined RCA workers withstood physical attack and continual harassment in their strike to rehire 50 workers. photo: G. Dunkel

## Newspaper Guild Strikes N.Y. Daily News— All Delivery Trucks Stopped!

### BULLETIN!

JUNE 17—As we go to press, we have learned that a settlement has been reached in the Daily News workers strike. Details of the agreement have not been released and the workers have yet to vote on the proposed package.

By G. DUNKEL

NEW YORK, June 16—The striking workers at the New York Daily News, the

newspaper with the largest circulation in the U.S.—about 1.9 million a day—won a solid victory Thursday night.

The News was not able to publish its Friday edition.

The strikers also beat the goons the News hired to drive their delivery trucks, as well as the cops who tried to bust their picket lines and the managerial scabs who printed the paper.



While a militant picket line was going on, striking Daily News workers prevented delivery trucks driven by scabs from going out. photo: G. Dunkel

## Detroit Rally Demands Defend Imani, End Death Penalty!

By TERRI KAY

DETROIT, June 10—The Detroit Committee to Defend Imani and End the Death Penalty held a rally today. The rally was endorsed by local labor and community leaders such as City Councilmen Clyde Cleveland and Kenneth Cockrel, Gloria Cobbin (Chairperson, Region 2 School Board), and Darney T. Stanfield, Vice President of the Association for the betterment of Black Edison Employees. More than 60 people attended the rally. The rally also received front page coverage in the Michigan Chronicle.

The featured speaker at the rally was William "Bim" Boyd, who was imprisoned with Imani in the Alabama concentration camps. Jailed at the age of 18 for 10 years, Boyd was sent to Atmore Prison, more than 300 miles from his home in Birmingham.

He spoke of Brother Imani's charges, which arose out of events similar to what happened in Attica in 1971—a prison strike and sit-in by prisoners where guards rushed in shooting and where one guard was killed,

rights activists tried and convicted in rural Alabama courts in the isolated area near the prison—far away from their home communities.

The Alabama authorities are trying to use the case of Brother Imani (Johnny Harris) to reinstate the death penalty. At a time of rising prices and soaring unemployment, especially among Black and Latin youth, the answer the government has is to reinstitute the death penalty to create a climate of fear and intimidation among the people.

There are no rich people on death row. One hundred percent of death row prisoners are poor, and the majority are Black and Latin. People need jobs, lower prices, and decent housing and education, and an end to racism and discrimination, not more jails. The death penalty is an attack on all poor and working people.

Other speakers at the rally included Bojie Jordan of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania; Debbie Latham, a Black activist from Columbus, Ohio; Jennifer Davis from the Non-Intervention in Chile Committee,

It took the strikers three days of sharp and bitter struggle to build the unity they needed to shut the News down, but they did it. And if the "liberal" New York Times, which just cancelled its contract with the Newspaper Guild, shuts down in what they call "solidarity" with the Daily News, the workers in the New York newspaper industry are now in a stronger position to defeat it also.

The Newspaper Guild, which represents low paid clerical workers as well as well known reporters, is the only union officially on strike. All the other unions at the News are now supporting the Guild's strike, except for Local 6, the typesetters, who have a long-term contract. There are 10 unions at the News representing 5,000 workers.

Management has forced the Guild to strike by demanding concessions which would have destroyed the union if they had been accepted. They obviously felt that the Guild would be less militant than another union and they were counting on the traditional disunity among the unions in the newspaper industry.

They were wrong. The Guild not only stopped the trucks,

blocked traffic and won the solidarity of most of the other News workers but also got the support of the N.Y. Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, who helped picket on Thursday night.

Even the President of the drivers' union, a scabherder by the name of Douglas LaChance who had originally ordered his members to cross the picket line, was forced to back down.

The only drivers who crossed the line were the "shippers", part-time workers who shape up when work is available. Almost all the full time drivers, 75 percent of the union, honored the picket line of the Guild.

Wednesday night was the first turning point of the strike, when the workers made it clear that even if a few drivers and the scabs, scrubs and goons the News had hired crossed the Guild's picket line, the News was going to have trouble delivering.

"Scabs, scabs, blood-sucking scabs," was the cry that greeted the delivery trucks as they pulled up to the loading docks at their scheduled time, 7:30 pm.

But it took an hour and a half before the first truck was loaded. Normally, it takes 15 minutes.

As the trucks passed the picket line, they were met with bottles, cans and carpet tacks. Strikers rushed into the streets, blocked the trucks until the cops dragged them away. This kind of active pressure was kept up from 9 pm to 5 am when the trucks stopped coming. Early Thursday morning, two News trucks were found burning. Some windshields were broken and tires slashed.

Solidarity Committee.

Defend Imani and Stop the Death Penalty!

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