

# Which Side Are You On?



Coal miners at the Eastover mine in Harlan County have been on strike since last July. At that time they voted 3-1 to be represented by the United Mineworkers of America (UMWA).

The miners demand:

1. A UMWA Safety Committee
2. Pay from the time they enter the mine
3. Job security
4. A fair grievance procedure
5. A decent medical plan

The Eastover mine is owned by Duke Power Company, based in North Carolina. One of the largest Corporations in the U.S., Duke made \$90 million in profits last year alone. Now they are asking for a 17% rate increase, that will bring in \$60 million more. Brookside is one of several mines that Duke has bought up in the past few years to provide the company with sources of cheap power. Duke refuses to negotiate "on principle." Working people know what that principle is!

The courts and state police have been brought in to try to crush the strike. But the miners and their families continue to resist and remain strong. The women of Harlan are the backbone of the strike. When the company got an injunction to keep the men from picketing, the women picketed and went to jail, taking their young children with them.

The strike at Eastover is the first step in the organizing drive of the reformed UMWA to bring the union back to Eastern Kentucky. As in the 30's, rank and file miners are fighting for their lives and dignity against the industrial giants that thrive from the exploited labor of the working people. In the words of miner Jerry Johnson, "We've seen too much hell in Harlan not to fight this as hard and as long as it takes to win."

#### How you can help:

1. Ask your union local to endorse the strike and to sponsor a speaker for your next meeting.
2. Ask your church or community organization to invite a speaker or hold a benefit to aid the strikers and their families.
3. Money is urgently needed for legal defense. Contributions should be sent to:

Brookside Relief Fund  
United Mineworkers of America/ District 19  
Middlesboro, Ky. 40965

For speakers and literature call: 778-3348 or 368-3540

Southern Conference Educational Fund 3210 W. Broadway, Louisville, Ky, 40211