

# SUPPORT STRIKING WORKERS AT J.H. MILES CO.

100 employees of the J.H. Miles oyster company, Norfolk, Va., have been on strike since March 8, 1973. They are almost all Black women, forced by the company to strike for better wages, improved working conditions, and an end to the racist harassment by the foremen and bosses.

Here is what these striking women say about their work preparing oysters and clams for shipment to Campbell's Soup Company:

We get no heat in cold weather.  
There is no ventilation when it is hot.  
We have to buy from the company the rubber boots,  
gloves, aprons, sleeves and hair nets which  
we must work in.  
We do not get proper toilets, dressing rooms, lockers.  
When we complain the company pays no attention.  
Our wages are low-- \$2.15 an hour.  
We get no night differential pay.

On top of all this, the Miles company is now trying to do away with the Union's health and welfare benefit program and with the dues check-off!

Miles is offering only 10 cents more per hour each year. Who can support a family on \$2.25 an hour in 1973? And who will be able to live on \$2.45 an hour in 1975??

The striking workers, members of local 26, Distributive Workers of America, need community support and support from all the working people. If we let the J.H. Miles Company Destroy the Union and pay starvation wages, it won't be long before all the other companies do the same. We must unite to put an end to this super-exploitation of Black women workers!

YOU CAN HELP:

\*\* Join the DWA picket line, weekdays, 6AM to 5PM, at the J.H. Miles Co., foot of the Southhampton Blvd., Norfolk.

\*\* Send contributions to:

Local 26, DWA  
505 East Washington St.  
Suffolk, Va. 23434  
telephone: 539-9400

\*\* Publicize the strike, and make sure your friends, neighbors, or family Don't cross the picket line to work at J.H. Miles Co.

"All we want is to be treated like human beings, to have the company and the supervisors show us respect and pay us better wages so that we can take care of our families."

--striking workers of J.H. Miles Co.

PLEASE GIVE THESE STRUGGLING WORKERS YOUR ASSISTANCE.

Issued by: Center for United Labor Action, P.O. Box 7002, Norfolk, Va. 23509

# DON'T BUY CAMPBELL'S SCAB SOUP

Almost all of the oysters and clams prepared at the J.H. Miles Company of Norfolk are sent to the Campbell's Soup Company for use in oyster stew and clam chowder. In the interest of both consumers and the striking workers at J.H. Miles Company, the Center for United Labor Action asks that you not buy any Campbell's oyster stew or clam chowder until the Miles strike is settled.

Under "normal" conditions, the company-forced speed-up makes it impossible for the workers to properly wash and select the oysters and clams to guarantee cleanliness. And now, with the strike reducing the work force to a scab-skeleton crew, the unsanitary condition of Miles seafood could only be much worse.

Listen to what workers at J.H. Miles say about their working conditions and the condition of the seafood that is sent to Campbell's:

"A lot of the meat is rotten when it goes to the freezer. Sometimes it's so rotten that it makes us sick. Once there was nothing but rotten meat for three days."

"Oil from the machinery mixes right into the meat, and it all goes straight to the freezer. Once it's frozen, you can't tell the dirt and rotten meat from the good meat."

"Sometimes you'll get a load with so many maggots crawling on it, it gives you chills in the middle of the summer."

"I used to buy Campbell's clam chowder for my husband and children, but since working at Miles, I'd be afraid to serve it to them."

The Distributive Workers of America has notified the Food and Drug Administration of this health hazard which has grown worse with the attempt by the Miles Company to keep up production with a small number of inexperienced strikebreakers. Thus far, the FDA has failed to act.

J.H. Miles cares more about its high profits than about the welfare of its workers or the health and safety of the consuming public. The FDA and Campbell's work hand-in-hand, conveniently "looking the other way" as this unsafe scab food is passed on to the unsuspecting shopper.

It is time for all consumers and poor and working people to UNITE AND ACT NOW in support of the Miles workers and the public interest.

--- DON'T BUY CAMPBELL'S OYSTER AND CLAM SOUPS until the strike is settled. Get your friends to join in this boycott.

--- DEMAND that your grocery store refuse to stock these soups as long as Campbell's uses filthy scab seafood from Miles and the strike continues.

--- ASK your store manager to communicate to Campbell's and Miles your reasons for refusing to buy these soups.

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For more information and copies of this leaflet, contact:

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