

Election Special

the rank and file in action

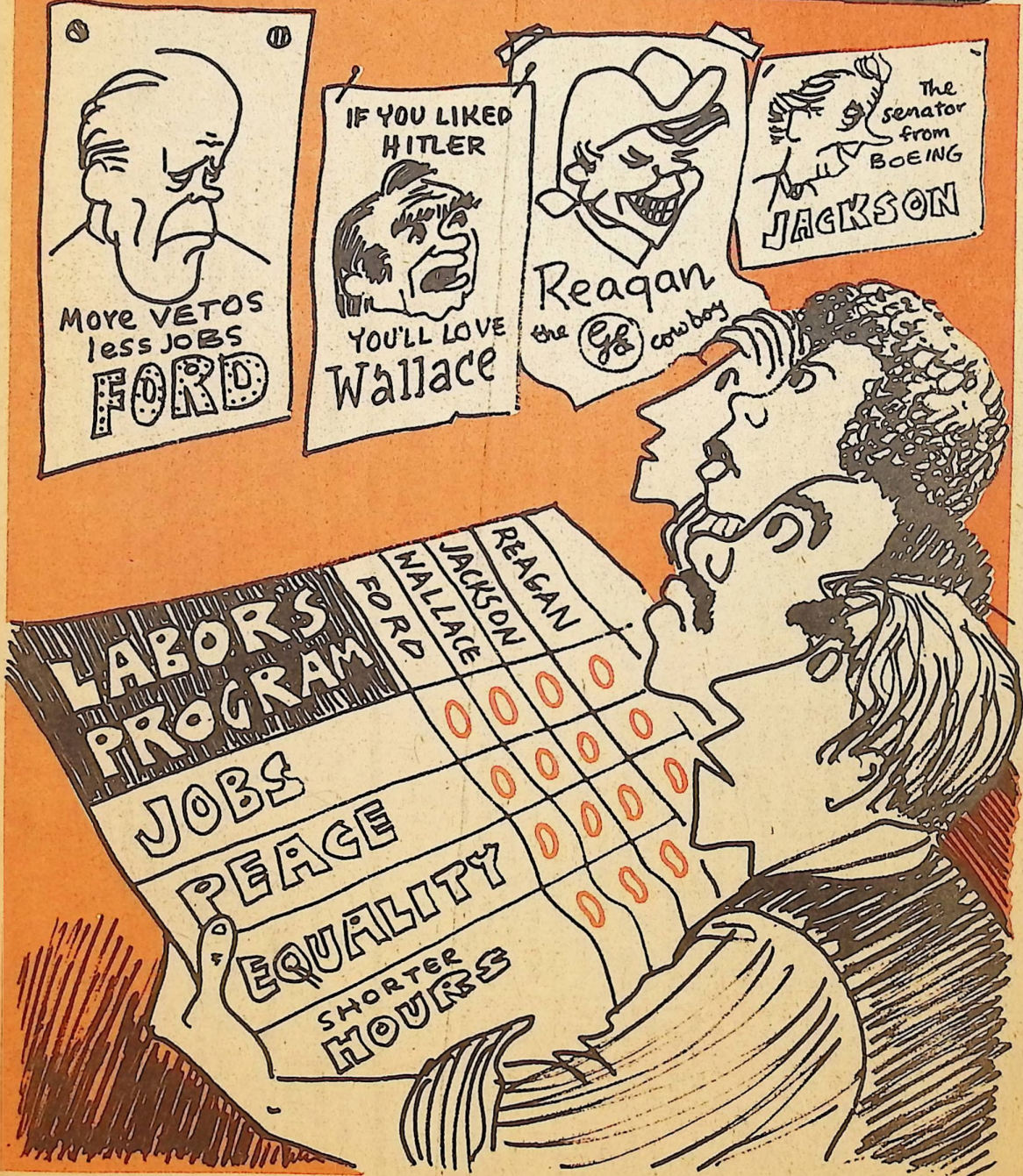
# Labor Today

35¢

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March 1976



5000 BLACKS SERVED IN REVOLUTIONARY ARMY

# Racism, slavery a blot on 1776 revolution

by CARYL ESTEVES  
LT Columnist

(ED. NOTE: The inhuman system of slavery marked the historic division of the U.S. working class that continues to provide the most pressing problems today. Since slavery touched our shores, the key question for working people has been: "how to achieve the unity of all working people, Black and white?" Sister Esteves' article is a contribution to the study of this sordid legacy that has been handed down to us today. Until racism has been eliminated, U.S. workers will still be crippled in their struggle for a better life.)

"It always appeared a most iniquitous scheme to me," wrote Abigail Adams to her husband John, "to fight ourselves for what we are daily robbing and plundering from those who have as good a right to freedom as we have."

Mrs. Adams was not the only American aware of the tragic contradiction: that at the

same time the revolutionary forces were preparing to go to war to defend the proposition that "all men are created equal," they were holding close to 20 percent of the total population--600,000 Black people --slaves for life in their midst.

Slavery was not a major force in the very early colonies. The first kidnapped Blacks to be brought to the New World were not slaves, but had a status more like that of the white indentured servants. As late as 1651 Black indentured servants were serving out their terms and receiving "freedom dues" of tools and land in much the same fashion as white servants were. But by the end of the century the growing southern plantation system, with its voracious need for cheap labor, was beginning to find the use of indentured labor--Black or white--to be insufficient for its needs, and by the 1660's most of the southern colonies were beginning to pass legislation recognizing "slavery for life."

The plantation system grew rapidly, based on the exploitation of the unpaid labor

# Labor Today



of the slaves. In 1650 there were only about three hundred Blacks in Virginia; one hundred years later there were more than 120,000, amounting to close to half the population of the colony.

With the growth of slavery came its inevitable accompaniment--rebellion, and fear of rebellion, and an entire government apparatus to keep the slaves in terror and subjugation. Historian John Hope Franklin writes that colonial Virginia "like her neighbors, had become an armed camp in which masters figuratively kept their guns cocked and trained on the slaves in order to keep them docile and tractable and in which the Assembly, the courts and the custodians of the law worked for the maintenance of peace and order among the Black workers."

Despite such displays of force, there were numerous slave rebellions during the colonial period, and it was not infrequent for the slaves to be joined by white indentured servants or local Indians in their bid for freedom, keeping the white population "in great fear and terror."

While such rebellions terrified part of the white population, particularly the southern aristocracy, others were inspired by and supported them. James Otis strongly opposed slavery in his writings and upheld the right of slaves to rebel, and the Reverend Isaac Skillman insisted that slave rebellions were in accord with "the laws of nature." Such revolutionary notables as Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Rush and Thomas Paine spoke and wrote strongly against slavery, as did numerous religious groups such as the Moravians, the Baptists and the Methodists, and most particularly the Quakers.

The debate over slavery was brought onto the very floor of the Continental Congress in mid-summer of 1776, when Thomas Jefferson, himself a conscience-troubled slaveholder, presented his original draft of the Declaration of Independence with the following charge against the King of England: "He has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights...of a distant people who never offended him, capturing and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither... (T)his Christian kind of Great Britain determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought and sold." The section was excised in deference to the southern delegates.

HE SANG FOR FREE IN UNION HALLS

## Paul Robeson fought for peace, labor rights

by LABOR TODAY Staff

When Paul Robeson died on January 23 at the age of 77 in Philadelphia, the world lost one of the most gifted and talented individuals of our age. Robeson soared to the very heights as a singer, actor and performer. He was one of the outstanding thinkers and experts on culture and Black heritage in the world.

At his death, he was virtually revered by the whole world.

But in the U.S., the corporate establishment had labored mightily to isolate him because of his progressive political views and his unwillingness to keep silent about racism.

What may be lost upon the younger generation in the labor movement are Robeson's contributions to the building of the Congress of Industrial Organizations and his life-long devotion to the cause of the rank and file.

At the peak of his career on stage and screen and concert hall--when he could draw thousands of dollars for a single performance--he would sing in a union hall for free. A union convention was hardly a union convention without Paul Robeson. He used his talents to build the labor movement and to work for Black-white unity.

There was hardly a strike or picket line that couldn't count on Robeson's support.



When the Cold War intensified, when the corporations succeeded in splitting the CIO, Robeson was driven from the stage and from many union halls. For many years, he was denied a passport to leave the USA to pursue his career abroad--at the same time he was denied the right to make a living here.

But this never broke Robeson's spirit or his confidence in the working people and their cause. He remains one of labor's heroes--and the new generation in labor will not forget it.

(continued on page 7)

## CONSENT DECREE VIOLATED

# Steel bosses use layoffs to get women out of mills

by ROBERTA WOOD  
USWA Local 65  
Chicago

In the August issue of the *65 Rank and File Voice*, I stated that many of the hard-won gains of women in the steel industry were being lost due to the massive layoffs. U.S. Steel is deliberately using layoffs to get rid of many of the women it was forced to hire.

Last year, the Alloy Bar Mill had more female employees than any other department at Southworks. Everyone of these women had been hired between August, 1973, and June, 1974. U.S. Steel could report to the public and to the government that it had made great progress in the hiring of women. But there was never any intention of really making these women a permanent part of the workforce, only statistics that U.S.S. could claim credit for hiring. The Alloy Bar Mill is an obsolete operation and it was slated for total shutdown. Can you blame the women for thinking that that's why they were placed there in the first place?

As proof of its bad faith, the Company hired scores of brand new employees off the

street into many departments (such as the Rod Mill, the Mason Department, the Power Division) back in February and March while refusing to give the laid-off Bar Mill employees a chance to start in another department, knowing full well that the women's chances of returning to the Alloy Bar Mill were practically zero.

### QUESTIONS THAT DESERVE A STRAIGHT ANSWER

Why weren't the jobs for which these new employees were hired posted plant-wide as required by the Consent Decree? Why, when at the same time a male and a female employee both requested transfers to the Rod Mill, was the male who had less service, granted his request, while the female was refused? In August, when some workers were called back to the Alloy Bar Mill Billet Dock, why were the women, who had incumbency to the job of grinder, left out on layoff while shorter service male employees were broken in on their jobs?

U.S. Steel holds the primary responsibility for this sorry situation, but it must also be said that despite the best efforts of many of the women involved, the only response from all the various union officials and grievancemen approached was a lot of buck-passing and foot-dragging.

Roberta  
Wood



Once, in June, a group of a dozen women came to the local meeting to raise these problems. President Mirocha adjourned the meeting before giving anyone a chance to speak. It almost seemed that our all-male union leadership didn't think these workers' jobs were important enough to really go to bat for them.

Is it just an accident that out of a group of more than fifty women workers (at the Alloy Bar Mill) a year ago, less than ten of these are employees today? Brothers and Sisters, we can't stand idly by while U.S. Steel boldly violates our contract, violates the Consent Decree, violates the principles of seniority--to carry out its dirty work of discrimination.



## HISTORIA DE ACERO

# Los ganados por la mujer estan perdiendo en la industria

por ROBERTA WOOD  
USWA Local 65  
Chicago

En el número de agosto del "65 Rank and File Voice" afirmé que muchos de los adelantos ganados con muchas penas por la mujer en la industria del acero se están perdiendo debido a los ceses en masa, prometí en éste número probar la forma en que U.S. Steel está usando deliberadamente los ceses para deshacerse de muchas de las mujeres que fueron forzados a dar empleo y es en la siguiente forma; El año pasado el "Alloy Bar Mill" tenía mas mujeres empleadas que cualquier otro departamento habiendo sido empleadas entre agosto de 1973 y junio

de 1974, así U.S. Steel podía reportar al gobierno y al público que había hecho grandes progresos en el empleo de mujeres, pero realmente nunca tuvieron intenciones de hacer éstas mujeres parte permanente de las fuerzas trabajadoras sino solamente las querían para fines de estadísticas por el momento. El "Alloy Bar Mill" es una instalación anticuada que ya estaba destinada a cerrarse. No se puede culpar a éstas mujeres por pensar que ésta fue la razón por la que fueron puestas allí.

Como prueba de su mala fé la compañía contrató muchos nuevos empleados en varios departamentos (como en el "Rod Mill" y el departamento de albanilería) durante febrero y marzo y rehusando dar oportunidad en otro departamento a los empleados que fueron cesados en el "Alloy Bar Mill" sabiendo perfectamente que las probabilidades de las mujeres de volver a dicho molino son prácticamente cero.

### ALGUNAS PREGUNTAS QUE MERECE UNA RESPUESTA DIRECTA

¿Por qué las vacancias que llenaron los nuevos empleados no fueron postualdas en toda la planta como es requerido en el acuerdo? ¿Por qué cuando al mismo tiempo una mujer y un hombre emplea dos del "Alloy Bar Mill" solicitaron ser transferidos a "Rod Mill," fue el hombre que tenía menos servicio al que fue otorgada la transferencia y la mujer fue rechazada.

En Agosto cuando algunos trabajadores fueron llamados para el "Alloy Bar Mill Billet Dock." ¿Por qué las 3 mujeres que tenían incumbencia en ese trabajo de "grinders" fueron dejadas en cese mientras que empleados hombres fueron llamados y entrenados en ese trabajo?

A pesar de grandes esfuerzos de muchas de las mujeres, la única respuesta que obtenían de los oficiales de la unión y de los representantes de agravios que fueron inquiridos fue un montón de dilataciones, en una ocasión en junio un grupo de 12 mujeres fueron a la asamblea del local a enfocar estos problemas pero el presidente Mirocha suspendió la asamblea sin dar la oportunidad de hablar a nadie, lo que demostró claramente de hombres no piensan que estos trabajos son suficientemente importantes para luchar por ellos.

No es posible creer que es puramente accidental que del grupo de mujeres trabajadoras que estaban hace un año, menos de 10 están empleadas hoy en día. Hermanas y hermanos pongamos fin a ésta situación en donde.

U.S. Steel descaradamente viole nuestro contrato, viole el acuerdo, viole los principios de antigüedad para llevar a cabo su sucio trabajo de discriminación.

Labor  
Today

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Election special

# Labor's stake in the '76 elections

by LABOR TODAY Staff

Any way one looks at it, the 1976 Presidential elections pose some tough questions for the rank and file movement. Never has the need for independent labor political action been more clear.

In 1976 we are faced with the possibility of the most anti-labor and racist candidates capturing both the Republican and the Democratic nominations.



On the Republican side, both Ford and Reagan are darlings of the most anti-labor, pro-business elements of the Republican Party. Ford's record of vetoing every decent piece of legislation that Congress manages to pass is very clear. He has been anti-labor from the very start. Ronald Reagan, if anything, is even worse than Ford. Reagan is the favorite son of General Electric--which will spearhead the 1976 negotiations with the most pronounced union-busting tactics. Not since Barry Goldwater's nomination in 1964 have the big business elements had such a field day.



On the Democratic side, George Wallace and Henry M. Jackson represent the same anti-labor, racist groupings of the monopoly corporations. They represent the other side of the same anti-labor, pro-monopoly coin.

Wallace and Jackson are making even more brazen appeals to racist sentiments in their campaigns, in an open effort to split Black and white workers. Despite all efforts to paint Jackson as a "liberal" with a "good labor record" and Wallace as a "populist" and "man of the people," their campaigns have become the rallying ground for big business and monopoly in the Democratic Party.

Wallace, Jackson, Ford and Reagan represent a corporate monopoly gang-up on the 1976 elections. They represent a major threat

to Black-white unity and to the working people. They must be stopped.

Some of the other Democratic candidates are trying to move over and cozy up to the positions of Wallace and Jackson. If they think that this will gain them the support of the trade union movement and the working people, they are sadly mistaken. To the extent they try to echo Wallace and Jackson against busing--they will lose. To the extent they try to echo Wallace and Jackson against detente and peaceful coexistence--they will lose.

The issues in the 1976 Presidential election are how to get out of this economic crisis. How are we to end unemployment? How are we to end inflation? How are we to assure that everyone has a decent home? Decent medical care? Decent schools for all? How are we to assure that everyone can live in peace without the threat of war?

Some of the other candidates have begun to speak out more clearly on these issues. Some of them have stuck to their guns for school integration and have resisted the cheap opportunism of the racist appeals.

As we have said, some of the candidates are better than others.

But all of them would be a whole lot better if the labor movement were building a fire under them on the issues! If the labor movement were in the streets and organizing to run more workers for elected office, some of these "friends of labor" would drop away--and some would get a whole lot friendlier.

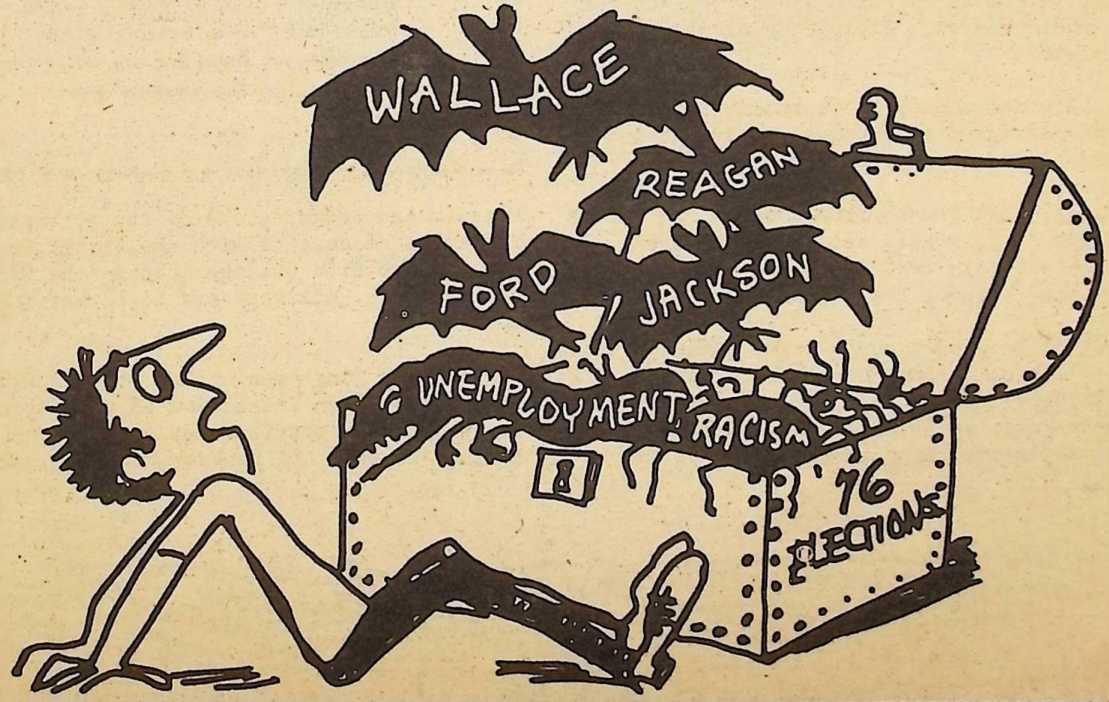
Labor's independent political action, its own program and a willingness to run its own candidates (apart from the two-party system if necessary), is the key to changing the line-up of political forces in this country. In West Virginia, the United Mine Workers have been running their own members for the state legislature. Think what an effect it would have if every union would run its members for political office on the union's program!



"Sometimes it's not enough to elect a friend of labor," a UMW official has said. "We have to learn how to be our own friends!"

It's time to put all of the candidates on notice. We are fed up with cliches and talk about Tweedledum and Tweedledumber.

It's time to make all of the candidates learn that they have to relate to the real needs of the rank and file. And the best way to do that is to build our own movement based on the real issues and with the potential of running our own candidates.



# Jackson's record marked by racism and war-mongering

by LABOR TODAY Staff

Senator Henry M. Jackson has a "good labor record." That's why he is the darling of AFL-CIO topsiders as the 1976 elections draw near. It is a reason to re-examine the COPE scores for errors.

Recent reviews of Jackson's voting record have punctured the myth of his domestic liberalism. The "good record" ain't so good.

"On major domestic policy issues, Senator Jackson has been one of the most conservative non-Southern Democrats in the Senate in the last two decades," a report by the Americans for Democratic Action said last summer. During the 1969-1973 years, Jackson became, according to ADA, a "Nixon Republican," voting to support Nixon's domestic programs more often than but a few Senate Democrats (Dixiecrats).

ADA also questioned Jackson's liberalism on civil rights. It said that although Jackson usually voted with the non-Southern Democratic majority on final passage of major civil rights bills, "he cast many important votes to limit those acts with restrictive amendments." ADA characterized his record on civil rights as "weak and silent."

Jackson showed where he stood in 1972 when he proposed an anti-busing amendment to the Constitution.

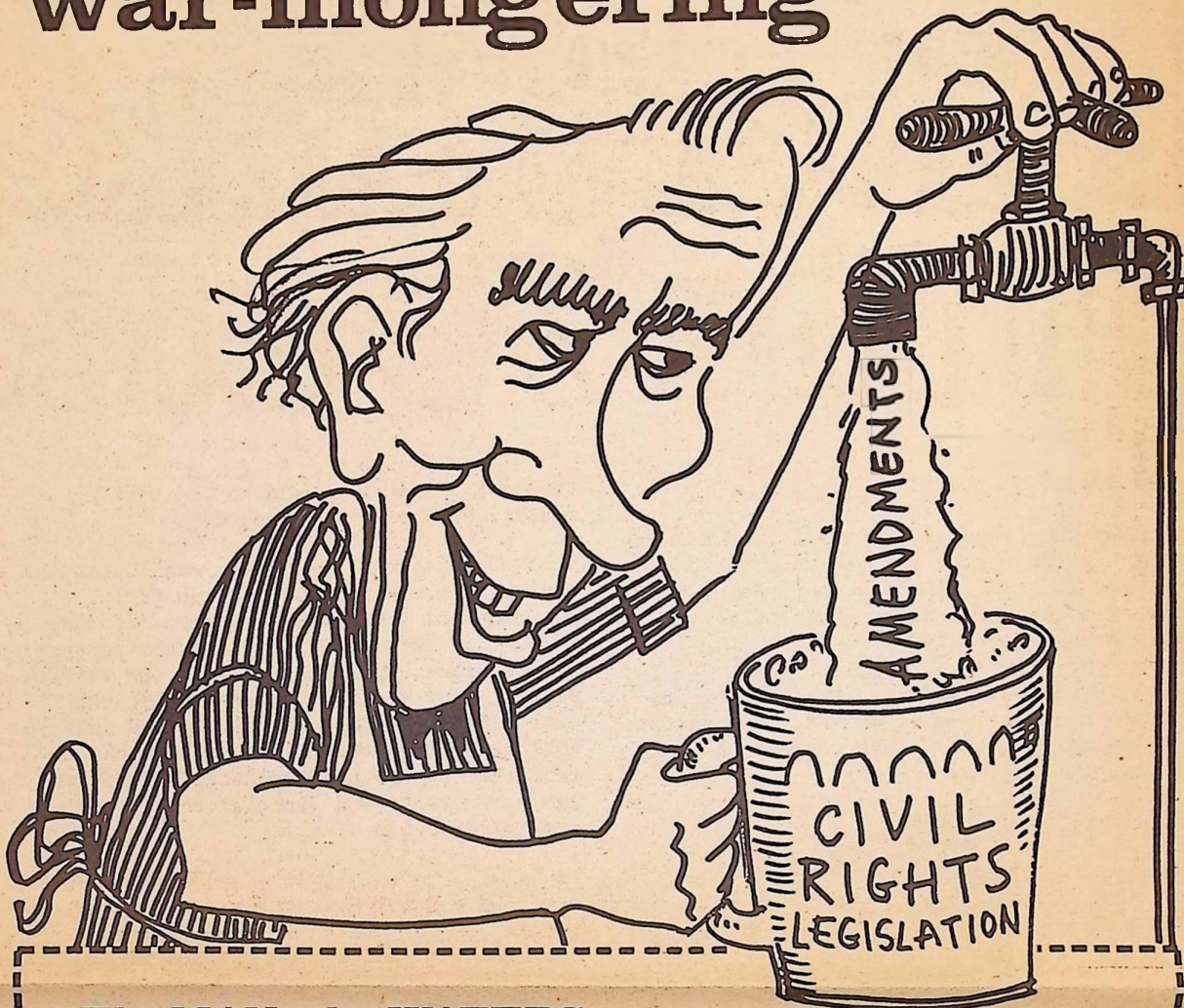
But one doesn't have to look to 1972 for evidence that Jackson hasn't been a fighter for civil rights. ADA discovered that since Jackson was elected to Congress in 1941, "there is not a single speech of his in the Congressional Record on racial equality or civil rights."

In 1943, however, Jackson did speak out against proposals to release interned Japanese-Americans from the shameful concentration camps so hastily erected in the early war hysteria. "It makes no difference whether he is an American citizen or not," said Jackson, "A Jap is a Jap." Jackson justified the confiscation of Japanese-American homes, lands and businesses and their detention in concentration camps. "Now that we are at war with Japan, we need not be concerned with diplomatic niceties," he said.

Jackson denounced the "economic stranglehold possessed by Japanese residents on the domestic economy of our country."

Strange talk indeed from someone who boasts of his civil rights record. Jackson has never publicly repudiated his war-time statements about the Japanese.

Many of Jackson's supporters, while praising his "liberal" stand on domestic issues, willingly concede that he is one of the saber-rattling hawks of the Senate. Jackson was a die-hard supporter of the war in



## The MAN who WATERS the WORKERS' BEER

Words by Paddy Ryan, to the tune of "A Rambling Wreck from Georgia Tec."

CHORUS: I'm the man, the very fat man  
That waters the workers' beer.  
Yes, I'm the man, the very fat man  
That waters the workers' beer.  
What do I care if it makes them ill,  
Or it makes them terribly queer?  
I've a car, a yacht, and an aeroplane,  
And I waters the workers' beer.

2. A drop of good beer is good for a man  
Who's thirsty, tired, and hot,  
And sometimes I has a drop for myself  
From a very special lot;  
But a fat and healthy working class  
Is the thing that I most fear,  
So I reaches my hand for the water tap  
And I waters the workers' beer.

1. When I makes the workers' beer  
I puts in strychnine,  
Some methylated spirits  
And a drop of paraffin.  
But since a brew so terribly strong  
Might make them terribly queer,  
I reaches my hand for the water tap  
And I waters the workers' beer.

3. Now ladies fair, beyond compare,  
Be ye maid or wife,  
Oh, sometimes lend a thought for one  
Who leads a wand'ring life.  
The water rates are shockingly high  
And chemicals are so dear,  
So there isn't the profit there used to be  
When I water the workers' beer.

Vietnam and today is one of the strongest opponents of detente with the Soviet Union. He has advocated belligerence in the Middle East and U.S. military aid to Israel and to Iran.

Jackson has long been called "the Senator from Boeing," an indication of his support for political contributions such as the Boeing Aircraft Co. However, Jackson also

has drawn most of his political funds from Boeing and other similarly-inclined friends such as paper firms Weyerhaeuser, Crown-Zellerbach, Simpson Timber and other giants. Many of the firms that enthusiastically supported Nixon with big contributions also supported Jackson.

With "friends of labor" like this--who needs enemies?





**RANK & FILE LAID GROUNDWORK**

# Labor political independence sparks three Chicago elections

by JIM WILLIAMS, Co-Editor  
LABOR TODAY

**RALPH METCALFE**

The fight for labor's political independence in Chicago has been bolstered by the rise of the rank and file movement in Steel, the fight against inflation and unemployment and the struggle against racism and the Daley machine. In three important elections, the rank and file is playing a key role. In one place to support an incumbent, in another to unseat an incumbent in the Democratic primary and in yet another to run a trade unionist as independent from either major party.

**MIRIAM BALANOFF**

Congressman Ralph Metcalfe has long had a good labor record, piling up an impressive COPE score over the years. But he incurred the ire of Chicago Mayor Richard Daley when Metcalfe went on a campaign to end police brutality in Daley's police force. As a result, Daley is mounting a major effort to replace him with a more pliable candidate.

The key force in mobilising for Metcalfe has been Chicago's Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and Black Labor Leaders. They waged a successful struggle in Illinois COPE to block the pro-Daley forces and to reaffirm labor support for Metcalfe. As a result, the First Congressional District COPE has become a new center of activity for involving the rank and file in political activity.

On Chicago's south-side, near the steel mills, the wife of a steelworker and a Sadlowski activist is challenging the Daley incumbent in the 30th Legislative District Democratic Primary election. Miriam Balanoff, an attorney and the first woman to seek the office, is basing her campaign on a program of jobs for the unemployed, opposition to public utility rate increases, tax reform, better medical facilities and adequate funding for education. Many of the steelworkers who were active in the Sadlowski campaign for Director of District 31, USWA, are now working to elect one of their people to public office.

Many trade unionists are excited that the movement for democratic, progressive trade unionism that they have built is beginning to generate political campaigns to carry the same concerns for justice into public life.

On Chicago's north side, in the 11th Legislative District, Morris Davidson, Vice-President of Meatcutters Local 43-L and a leader of the Rogers Park Committee against Inflation and Unemployment is running as an independent. The fight against the effects of the economic crisis on the north side has demonstrated to these community and labor activists that they need to seek better representation in the state legislature. The notion of running a candidate as an in-



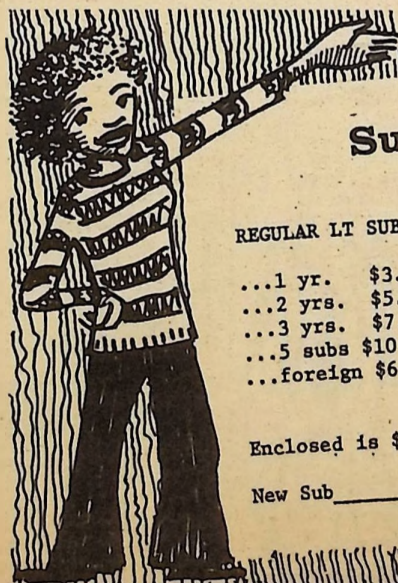
**MORRIS DAVIDSON**



dependent arose as a fear that the Daley forces would win the primary elections--leaving people of good will nowhere to turn in the general election.

The fact that the Committee Against Inflation and Unemployment turned to Davidson, a long-time friend of LABOR TODAY, should be no surprise. Davidson's ability and skill as a trade union leader are well-known in the community. People have said, "If a guy can fight the monopolies like that in the shop--think what he could do in the legislature!"

These three campaigns contain food for thought for trade unionists. Each of them, though they take different forms, have been touched and influenced by the rank and file movement. If it can be done in Chicago, it can be done elsewhere.



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# Ford and Reagan: darlings of Big Business

by LABOR TODAY Staff

Gerald Ford took over as the first unelected President of the United States five months before the "veto proof" 94th Congress convened.

By the end of 1975, Ford had vetoed more than 40 bills that had been passed by majorities in both the House and Senate.

Ford has vetoed emergency job bills that would have provided jobs for one and a half million unemployed. He has vetoed tax cuts and dozens of other bills of immediate importance to working people.

Despite the deepening economic crisis, Ford has given his attention to the needs of big business and corporate monopolies. His vetoes and threats of vetoes slowed down and stopped dozens of measures to help the working people. Never before in U.S. history has a President exercised such dictatorial power.

What could possibly be worse than Ford?

The answer is Ronald Reagan. Reagan is the candidate of those sections of big business that think they can get away with even more crimes against the working people. So far Reagan has said that he wants to do away with the \$90 billion segment of the federal budget that goes to help the people and he wants to do away with detente.

The fact that big business has had such a field day during the Nixon and Ford Administrations, has whetted their appetites to such a point where they are willing to push

## Read 'Em and Weep: the Budget-Busting Story of Seven Years of GOP Economics

The full seven years of GOP incumbency have been devastating to American workers. In addition to the highest rates of unemployment since the 1930s, inflation—constant and high—has wrecked the budgets of most working people and cancelled out their wage increases.

The Nixon bite into worker's living standards was the biggest, but Ford's has been big enough to hurt. The rate of inflation's increase has slowed, but it still rises at a pace fast enough to wipe out wage boosts. In terms of actual purchasing power, worker's wages now buy less than they did 10 years ago, thanks to Nixonomics and its successor Fog-onomics.

The chart below shows the steady pace of inflation under the Nixon and Ford policies, and the toll it's taken where it hurts most, in the market-basket.

### Retail food prices

Item		NIXON		FORD		
		Jan. 1969	Jan. 1973	Aug. 1974	Sept. 1975	Nov. 1975
Corn flakes	12 oz.	31.5¢	30.7¢	42.3¢	51.8¢	51.7¢
White bread	lb.	22.8	24.9	34.6	35.0	35.3
Round steak	lb.	\$1.187	\$1.559	\$1.829	\$1.937	\$1.955
Chuck roast	lb.	65.3	85.3	\$1.022	\$1.077	\$1.073
Hamburger	lb.	57.6	78.2	94.8	90.1	90.4
Bacon	lb.	79.8	\$1.073	\$1.326	\$2.113	\$2.045
Hot dogs	lb.	71.6	93.3	\$1.101	\$1.260	\$1.266
Frying chicken	lb.	39.1	44.0	53.5	69.9	66.5
Frozen perch	lb.	54.6	87.6	\$1.073	\$1.162	\$1.212
Frozen haddock	lb.	69.1	\$1.157	\$1.505	\$1.514	\$1.521
Tuna fish	6½ oz. can	35.1	46.5	58.5	60.0	60.1
Milk (grocery)	½ gallon	54.6	60.6	77.5	77.7	80.2
Cheese, American	8 oz.	45.4	55.9	70.9	77.9	84.0
Butter	lb.	84.3	87.4	90.5	\$1.071	\$1.176
Potatoes	10 lb.	75.5	\$1.034	\$1.515	\$1.365	\$1.419
Onions	lb.	13.4	20.3	21.7	26.7	23.0
Frozen orange juice	6 oz. can	22.4	25.0	25.7	28.2	28.6
Eggs	doz.	66.4	73.9	71.1	79.9	78.1
Sugar	5 lb.	61.0	70.6	\$1.744	\$1.604	\$1.362
Coffee	1 lb. can	76.5	96.1	\$1.290	\$1.332	\$1.488
Coffee, instant	6 oz.	90.5	\$1.103	\$1.458	\$1.594	\$1.736
Spaghetti, can	15½ oz.	17.1	19.9	24.5	26.8	26.8

candidates who want to go all the way in wiping out the progressive legislation won by the labor movement during the last thirty years.

### The costly impact of Ford's job vetoes

Bill, Veto Date, Vote on Original Passage	House Vote on Over-ride	Impact of Veto
HR 4481, May 28—passed Senate by voice vote, House 293-109 (R: 49-91; D: 244-18)	277-155; five votes short (R: 19-123; D: 258-22)	Bill would have created more than 900,000 jobs, provided needed public works projects, summer youth employment, work-study programs
HR 4485, June 24—passed Senate 72-24 (R: 14-22; D: 58-2); House 253-155 (R: 28-111; D: 225-44)	265-157; 16 votes short (R: 19-122; D: 249-35)	Would have created 450,000 jobs in housing industry which suffered 21.8% unemployment at the time; offered temporary subsidies for home purchase by middle-income families




And this chart shows how over-all cost of living, though rising at a slower pace than in the Nixon years, still spirals at an abnormally high rate under Ford's Fog-onomic policies. It's gone up a total of 11.7 percent as of January 1976 from August 1974 when Ford moved into the White House.

### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1967 = 100)

1974 Aug	149.9	1975 Apr	158.6
Sep	151.7	May	159.3
Oct	153.0	June	160.6
Nov	154.3	July	162.3
Dec	155.4	Aug	162.8
		Sep	163.6
1975 Jan	156.1	Oct	164.6
Feb	157.2	Nov	165.6
Mar	157.8	Dec	166.4
		1976 Jan	167.5 est.

### President Ford recruits an army to fight inflation



write on 

## MORE ON 'DESTABILIZING' THE UMW

To the Editors:

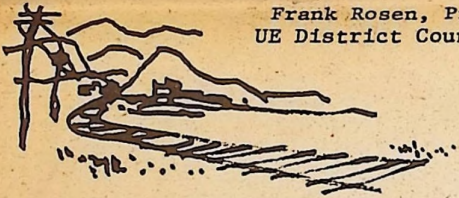
Fred Gaboury's article "Destablizing the UMW" presents a balanced view of that union and its leadership. The article says a number of things that needed to be said about the internal and external enemies of genuine rank and file movements in the UMW. LABOR TODAY has traditionally held a realistic approach to the proper role of leadership and rank and file.

I am disturbed, however, at the way Gaboury posed the issue of Miller ordering striking miners back to work. He makes sure we know that Miller did this, but then expresses no opinion on the correctness or incorrectness of this action. It seems to me that since LT and Gaboury raised the issue, they have an obligation to express an opinion.

For whatever it's worth, let me say that, in my opinion, Miller had no choice but to order the miners back to work. To defy the courts at that point would have impoverished the union and laid it bare to destruction by the Coal Operators and the Boyle forces. He did what he had to do to preserve the union to fight another day.

Principled and militant working class leaders are not afraid to retreat when retreat is necessary. We get better readings on the qualities of our leaders in adversity than we do when they are winning. Miller bit the bullet and demonstrated political courage in a difficult situation.

Frank Rosen, President  
UE District Council #11  
Chicago



To the Editors:

Fred Gaboury's article "Destablizing the UMW" in the January issue of LT was an important illumination of the scurrulous role on the part of the coal operators, including U.S. Steel, the Tony Boyle forces within the union, and other enemies of democratic trade unionism to reverse the historic rank and file victory of the Mineworkers.

Brother Gaboury refers to some of the disruptive, outside forces as "radicals" or "communists." As National Labor Secretary of the Communist Party, U.S.A., I would like to clarify something on this point:

We Communists firmly reject the splitting tactics of these phoney "radical" outfits who attempt to latch onto the Mineworkers and other sections of the trade union movement, and we hasten to assure the readers of LABOR TODAY that the CPUSA works for the unity of the rank and file miners and labor as a whole.

In the past number of years, we have seen the blossoming of a variety of phoney left groups, all claiming to be "communists." This is an attempt to trade upon the good name of our Party and the credit it has earned for the role we have played in helping to build the very unions these fink groups are trying to tear down.

We denounce these disruptive elements in the strongest possible terms. If many are

not actually in the pay of the companies, they are certainly doing the companies' work for them.

We appreciate the absolute need for rank and file unity, and the role LABOR TODAY is playing in fighting for that unity. Just keep in mind that because such groups call themselves "communist," it ain't necessarily so. They are disrupters, phonies and finks--that's what they should be called.

George Meyers  
New York City

To the Editors:

Usually I can't find time to write a "letter to the editor" and such. But your excellent article on "Destablizing the UMW" impressed me so much that I feel strongly urged to write you of this appreciation--and understanding.

However, your article seems to imply or adumbrate much more than is said. Perhaps it isn't good to say it at this point. Back several months ago here in southern West Virginia, as you know, things got really rough and ugly. There were certain elements, mainly what we here sometimes call "fetched on" people, young or former students who had gone to work in the mines for some purpose other than earning a living. Some of them are former Appalachian Volunteers or VISTAS who were part of the "War on Poverty" (which poverty won) a few years back. There are some organizations, too, in Appalachia, mainly pushed by these kind of folk--October League, Revolutionary Union and such--that sometimes thrust themselves into these situations. I am not as sure as your article seems to imply that they are always agents of FBI, CIA, etc. Certainly some of them must be. In any event they see short cuts to the revolution, and in my opinion in centering the attack so much on Arnold Miller's leadership, played a negative role. The National Guardian took

## Slavery, a blot on 1776 (continued from page 1)

The slaves were not passive during these debates, nor were they content to leave their fate to the outcome of intellectual debates among the slave-owning class. In addition to many revolts and rebellions, there were numerous petitions to the revolutionary legislatures of the colonies, stating the dedication of Blacks to the ideals of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" and demanding, with occasional success, that the revolutionaries live up to their rhetoric.

During the war itself, thousands of slaves escaped to the British, who had promised freedom to any slave who could get to them. It is estimated that as many as 100,000 may have succeeded in escaping in this fashion, although the British treacherously resold many of them into a harsh slavery in the West Indies.

There was tremendous opposition at first to allowing any Blacks, particularly slaves, to serve in the Revolutionary army, but many

SORRY!

The subhead "National Leadership Rejected" that accompanied our story "CLUW'S Second Convention Continues Fight for Rights" in the February issue of LT was a typographical error. It should have read "National Leadership Re-Elected." Our apologies to our readers and to CLUW.

more or less the same super-revolutionary line. Had this element been able to hold out it might have been disastrous for the union.

Your emphasis upon the critical importance of rank and file participation is basic. I happen to have been around Appalachia and coal mines for a long time. In the 1930's, as a miner and later organizer in east Kentucky, I knew from first hand the John L. Lewis tactic. Just this week our area public TV station has been putting on a drama called an evening with John L. Lewis under the title SINGLY NONE. It is, I suppose, maybe helpful; at least it does not attack the union, but does glorify Lewis. No mention of rank and file, no mention of Lewis' strong arm tactics in building an apparatus to set himself up as absolute dictator of the union. The best thing about it are the songs, many by left-wing rank and file folk who were at the time hounded by Lewis' cohorts. Seeing the drama is like, reliving history to me, minus the negatives in the Lewis camp. For, actually, as you say, the Miller election is the first time rank and file voice has had the mike. I hope you may sometime see fit to tell more of the story of disruption which your article began so well.

Don West  
Pipestem, W.Va.



## BRIDGES GREET'S LT

To the Editors:

Thanks plenty for your warm message to the testimonial dinner for me.

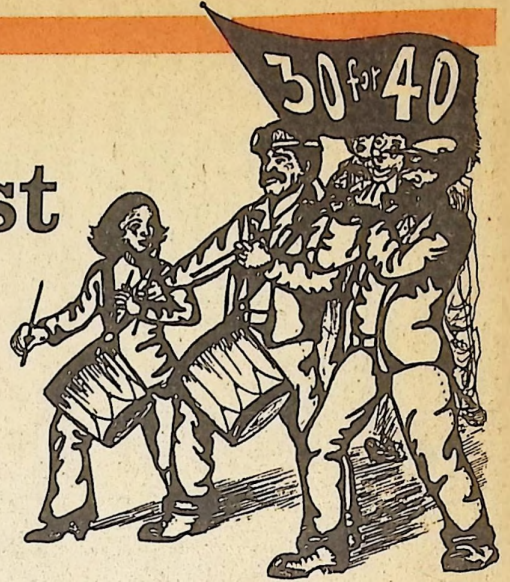
Of course, I get LABOR TODAY regularly and I hope you can get it to grow and prosper.

Harry Bridges, President  
International Longshoremen's  
and Warehousemen's Union  
San Francisco



FOR THE SHORTER WORK WEEK

# Greet May 1st in Labor Today



Dear Friend:

On May 4th, Chicago and all the working people of the world will mark the 90th anniversary of the Haymarket Riot of 1886. The riots came during a nation-wide strike on May 1, called by the Knights of Labor and union organizations in support of the eight-hour day.

In honor of the Chicago workers who were martyred and of the militancy of the U.S. labor movement, the International Working Men's Association named May 1st as International Labor Day in 1890.

LABOR TODAY feels that it is time the U.S. labor movement began to reclaim May 1st as its own special day.

Certainly, the theme of the shorter workday is just as important today as it was in 1886. What better way to affirm our recommitment to the struggle for the shorter workday than by observing this historic day?

And, again, what better way to mark the day than to support LABOR TODAY, which has convened leadership in the struggle for a shorter workday, economic and social justice, world peace and the end of racism?

LABOR TODAY will offer you an opportunity to support International Labor Day and a shorter workday in its

offerings may be purchased for your union, rank and file groups, or other organizations may be purchased for you.

Order your greetings must be in our hands no later than April 1.

The Editors and Staff  
of LABOR TODAY

Retail food prices at a pace faster than they did 10 years ago. Now, however, shows the steady pace of inflation under the new administration. Of course, the rate of inflation is most, in the market-basket.

## MAY DAY GREETING

LABOR TODAY, Room 600  
343 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

The greeting should read:

I want to contribute to the struggle for a shorter workday and to help build LABOR TODAY by publishing a greeting in the May, 1976 issue.

I understand that an individual greeting of one column inch comes for \$10. Also, that group/organizational greetings come for \$25 and up.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Local \_\_\_\_\_ Union \_\_\_\_\_

