Justice Speaks is the newspaper of Black Workers For Justice. Published monthly, eleven times per year, the Speaks is dedicated to the movement for Black Liberation, the struggle of the Black Working Class for justice and power in the workplace and in the community, and the fight of all oppressed people both within the U.S. and internationally against the forces of exploitation and misery.
"Even entrenched problems like the South African Government and its racial policies could be tackled on this level. If just two countries, Britain and the United States, could be persuaded to end all economic interaction with the South African regime, they could bring that government to its knees in a relatively short time."

MLK Jr. 1967

"The South is labor's other deep menace. Lower wage rates and improved transportation have magnetically attracted industry. The widespread, deeply rooted Negro poverty in the South weakens the wage scale there for the white as well as the Negro. Beyond that a low wage structure in the South becomes a heavy pressure on higher wages in the North.

MLK Jr. 10/7/65
WE WANT TO COVER YOUR STRUGGLE!

Justice Speaks welcomes stories about the problems, issues, struggles, and campaigns of Black people and all oppressed people anywhere in the U.S. and around the world. Please send clippings, photos, graphics, or cartoons to be published with your story or for use with other stories. We are especially interested in news and struggles taking place in the Southeast and in struggles taking place in various industries throughout the South and around the country. Letters to the editor, comments, and criticisms are welcome. Include your name, address, and phone number with all materials. (Note: Justice Speaks reserves the right to determine editorial content.)

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ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27802

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JUSTICE SPEAKS!
THE BLACK WORKERS FOR JUSTICE
P.O. BOX 1863 ROCKY MOUNT, N.C. 27801

BLACK WORKER'S DAY
APRIL 4TH
On April 4, 1968 in Memphis Tennessee, Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated for speaking out in support of the black sanitation workers who were protesting against the city's racist treatment.

In March 1968, the Memphis sanitation workers were all sent home with partial pay due to bad weather. However, the white workers were paid for four hours, while the black workers were only paid for two hours. After several formal requests were made by the workers and local groups (without success) that this injustice be corrected, the workers went on strike in protest; and along with a number of civic and church groups held a mass demonstration and rally in downtown Memphis, where Dr. Martin Luther King made his famous and last speech: "I've been to the mountain top".

Despite the threats made against his life if he "showed up" in Memphis, Dr. King courageously stepped forward in Memphis in support of the struggle of black workers.

By supporting the struggle black workers, Dr. King was saying that "Freedom" is more than having a few black faces in "high places". By going to Memphis, he was saying that black workers must take a leading role in the struggles of all black people against racist national oppression and of all workers against the worse conditions of economic exploitation.

At a time when many young black men were being sent to Vietnam to die in an UNJUST WAR, Dr. King was murdered for trying to hold America to its promises under the Constitution of, "Freedom, Justice, Equality and the Pursuit of Happiness" for black and poor people "at home". Employed and unemployed, the black worker even today, is the most victimized by America's broken promises.

By recognizing April 4th, as BLACK WORKERS' DAY, the struggle of the black worker becomes a symbol in commemoration of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King.

In commemorating the death of Dr. Martin Luther King/Black Workers' Day on April 4th, we are asking ALL WORKERS (employed and unemployed) to wear black armbands to work and in the community, to hold discussions and programs about Dr. King and the conditions of black workers. SUPPORT BLACK WORKERS' DAY!
In a small town named Fremont, located in Wayne County of North Carolina, with a population of 4000, of which 40% are black, there is a sawmill owned by the Hardwood Dimension's Company. Hardwood has four other mills, located in Dunn, N.C., Whitesville, N.C., New Bern, N.C., and Memphis Tennessee. The mills make wood parts for the furniture industry.

The Fremont mill is about 30 years old, although the main mill building itself is much older. Since the opening of the mill up until recently, the workers have never had an organization that could help them take up the struggle for job improvements and for the right to organize a union to have some power and say so over the conditions of their labor.

As a result, the working conditions faced by the millworkers is a form of slavery. For example: the workers must inhale a lot of sawdust, because the mill has no ventilation system; the mill has poor lighting; and the equipment is unsafe and outdated.

On top of this, what the millworkers get for their labor, in terms of pay and benefits, is even a greater insult to them as human beings. Would you be happy with this?
the majority of the workers make less than $4.00 an hour.
* they don't have any paid vacation days.
* they don't have any paid sick days.
* they don't have a retirement or pension plan.
* they don't have a grievance system.
* they don't have a company policy handbook.
* they have a very poor medical insurance coverage.
* the life insurance coverage was cut from $10,000 to $5,000, but the workers pay the same as for the $10,000.
* the workers last pay raise was in 1978, for .25 cents.
* they had a 10% pay cut for 22 weeks this year.

Many of the workers felt that nothing could be done to improve the working conditions at the mill. They never held a meeting among themselves to share their true feelings about the mill. And the community as a whole, even though most of the workers live in Fremont, didn't really know what was happening at the mill. This last point had alot to do with the fact, that most of the workers are very proud men with families, who did not want to admit publicly that they were working under such terrible conditions.

However, in March of 1982, after the millworkers had their pay cut by 10%, several of them came together and decided that something had to be done about changing the working conditions at the mill. They contacted "The Black Workers For Justice" about helping them to form a "workplace committee" and develop a plan of action for the mill. ("The Black Workers For Justice" is a growing organization of black workers from different industries, united to struggle for better working conditions that would benefit all workers, and to insure that black workers have a strong base from which to lead those struggles against problems that especially affect them.)

It was decided that the identity of the "workplace committee" would not be publicly known, until there was a strong enough movement among the workers at the mill and among the people in the town of Fremont, that was able and willing to at least wage a campaign against the company if necessary in their defense. However, the effects of the existance and work of this "workplace committee", is being very much felt among
the other workers at the mill and the people throughout Fremont, especially in the black community more each day. Several leaflets have been passed out at the mill and in the community. Open meetings have been held at a local church. On August 28, 1982, 25 members and supporters of "The Black Workers For Justice" from five different towns and cities, came to Fremont for a door to door campaign, calling on the community to build a movement to help the workers gain strength in their struggle at the mill. That afternoon, a union organizer spoke at a meeting where some of the millworkers and their relatives attended. On the pay week after the door to door campaign, the millworkers got their 10% pay back, which had been cut for 22 weeks.

The Fremont mill is one of the two largest mills out of the five owned by Hardwood Dimension's. The other one is located in Dunn, N.C. These two mills are the only ones able to do a finished product. They can either make or break the whole company.

The production workforce at the Fremont mill is over 95% black. At the Dunn mill, black workers make up about 50% of the production workforce. The black workers must therefore, play a major and leading role in the struggles throughout Hardwood Dimension's, if any real progress is going to be made.

The black workers at the Fremont mill, openly represented by the work and spokespersons of "The Black Workers For Justice", have begun taking the early steps to build the base, that could aid the development of struggles at the other four Hardwood Dimension's mills.

The forming of the "workplace committee" by the millworkers at the Fremont mill, has given hope to the workers about their power to bring about changes at the mill. Their plight is known throughout their community and in many other workplaces and communities in North Carolina and throughout the country. If workers always accept bad treatment in return for their hard work, without fighting against it, they will first die on the inside as human beings, than their communities will die because the workers are their most powerful human force.

Fremont won't die, because the workers struggle will keep it alive!

WATCH OUT MILL, CHANGE GONNA COME!

WATCH OUT MILL, CHANGE GONNA COME!
THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE, IS DETERMINED BY
THE DEGREE OF POWER THAT ITS WORKING CLASS
HAS TO CONTROL THE CONDITIONS OF ITS LABOR
AND THE POLITICS OF ITS COMMUNITY AND NATION!

JOIN THE BLACK WORKERS FOR JUSTICE, AND HELP
ORGANIZE THE POWER OF THE BLACK WORKING CLASS.
YOUR COMMUNITY AND NATION DEPENDS ON IT!

WRITE: THE BLACK WORKERS FOR JUSTICE, P.O. BOX 1863,
ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA, 27801
This country finds itself today in the worst economic crisis since the 1930's. The issue "jobs and income" is the most pressing fact of life for the working poor. In Eastern N.C., where the working poor live in small towns, cities and rural farming areas, employment related issues are even more critical to survival because of the scarcity of jobs in places factories and mills, as well as the forever decreasing number of farm related jobs.

The loss of jobs or poor working conditions, effects not only the health or productiveness of the working poor as citizens in their communities, but also their families (i.e., utilities cut-offs, debts, stress, etc.) and the economic and social well being of their communities.

The working poor must become more aware of their many job related problems, and the various ways of overcoming them.
The following survey is aimed at gathering information about the job related conditions and problems faced by the working poor in Eastern N.C. When filling out the survey, you don't have to give your name, address or the name of your employer. We do need to know the name of the county that you live in and the type of work that you do if you are working. Thank you for your help.

1. What county do you live in? __________________
2. What type of work do you do? Industrial _ Farmwork _ Unemployed__
3. How far did you go in school before you began working? ___
4. Do you make over $4.00 an hour? yes__ no__
5. Do you get paid for holidays__ sick days__ vacation__ overtime__?
6. What if any of the following benefits do you get on your job? Medical insurance__ Life insurance__ retirement__
   Maternity__ Profit sharing__
7. Have you ever been hurt on the job because of unsafe equipment__ unsafe conditions__?
8. Have you ever been fired from a job for being injured__ sick__ pregnant?
9. Can you file a grievance against your supervisor? yes__ no__
10. Have you ever had a pay cut? yes__ no__
11. Have you ever been denied a job because of your race__ sex__ age__?
12. Have you ever joined with other workers to protest bad working conditions? yes__ no__
13. Do you belong to a union? yes__ no__
14. Do any other workers on your job belong to a union? yes__ no__
15. Do you know that under the law workers have the right to organize a union, without being bothered by their bosses?  
   yes__no
16. Are all workers on your job treated equal regardless of their race? yes__no
17. Are women respected and treated fairly on your job? yes__no
18. Have you ever been unemployed because the plant closed? yes__no
19. What is the longest amount of time you have been unemployed? _______
20. Have you ever been trained for a skilled job? yes__no
   If so, are you now doing the work that you were trained in? yes__no
21. How old are you? _____
22. Do you know that in the state of N.C., the boss don't have to have a good reason for firing a worker if he/she don't have a contract? yes__no
23. Have you ever received unemployment compensation checks? yes__no
24. Do you know that a worker can get unemployment checks if he/she is fired without a good reason? yes__no, or if he/she quits for a good reason? yes__no
25. Have you ever used Legal Services or a lawyer for a job related problem? yes__no
26. Are your nerves always on edge because of problems on your job? yes__no
27. What are the main issues need information about? _______
28. Would you like to be in contact with other workers? yes__no
Please return survey to:
ECLS P.O. Box 2688 Wilson, N.C. 27893
HARDWOOD DIMENSION’S WORKERS GET 10% BACK!

For 22 weeks, the millworkers and their families have had to live on a 10% pay cut, which at least $60.00 a month less.

The company did not care about how the millworkers were going to meet the high cost of living or make ends meet. They did not sit down with the workers to discuss the pay cut and what other things could be done in place of the pay cut. They did not tell the workers how long the pay cut would last. They just left the workers without any choice, so they thought.

However, some workers got together and decided that something had to be done. They took their problems to the Fremont community. Leaflets were passed door to door and hundreds of people were talked to. Other workers inside the mill began to talk about the need for changes at the mill. This might not sound like such a big deal, but it did make a difference. The workers started talking about the need for a union and for the community and the workers to unite!

Even though it is just a beginning, the millworkers and the community have won a victory over Hardwood Dimension’s. We must get more organized so that we can win more victories!
THE BLACK WORKERS FOR JUSTICE
P. O. BOX 1863 ROCKY MOUNT, N. C. 27801

STOP SLAVERY IN NORTH CAROLINA:
OPPOSE WORKFARE!

In June 1982, the North Carolina General Assembly, with the blessings of Reagan, Helms and Hunt, passed a bill allowing 6 counties in NC to set up Workfare programs, also known as the Community Work Experience Program. Workfare is nothing more than modern day slavery. The image which Workfare is trying to create, is that people on Welfare are "lazy and don't want to work". The truth is, that most people on welfare, are laid off, unjustly fired and disabled workers. Others, are workers who have been denied jobs because of discrimination against their race, sex and age. Many others are single female heads of households, who because of Ronald Reagan's budget cuts, have very few if any, free child care programs that would enable them to look for or hold a job. The number of "lazy people who don't want to work", compared to those that do.

The main purpose of Workfare, is to maintain a large supply of untrained cheap labor, to do government work and eventually work for industries, by forcing people to work for their Welfare checks. During slavery, the master not only worked the slaves on his plantations; he hired them out to work for others. If your labor is making a profit, either through taxes or the sale of something produced from your labor, you deserve to be paid wages. Along with not getting paid wages, look what else Workfare has to offer:

* No job insurance or workers compensation coverage for job injuries
* No paid vacation or sick leave
* Not covered by unemployment compensation
* Must pay for transportation to and from work, out of Welfare check
* Must pay for child care out of Welfare check
* If you refuse Workfare, your Welfare check can be cut off for 3 months
* Does not guarantee permanent employment or meaningful training

Non-profit organizations like churches, can have Workfare slots. This is a trick. They feel they can stop churches from opposing Workfare, by making them think that Workfare is some kind of human service program. Churches must speak out loudly against Workfare.

Why, when industry is growing as fast as it is in Nash Co., would the county set up a Workfare program? The answer is, so that those industries will keep the wages down, by threatening to replace workers with those on the Workfare program.

All people who oppose slavery, especially workers, employed and unemployed must oppose Workfare. We must sign petitions, attend meetings and join coalitions to oppose Workfare. We must demand that the Nash Co. Commissioner immediately end the Workfare program. We must demand that Reagan cut the military budget and spend money on meaningful jobs and training programs. We must also register to vote, to get the slavemasters out of government.
THE BLACK WORKERS FOR JUSTICE
P. O. BOX 1863, ROCKY MOUNT, N.C. 27801

FOOD
RENT
LIGHT
TAXES
WAGES

UNLESS THE WORKERS AT THE MILL HAVE SOME SAY ABOUT THE VALUE OF THEIR LABOR, THEY AND THEIR FAMILIES WILL ALWAYS BE AT THE MERCY OF THE COMPANY. THE 10% PAY CUT IS ONLY ONE EXAMPLE, THERE ARE OTHERS. DID YOU KNOW THAT THE WORKERS:

- HAVE NO PAID VACATION DAYS?
- HAVE NO PAID SICK DAYS?
- HAVE NO RETIREMENT OR PENSION PLAN?
- HAD THEIR INSURANCE COVERAGE CUT FROM $10,000 TO $5,000 WHILE THEY PAID THE SAME WEEKLY AMOUNT?
- HAVE NO GRIEVANCE SYSTEM?
- HAD THEIR LAST RAISE ALMOST 4 YEARS AGO, OF .25 CENTS?
- HAVE NO PROTECTION AT ALL AGAINST MISTREATMENT AND UNFAIR FIRINGS?

IF THE MILLWORKERS HAD A FIGHTING UNION, MOST IF NOT ALL OF THE ABOVE CONDITIONS WOULD CHANGE. THE WORKERS WOULD STAND TOGETHER AS AN UNDIVIDED FORCE AND REFUSE TO MAKE PROFITS FOR THE COMPANY, UNTIL CHANGES WERE MADE EVENTHOUGH THE LAW SAYS THAT EVERY WORKER HAS A RIGHT TO ORGANIZE A UNION WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING FIRED, WE SHOULD EXPECT THE COMPANY TO USE EVERY TRICK IN THE BOOK TO STOP THEM, INCLUDING FIRINGS. THE WORKERS REALIZE THEY HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE, UNLESS THEY CHOOSE TO WAIT FOR THE BOSS TO COME IN MAD ONE DAY, THEY MUST HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY IN ORDER TO WIN. THE FREMONT SLOGAN MUST BE: ORGANIZE NOW, THE WORKERS CAN'T WAIT!!!!!
OPEN LETTER TO THE FREMONT COMMUNITY: ALL WORKERS NEED A UNION

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

WE ARE A GROWING ORGANIZATION OF BLACK WORKERS FROM A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIES IN THE AREA. WE BELIEVE THAT ALL WORKERS SHOULD HAVE CONTROL OVER THE CONDITIONS OF THEIR LABOR.

WE ARE HERE TODAY WITH SOME OF OUR SUPPORTERS FROM OTHER CITIES AND UNIONS, TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT THE BAD CONDITIONS THAT OUR FELLOW WORKERS ARE FACED WITH AT THE HARDWOOD DIMENSION’S MILL.

NOW YOU MIGHT SAY: HOW DOES THE WORKING CONDITIONS AT THE MILL AFFECT THE COMMUNITY?

THE MAIN REASON, IS THAT THE MILL WORKERS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF YOUR COMMUNITY. THEIR COMBINED TAKE HOME PAY IS CLOSE TO $6,000 A WEEK. MOST OF THIS MONEY GOES FOR FOOD, CLOTHING, HOUSING, MEDICAL NEEDS AND CHURCH OFFERINGS. THIS AFFECTS ALL OF THE LOCAL BUSINESSES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND THE CHURCH, WHICH YOU USE ON A REGULAR BASIS. RIGHT NOW, THE MILL CAN CUT THIS $6,000 AND AFFECT THESE BASIC NEEDS AS IT SEES FIT. THE 10% CUTOFF, TAKEN AT A TIME WHEN THE PRICES ARE SKY HIGH, SHOWS WHAT THE MILL CAN DO WHEN THE WORKERS DON’T HAVE ANY CONTROL OVER THEIR LABOR. THE PAY CUT REDUCED EACH WORKER’S PAY BY ABOUT $65.00 A MONTH, TOTALING A LOSS OF ABOUT $3,000 A MONTH TO THE COMMUNITY. CAN YOU AFFORD THIS?

NOW HOW CAN THE WORKERS GAIN SOME CONTROL OVER THEIR LABOR AND HOW CAN THE COMMUNITY HELP?

THE WORKERS MUST HAVE A STRONG UNION. THROUGH A UNION, THE WORKERS CAN NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT FOR THEIR HOURS, WAGES AND FOR THE REASONS UNDER WHICH THEY CAN BE RIGHTFULLY FIRED. A UNION WOULD HELP IN MAKING THE COMPANY MORE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.

A UNION IS NOT NORMALLY ORGANIZED OVER NIGHT. IT TAKES MONTHS AND SOMETIMES YEARS OF HARD ONGOING PATIENT WORK. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKERS INSIDE THE MILL ARE THE HARDEST. THEY OFTEN TIMES MUST BE DONE UNDERCOVER FROM THE BOSSES. YOUR SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE WORKERS TO COME OUT OPENLY IN THE FUTURE AND TAKE A DIRECT STAND. WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT THE CHANCES ARE VERY SLIM.

THE COMMUNITY MUST FORM A LABOR SUPPORT COMMITTEE TO AID AND DEFEND THE EFFORTS OF THE WORKERS INSIDE THE MILL. THE COMMITTEE WOULD ORGANIZE LABOR EDUCATION DRIVES, DO FUNDRAISING, HOLD RALLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS WHEN NECESSARY, HELP GET UNION CARDS SIGNED AND HAVE LAWYERS AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE LEGAL DEFENSE. CAN YOU BE COUNTED ON TO DO YOUR PART? THE BOSSES AT THE MILL ARE BETTING AND HOPING THAT YOU CAN’T BE COUNTED ON. WE ARE BETTING ON YOU!

ORGANIZE NOW, THE WORKERS CAN’T WAIT!

THE BLACK WORKERS FOR JUSTICE
On June 18, 1983, Alvin Bynum (Tank) got part of his foot cut off, trying to get out of the way of a robot. Abbott's has begun to replace a number of workers (mainly black) in the warehouse with robots. Most of the workers from the warehouse were either fired without good cause, or was harassed by their supervisors until they resigned. Bynum and other workers, under a special contract with Abbott's through the Man Power Training Program, were not given any instructions about the operation of the robots. They were only told not to hit the robots. Workers like Bynum, receive less pay and benefits for doing the same work at Abbott's as a regular Abbott's employee. Abbott's is only using workers like Bynum for cheaper labor and don't really care about their health and safety on the job. The failure of Abbott's to inform their workers about what to expect from the robots, is clearly a danger to the workers' health. Abbott's is replacing workers with robots because, robots don't ask for raises, don't stand up for their rights, don't need health benefits, can't take them to court and can't organize a union. ABBOTT'S WORKERS GET ORGANIZED!

CITY WORKERS GET PAY CUT

The Rocky Mount City Council adopted a plan on June 28, 1983 that has lowered the pay scale for city workers. In the sanitation department, where more than 98% of the workers are black, the starting pay for Equipment Operator I, has been lowered by $1170.00, with the top pay lowered by $1534.00. The Equipment Operator II starting pay was lowered by $624.00, with the top pay lowered by $832.00. These changes will allow the city to eventually replace workers receiving the old starting and top pay in both positions, to be replaced by workers starting at the lower pay scale. This pay cut is taking place despite the fact that the sanitation workers routes have been increased due to the city annexing new territory; despite the $42.00 a month increase in their family insurance coverage (without dental); and despite the increases in utilities rates. What about the City Manager's pay, has it been cut? What about the other department heads in the city, has their pay been cut? All workers deserve a decent pay. This is the thanks which the sanitation workers get for keeping our city clean. Their fight for decent pay should be the fight of every worker and citizen in Rocky Mount. Pass the word in your churches, workplaces and neighborhoods. Let the City Council clean the streets!

END SLAVERY IN N.C.!

The state Senate has approved a watered down version of the Anti-Slavery Bill. The Senate has removed all responsibility from the big farmers, for any acts of slavery which happens to workers on their farms. The Senate places all blame on the crew leaders. The original Anti-Slavery Bill (without the Senate's amendments), House Bill 684, made both the big farmer and crew leader guilty for acts of slavery, with fines and jail sentences for both. The refusal to pass the Anti-Slavery Bill in its original form, is a real statement of the times which black, working and poor people are faced with in North Carolina. We see the same mentality which opposes an Anti-Slavery Bill, operating in Nash County, where they established a "workfare" program, forcing people to work for their welfare check; in Abbott's, forcing people to work while sick or injured in order to win a "no loss time for job injuries" award and bonuses; and in Rocky Mount City Council, forcing workers to do more work for less pay. We must demand the passage of the original Anti-Slavery Bill, House Bill 684. Black people fought and died in the Civil War to end chattel slavery. Since than, many black people and leaders like Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hamer have died and went to jail to end "Jim Crow" and all other forms of slavery. We must finish the fight!
REGISTER TO VOTE!

The struggles of black people for democratic rights, economic justice, political power and freedom, must be waged on an ongoing basis in workplaces like Abbott's against conditions of industrial slavery; on the floor of City Council and in the communities against city worker pay cuts; at the Social Services offices and County Commissioner meetings against "workfare"; and on the floor of state Senate meetings and throughout the counties in their districts for the passage of the Anti-Slavery Bill.

We must also fight our struggles on the ELECTORIAL FRONT. We must not only fight against what the politicians do wrong; we must fight to replace the wrong politicians with those who believe and will continue to take a firm stand on the side of the black, working and poor people in the towns, counties and state of North Carolina and throughout the country.

In order to effectively fight on the electoral front, we must have a major campaign to register black people to vote and get them out to the polls on election day. There must also be a massive education campaign about the pressing issues which affect the lives of the people, which politicians running for office need to address. It is not enough for a small group of people to merely make decisions off in some corner, about the political and economic needs of black people, without educating the people about those views and decisions so that people can have an opportunity to fully accept, reject or propose changes to those decisions.

Our efforts in Rocky Mount, to register black people to vote and run candidates for public office, must be seen as part of a growing movement of black people throughout the country, demanding democratic rights, economic justice, political power and freedom. The Harold Washington "Victory" in Chicago and others, are evidence of this growing mass black political movement. Victories in Rocky Mount and Nash and Edgecombe Counties, will add to the growing strength of this developing national black movement. WE MUST NOT FAIL!

MARCH ON WASHINGTON!

On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King and many other civil rights leaders at that time, led more than 100,000 people in a March On Washington, demanding basic civil rights for black and poor people throughout the country. The march demanded the right to vote for black people in the south against racist election practices and terror, decent housing for the poor and full employment for the unemployed, along with other pressing issues. The March On Washington highlighted many local, county and state issues and connected them all together. Each local struggle was made stronger by the united front at the march.

On August 27, 1983, black, working, poor and concerned people throughout the country, will once again come to Washington. They will be commemorating the 20th anniversary of the 1963 March On Washington. This march will not only be to remember the 1963 march, but to once again make demands on the US government, for democratic rights, economic justice, political power and freedom for black, working and poor people throughout the country and the world. The march will demand cuts in the multi-billion dollar military budget to be used to create jobs, for education, training and housing for the needy. It will call attention to the US government's failures in reinforcing the Voting Rights Act. It will demand the replacing of the social programs cut by Ronald Reagan. And it will call on the US to get out of El Salvador and Latin America, so that they may solve their own problems. Black people in Rocky Mount must also take their struggles to the March On Washington, on August 27, 1983. In fact, anybody who stands for democratic rights, economic justice, political and freedom for black, working and poor people, should join the March On Washington. ALL OUT FOR A STRONG, POWERFUL AND DETERMINED MARCH ON WASHINGTON!!!
Abbots is claiming no loss time for on the job accidents in over 10 million "man hours". They are saying that no worker had to be out of work due to job related accidents.

The truth of the matter is, the supervisors are giving the workers a hard time and write ups about job accidents, leaving work due to illness or staying out sick.

The threats and attitudes of the supervisors have led to workers canceling needed doctors appointments for themselves and their children and staying on the job when they should either be in the hospital or at home in bed.

Everytime a worker has an accident, the supervisor blames the worker. If a worker gets hit by a tow motor its his fault. If a worker gets hurt on the line its his fault. If a worker is placed under the doctor's care its her fault. If a worker has to go home due illness or the illness of a child its his fault.

Atleast two workers have died because they were forced to work under these dangerous conditions. After complaining to his supervisor about being sick and not allowed to go home, MELVIN ALLEN FELL DEAD ON AN ASSEMBLY LINE. After complaining to his supervisor about being sick and not allowed to go home, CECIL ALSTON HAD A STRIKE AT THE PLANT AND DIED LATTER IN THE HOSPITAL. Both of these deaths could have possibly been avoided if Abbotts really cared about its workers. Abbotts only cares about PROFITS!

No matter how much profit has already been made from the labor of the workers, Abbotts always wants more at all costs. They have been able to get away with this for so long, because the workers are unorganized and have no union.

Many Abbotts workers are under so much STRESS because of this treatment, that they EXPLODE WHEN THEY GET HOME. In fact, the 5th floor at Nash General Hospital (the mental ward) is referred to by many Abbotts workers as ARBOTTS JR. WILL ABBOTT'S BREAK UP YOUR FAMILY OR DRIVE YOU CRAZY?

Many Abbotts workers are being labeled by the supervisors as "accident prone" and "sick prone". Their personnel files are filled (often without the worker's knowledge) with memos and false write-ups, which affect their raises and bidding on other jobs. Workers are being fired or forced to resign, for having too many accidents or being sick too much. The supervisors or machinery are never at fault.

Abbots workers are beginning to fight back. They are holding meetings, exposing accidents, documenting harassment and firings, contacting OSHA and refusing to work when they are sick or have a doctors appointment. They intend to put Abbotts on trial in the public's eyes for being guilty of health and safety violations. Maybe their efforts will force OSHA and the COURTS to take a stand in their behalf. However, their greatest strength lies in their own organized rank and file action. They are now taking the first steps.

JUSTICE SPEAKS will aid the Abbotts workers in their efforts to COMBAT these unsafe working conditions and to GET ORGANIZED! We will print any accidents, name the bad supervisors, help you to file an OSHA or Labor Commission complaint and until the workers at Abbotts get organized, they will suffer together and be fired one by one.

GET ORGANIZED!
The Concerned Black Citizens of Fremont and the Fair Labor Support Committee, have been calling for an end to job discrimination in the Fremont Police Dept. Ben Reid, a black officer, exposed the job discrimination when he filed a complaint with EEOC and spoke at community meetings. He cited cases of less pay for blacks than whites and blacks having their hours cut, while whites got more hours.

Since January 1983, black citizens have spoke out at Town Commissioner meetings, demanding that non-discriminatory public policies be set, with community input into those policies. At these meetings, black citizens were given the runaround.

Despite Police Commissioner Mary Jo Hooks, admitting that police Chief Kilpatrick had been warned in the past about calling citizens niggers, she, with the full open and silent support of the other commissioners (all of whom are business owners) including Mayor "Punk" Wooten, denied all charges of discrimination. They also refused to accept the recommendations made by black citizens at the Town Commissioner Meetings. It needs to be pointed out, that Fremont, although more than 40% black, has no black Town Commissioners.

As far as the Town Commissioners are concerned, the issue is dead and they are back to "business as usual".

The citizens of Fremont must not let this important issue be "swept under the rug". There can be no compromise for black people with racism, especially within the local government, who sets policies for the local citizens.

In order to end the silence around this issue, community, church and workers' groups, must be united around a plan of action, that will involve large numbers of people in activities to pressure for change. A real struggle must be waged, with demands and slogans, to give it a clear focus. The struggle must have four basic goals: (1) Fire Kilpatrick for his racism, (2) Correct the wrongs in the Police Dept., (3) Set up public policies, with community input, (4) Set up a Community Review Panel, with powers to monitor and enforce the public policies.

Change will not come over night; but it will not come at all without a struggle. FIRE KILPATRICK NOW! FIRE KILPATRICK NOW! FIRE KILPATRICK NOW!

Earlier this year, March 1 plant closed its doors leaving 200 workers without jobs. Also, the Hardwood Dimensions mill, laid off half of its workforce. The millworkers were given permanent lay-offs and had their company insurance canceled. However, many workers feel, that the mill will hire new workers in their places, starting them at the minimum wage. Two have already been hired. The Firemen at the mill have been forced to do two jobs since the lay-offs.

The workers at both places did not have a union. Nor does the Town of Fremont place any regulations on industries to protect the workers. Join the Fair Labor Support Committee, your job depends on it!
The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in Wilson, N.C., has a maintenance contractor, Allied Maintenance Company, that is practicing job discrimination against black workers in hiring and promotions.

In April, an Allied supervisor, called a black worker "nigger." While he was later fired because of pressure from the local union EM 2541 led by its black members, the problems of racism at the Firestone plant go deeper than racist name-calling.

Allied Maintenance employs about 200 workers, 149 mechanics and 50 janitorial. Mechanics are the highest paid, earning between $25,000 and $30,000 yearly. Of the 149 mechanics, 15 are black. The janitorial workers earn an average of $10,000 yearly. Of the 50 janitorial workers only 4 are black.

The population of Wilson County is about 49% black. The neighboring counties of Edgecombe and Greene, within Allied's hiring area have populations over 60% black. Using the Wilson County figure alone, Allied should be employing at least 50 black mechanics out of the 149.

By denying at least 35 mechanic jobs to black workers, Allied is actually depriving the black community of over $1 million in income each year. Thus making the problem of job discrimination against black workers at the Firestone plant a problem which negatively affects the development and progress of the black community; housing improvements, college educations, medical needs, neighborhood development, food, clothing, school supplies go lacking because of this loss of income to black families.

Firestone refuses to take actions to make its' contractor, Allied, end its' discriminatory practices. In fact, in a letter to the union, Firestone states, that it has no knowledge of Allied's discrimination against black workers. Either Firestone officials are colorblind or they are actively condoning Allied's racism.

Several black workers have filed EEOC charges of job discrimination against Allied. A letter was sent by the union to Firestone Chief Engineer, Ed Burnett, calling on him to take some affirmative action to resolve this problem. Copies of the letter went out to over 30 community groups, churches, elected officials, unions and newspapers. This approach of involving and mobilizing community forces was used to help apply pressure that led to the firing of the name-calling supervisor.

Firestone is currently faced with a union organizing drive by the United Rubber Workers Union (URW), and is clearly trying to soft peddle this issue in hopes that it won't influence more workers to join the union.

If the URW is smart, it will soon find a way of making the issue of job discrimination a key part of its' organizing drive.

This struggle against job discrimination may have some expected difficulties, which hopefully can be overcome by an active union membership united around just and effective demands, under the leadership of its' black members.
PART I OF SERIES

In late March of this year, Earl Hall, a black farmer in Edenton, N.C., was assaulted by Wallace B. White, a white farmer. White claimed that Hall's cows had wandered onto White's farm and attacked his livestock. Despite the fact that there are cows owned by other farmers in the area, as well as deer that could have wandered onto White's farm, White went to Hall's farm anyway and violently accused him of being at fault. Hall made an effort to point out that a ditch separating the two farms prevents his cows from entering White's land. But White pursued the fight, calling Hall a "smartass nigger," grabbing him, trying to wrestle him to the ground.

Why did this white farmer attack Hall in the first place? Sometimes the answers lie beneath the surface and behind the words. For some time this white farmer has been trying to get Hall to sell him a 30 acre tract of land which runs adjacent to his farm, but Hall has refused. The "cow and corn" story, is thus clearly a cover used by White and the area white power structure, to once again challenge Earl Hall and black people's right to own and control land in the Black Belt South.

Ten years ago there were more than 180 black farmers in Chowan County; now there are only four. Earl Hall is the largest black farmer in the county, owning 165 acres of land. It is said that Earl's grandfather, Thomas Roberts, was once the largest farmer in Chowan County, owning as many as "17" farms. After the white verbally attacked Earl Hall, and tried to throw him down, he called for his son to bring him a tractor draw bar from their truck. As a result, Hall's arm was fractured as he made efforts to defend himself from whites vicious attack with the draw bar.

Considering the extent of his injuries and the false nature of the white farmers attack, Earl Hall was forced to file assault charges against the K-Mart Corporation. White responded by filing assault charges against Hall, and tried to throw him down, he called for his son to bring him a tractor draw bar from their truck. As a result, Hall's arm was fractured as he made efforts to defend himself from whites vicious attack with the draw bar.

White represented by filing assault charges against Hall, trying to creat an even more cloudy picture of what really happened. These bogus charges were obviously a strategy by White to appeal to the system and the atmosphere of racist national oppression in Chowan County, which has been aggressively attacking black farmers and taking their land at such a fast pace in the past ten years. Since filling the assault charges against White in March, Hall has received increased pressures from his creditors, including their refusal to extend further credit and the threat of foreclosure on existing debts.

The threat of foreclosure is being pursued by a chemical company in the area. This chemical company is being represented in its case against Hall by the Busby Law firm. The Busby Law firm is also the same firm who represented White in his false assault charges against Earl Hall. It is rumored that the attorney representing both White and the chemical company had been calling on area creditors encouraging them to apply pressure on Hall. At a District Court hearing in Edenton on August 6, 1985, a so-called "agreement" was reached at between Hall, White, and the State of N.C. This "agreement" said that the State would move to dismiss "both" assault charges against Hall, and that White would "waive" his right to sue Hall in any court or tribunal in the United States. However, Hall's arm was fractured and he spent two weeks in the hospital. This whole incident is being handled by the Busby Law firm, which has been aggressively attacking black farmers and taking their land.

The Busby Law firm is also the same firm who represented White in his false assault charges against Earl Hall. It is rumored that the attorney representing both White and the chemical company had been calling on area creditors encouraging them to apply pressure on Hall. At a District Court hearing in Edenton on August 6, 1985, a so-called "agreement" was reached at between Hall, White, and the State of N.C. This "agreement" said that the State would move to dismiss "both" assault charges against Hall, and that White would "waive" his right to sue Hall in any court or tribunal in the United States. However, Hall's arm was fractured and he spent two weeks in the hospital. This whole incident is being handled by the Busby Law firm, which has been aggressively attacking black farmers and taking their land.

The Black Workers for Justice will continue to reflect our tradition of fighting injustice, oppression, and discrimination within the Black Liberation Movement and people's struggles throughout the U. S. and around the world. The SPEAKS is YOUR!!!!!!!

Anonymous
ICE SPEAKS
NATIONAL OPPRESSION
REAGAN POLICIES PRO APARTHEID
PRO NATIONAL OPPRESSION IN US
BUILD CAMPAIGN AGAINST REAGANS’ EXEC. ORDER!

Recently the Reagan administration drafted an executive order calling for the immediate elimination of all laws requiring affirmative action. Government contractors and subcontractors were required under affirmative action to guarantee black, minority and women workers jobs, training, and upgrading. This executive order also proposes to eliminate protections against layoffs, demotions, transfers, firings and pay inequities. The proposed order will be a devastating blow to Black workers. More than 27 million workers in 30,000 to 30,000 companies (including nearly all of the biggest corporations) will be affected. This means that income totalling more than $100 billion for workers on government contracts will be lost.

frontal attack against Black workers,

Such a loss in income for Black workers, particularly those in the already poor and underdeveloped rural communities of the Black Belt South, is nothing less than a criminal act of oppression. Its long term affect on Black land loss alone could mean a famine crisis for millions of Black, Native American, minorities, and poor white people such as that seen in Ethiopia.

While the executive order has a dangerously direct meaning for the future of Black and minority workers, there is more to it than appears on the surface. That is, the frontal attack is against Black workers but the general attack is against the whole working class.

Companies threatening white workers with the loss of jobs to Black workers made unemployed by such a policy will be forcing white workers to accept lower wages and benefits as a way of keeping their jobs.

mean more than "integrating a lunch counter". In March 1968 Dr. King said "We find ourselves in a new era of our struggle for genuine equality and it is much more difficult because it is such easier to integrate lunch counters than to eradicate slums. It is easier to guarantee the right to vote than it is to create jobs or guarantee an annual income". Clearly these laws were issued, more as an effort by the government, to quiet the anger of the Black masses following the assassination of Dr. King than to eradicate the real problems. This explains further why there was never a serious government effort to enforce them.

However, Black and minority workers in general don’t have to accept Reagan’s oppressive racist policies. A CAMPAIGN Can, and Must be Built immediately to challenge the brutal direction of the US economy and political system. The attacks against Black voting rights, political power and national liberation of Black people, particularly in the Black Belt South as an oppressed nation, are the most immediate targets of the Reagan government strategy.

Such a CAMPAIGN can begin around a movement in Defense of Affirmative Action, calling for Mass Opposition Against The Reagan Executive Order!

continued on p.7
CALL TO JUSTICE
Analysis, Views & Just Demands From the BWFJ

RAMBO: FIRST BLOOD, PART II

Strategies of Right Wing Culture

In June, the "blockbuster" movie release, "RAMBO: FIRST BLOOD PART II" returned the conservative Abner Adams Stallone to the screen to continue the right-wing tradition of John Wayne.

FIRST BLOOD PART II is a powerful "action adventure" flick about the same mercenary-like ability of John Rambo: aghast Vietnam veteran who can kill more "charlies" and "commies" than a whole army.

Like John Wayne's characters, who murdered nations of Indians in the name of protecting America from the savages, Stallone's Rambo is asked by American rulers to redeem the war that the bureaucrats wouldn't let them win.

Rambo is sent back to Viet Nam to bring back proof that MIA's are being brutally held captive by the evil Vietnamese. He arrives in Viet Nam with a knife, a set of bow-and-arrows, and a machine gun. Scores of powerless Vietnamese are gunned down by the infallible John Rambo.

Rambo was written by Stallone with James Cameron as a fascist fantasy about the ability of America to defeat the third world and destroy communism thru the power of a lone white super soldier who has the will to win. Financed by Tri-Star pictures the movie opened in a record 2,074 theaters. Movie goers all over America flocked to shows to enjoy the excitement of this mythical ex-Viet Nam vet "riding tall in the saddle" for America.

The character and story of John Rambo, particularly in this sequel to First Blood, tells us everything about the strategy of American rulers internally.

The American ruling class seeks to shape the culture (thinking) of everyone into support for their policies of aggression against the liberation movements and peoples struggles throughout the world.

WHERE WE STAND!

* AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
* FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor
* AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops"
* FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
* AGAINST dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
* FOR health and safety on the job and in the community
* AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racist national oppression of blacks and all oppressed nationalities
* FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of blacks and oppressed nationalities

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH ALL WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND IN 1985 JOIN US!

On June 22, and a banquet completion of the participation. A stand with the workers, on the job and in the streets, to win the struggle.

The Workers Committee met over the five days from February 16. The May Day celebration was attended by over 100,000 workers, from different unions and different workers. School was also held by the Workers Committee to talk about the struggle.

The Workers Committee issued a call to all workers to join the movement.

Join Us!

PAGE 4
On June 22, the Workers' School held a banquet to celebrate the completion of the School by its many participants. After five months of hard work and much personal sacrifice, workers who attended the school were acknowledged for their accomplishments and dedication. The Workers' School Curriculum Committee noted that the school was attended by over fifty (50) students during the five sessions that started in February. The students were a mix of black workers but both men and women, from different workplaces and communities in Eastern N.C. who came together with trade unionists and activists from the black liberation movement. School organizers were assisted by the attendance of conscientious and dedicated white activists (some of whom attended every session). Instructors and students constantly commented on how they were learning from each other.

The Workers' School, sponsored by the Black Workers for Justice (BWJ), had several goals that, in summation, were achieved. It was designed to provide members of the black working class with the necessary training that would better equip them to meet the challenges of the daily struggle against the bosses and long-standing class struggle and racism. In fact, material dealt with the crisis of capitalism and how it continues to thrive on that same oppression today. How the economy works, who controls the media, how the definitions, and organizing problems were the major subjects of various sessions.

By combining theoretical and practical skills in the program, it is expected that our work will demonstrate a more skillful analysis of options, more better leaflets, productive meetings, and an overall improvement of our efforts at removing exploitation and national oppression. Another important outcome was political consciousness. All working people of all oppressions and all oppressor races, political and non-political, were instructors, workers who attended the school were given certificates.
NEW YORK 8# CLEARED ON CONSPIRACY

by Akinshaju Ola

A racially mixed jury found eight Black revolutionaries not guilty on major conspiracy charges in New York City Aug. 5. One defendant was completely exonerated, the other seven were convicted on lesser charges of gun possession and the use of false identification, in a trial that lasted almost two months.

The case was viewed by many as a test of the use of conspiracy charges against Black activists and a related dragnet of potential witnesses, several of whom were subsequently imprisoned for refusing to cooperate with the grand jury. (The defendants and those jailed for non-cooperation became known as the "New York 8").

The jury's rejection of the conspiracy charges and the release of the grand jury resisters are seen as an important setback to government repression, although this is offset by the guilty verdict in a conspiracy case against Puerto Rican nationalists Kwesi Balagoon and Sekou Taylor, (Ruth) Lateefah Carter, Roger Plummer, included the address of her lawyer was charged with using the filibuster technique to prevent the bill from coming to a vote.)

The NEA continued to strengthen its progressive positions on international and domestic issues. The Association reaffirmed its support for democratic rights of teachers and all people in Central America, and pledged to oppose U.S. interference in the internal affairs of El Salvador and Guatemala. A resolution was passed urging the U.S. government to refrain from any plan for covert or overt action that would destabilize any government, such as that of Nicaragua.

The NEA passed several progressive resolutions on domestic issues. It reaffirmed its strong support of affirmative action, bilingual education, women's reproductive rights, support of striking affiliates in Mississippi opposing merit pay for teachers) and continuing the boycott of Coors beer. Many delegates refused to cooperate with the concession stand in the arena because they were selling Coors beer. The boycott was defeated despite efforts of progressive activists to unionize.

Judge Carter is scheduled to sentence the seven defendants Oct 1. The charges carry maximum sentences ranging from five to 15 years. The lawyers have said the convictions will be appealed. It is also expected that the main charges will be dropped against Pean.

Meanwhile, eight people have been released from jail after being held for several months on contempt charges for refusing to collaborate with the grand jury's investigation of the case.

In January of this year the Black Workers For Justice collected a small donation for the New York 8 defense fund at its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Worker's Rights Banquet.

This article was reprinted in part and with permission from the Guardian.
The Black Workers for Justice are building local coalitions to conduct the Petition Campaign, with the aim of forming a statewide and eventually national coalition and Campaign. If anyone wants to get petitions for their area or speakers, or want to form a local coalition, they can call the BWFJ at: (919) 833-5269 or write: BWFJ P.O. Box 186, Rocky Mount, N.C. 27801.

**BLACK FARMER**

assault charges, if both sides agree to drop their charges against each other. White was told to pay Hall $330.00 for his medical expenses, and a copy of the "agreement" would be placed in each party's criminal case file. The "agreement" further allowed both parties to proceed if they wish, in filing civil suits for damages resulting from the incident. However, should Hall be awarded damages from such a suit, the $330.00 would be credited to those damages. White and his son, who was an accessory to the assault, have been allowed to go "scot-free" by this "agreement".

- Of this year's BWFJ for Justice convention the organizers noted that it is a "success".

- The Black Workers for Justice was initiated a CAMPAIGN OPPOSING REAGAN'S NAM ORDER last year (1 year) $300.00

- The next BWFJ convention is scheduled to occur in Durham, N.C. 27702 in October 1985.

- The Black Workers for Justice will be holding a BANQUET in order to raise funds for its' annual convention. The banquet will be held in October 1985.

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BLACK LABOR VS. APARTHEID

John Bachderf - Evening Times, W. Palm Beach, Fla.

Resistance leaders were unsurprised and undaunted by the position of the white supreamacists. Instead, these statements only added fuel to the flames of the deepening revolutionary tide throughout the country. Although the resistance movement has erupted in many apparently spontaneous actions by the masses of Native Africans, two mass actions stand out as perhaps the key to victory: military and economic strikes against South Africa.

Early in August, the Black National Union of Mineworkers voted to strike South Africa's strategic gold mines on August 25. The union also called for boycotts against white businesses throughout the country. Demands by the union included a call to end the state of emergency and wage increases. Other strike actions were posed in the event of increased pressure from the government.

Secondly, throughout the townships, youth have been called for armed resistance through the ANC military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe. Many disagree with Bishop's Tutu's calls for non-violence and instead are calling forward all youth to join the armed resistance and pick up machine guns.

According to activist Motlana, as quoted in the Guardian, "The most important task is to intensify the struggle, military and otherwise."
In late August, 14 workers of the Allied Maintenance Company and a qualified worker, filed charges of job discrimination against Allied in the legal Employment Opportunity Commission, for violations in hiring, promotions and training.

As members of the union, IAM Local 2541, the issue of job discrimination is being handled by the union Human Rights Committee. Committee chairman, Melvin Mills, has played an important role in making this issue an union priority, and in addressing this problem.

The Human Rights Committee has a proposal which it wants taken up as part of the upcoming collective bargaining. It makes proposals for eliminating discrimination in areas of hiring, training, promotions and supervisory attitudes. What is becoming ever so clear in this struggle against job discrimination led by Black union members is, that the same Larry Todd and Philip Harrison who discriminate against Black workers, also abuses white workers as well. The stepped up fight against job discrimination by Black workers and unions against white workers and unions must become the powerful blow against the Todd and Harrison gang.

Often issues and struggles will occur as single campaigns. It is not easy to tackle them in their single form. However, all workers must see single campaigns as part of a continuous trade union movement to deal with all of the problems faced by all workers. Unless this is done, these campaigns of the workers will be pitted against the other and nothing will be accomplished.

The affirmative action proposal of the Human Rights Committee will be looked at and examined in the next issue of JUSTICE SPEAKS. Today, when the Reagan administration is proposing to abolish all legal requirements for affirmative action, this proposal of the union represents a big step forward for the labor movement, and a very special meaning about the role and need for a union like Local 2541.

Meanwhile, on September 2, 1985, the Black Workers Unity Movement (BWUM) in New York passed out over 400 leaflets at the Allied Maintenance Company headquarters at Two Penn Plaza, New York. The BWUM is a network of Black workers' organizations along the east and southeastern coast of the U.S. BWUM members formed an informational picket, passed out leaflets, and got petitions signed during the lunch hour on September 2 to support and broaden the struggle of Wilson County Allied workers against job discrimination, as well as to oppose Reagan's proposed executive order ending legal requirements for affirmative action.
JUSTICE SPEAKS

I.A.M. RALLY AT BEND OF ROAD

On September 23, 1985, 25 members of the Machinist Union, IAM Local 2541 representing workers from Allied Maintenance Company at the Wilson Firestone plant, held a rally at the bend in the road on Firestone Parkway, across from the plant. Rallying at the bend in the road has become a tradition for the IAM at contract time. It is used to build rank and file involvement during contract negotiations.

 Workers at the rally voiced pressing concerns, which no doubt will be taken up by the Union negotiating committee at the contract discussions.

For example, after Allied cut several supervisors from management, they began forcing mechanics to accept some of the duties formally conducted by those supervisors, such as carrying the radio and checking up on and writing up their co-workers. Larry Todd and Philip Harrison are hoping to create hard feelings among the workers, that would weaken and hopefully destroy the union. Those workers, that would weaken and hopefully destroy the union. Those workers being forced to carry the radio, are also expected to maintain the same work loads as mechanics.

These new assignments are in violation of the contract, which sets out the duties of mechanics and other non-management workers. Recently, a mechanic, a very good worker of at least 8 years, is being forced by Larry Todd and Philip Harrison to work on rotation shift and in the curing area, despite of the fact that he has serious medical problems and doctor's orders not to work those assignments. Why can't this worker be assigned to the day shift? Or is this another effort by Todd and Harrison to refuse to cooperate with the union? If so, they are going too far by jeopardizing a worker's life.

The workers at the rally voiced a determination to go all the way if they wanted a decent contract.

WORKERS SPEAK OUT

Brothers and Sisters:

Thank you! Thank you! I'm sincerely pleased to have read your informative publication. I am especially elated over your coverage of "Black Farmer Assaulted: Faces Loss of Land".

Keep up the good and necessary work and feel free to contact me for additional support. Enclosed is $6.00 for a one-year subscription to JUSTICE SPEAKS.

In the Struggle,

M.B.

U.R.W. Loses Union Drive

On September 24th and 25th, more than 800 workers at the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in Wilson, N.C., voted in elections to determine whether or not the United Rubber Workers Union (URW) would become the bargaining agent for workers. The URW lost by over 500 anti-union votes.

The URW defeat, will prove in the end to be a victory for the owners and bosses of Firestone, not for the workers who voted against the URW. Without a union contract, many of the workers know that they are going to be forced into the actions of the bosses accountable to.

The security which many of the workers, that would weaken and hopefully destroy the union. Those workers being forced to carry the radio, are also expected to maintain the same work loads as mechanics. They find themselves running all over the plant like "chickens with their heads cut off". These new assignments are in violation of the contract, which sets out the duties of mechanics and other non-management workers. Recently, a mechanic, a very good worker of at least 8 years, is being forced by Larry Todd and Philip Harrison to work on rotation shift and in the curing area, despite of the fact that he has serious medical problems and doctor's orders not to work those assignments. Why can't this worker be assigned to the day shift? Or is this another effort by Todd and Harrison to refuse to cooperate with the union? If so, they are going too far by jeopardizing a worker's life.

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VOTER'S RIGHTS TRIALS ANOTHER LINK IN CHAIN OF SYSTEMATIC REPRESS

While popular knowledge of the Selma Voter's Rights Trials nationwide, the political significance of the federal government actions in this and other issues looms threatening. Indeed, the tenuous democratic rights of the Black Community are under systematic attack. These attacks must be viewed in the context of rising fascism in the U.S.

EXPRESSION OF VOTES

In 1981, Mrs. Maggie Bozeman and her being White juror in Pickens County, was threatened with the loss of her job over a late absentee ballot vote. The two served a part of their sentence in Tutwiler State Prison and were remaining time on a work release program under the Sheriff of Macon County. Even though their convictions were eventually overturned in federal court, community leaders point to a "chilling affect" on Black voter participation in Pickens County as a result of their trials and convictions.

The "chill affect" tactic of the government then escalated to huge proportions over the next few years. In March 1984 alone, 208 Black community leaders and grassroots workers have been indicted on charges of absentee-voting fraud, and hundreds of others forced or scheduled to appear before Alabama grand juries to testify, of a total of seven, five had been tried by late September 1985. Among them, a report in three acquitted and two convicted.

But the key activity of the state was not considered by community leaders to be the trials themselves, but rather the "investigation" process itself. The Justice Department and the FBI conducted supposed "investigations" into five Black-controlled counties: Greene, Perry, Lowndes, and Wilcox.

Some as few as 200 votes can be the margin of victory in important electoral campaigns. The indictments and convictions have all centered on absentee-ballot voting, which is reportedly an important, get-out-the-vote tactic traditionally relied on in many counties during elections. In Black Belt counties these ballots are often the only opportunity many residents have to vote. The ballot tactic and the maturation of indigenous community leadership have worked to somewhat empower Blacks to the degree possible under the U.S. economic and governmental systems, but not for long.

Federal government intimidation, harassment, and legal maneuvering has taken more than one form during the course of the last several years. On June 3rd, 1985, the Greene County office building in Eutaw, Alabama was burned to the ground. One of the offices in the building belonged to Councilman Spencer Gordon, a local veteran civil rights activist and Director of Community Services. Gordon was later indicted along with four others to stand trial with four others for vote fraud.

The first to be indicted on vote fraud were Albert and Evelyn Turner and Spencer Hogue, all of Perry County. The Turners and Hogue are also highly respected civil rights leaders with long years of service. On June 25th, 1985, the three were still on trial, the house of the Turners and Hogue, all of Perry County, for example, work outside of their County residence. Another 15% of those eligible to vote are sixty-five years of age or older—and have difficulty voting. Organizers, therefore, have focused on the absentee ballot tactic as a key tactic to win close and critical elections.

Today Blacks in the counties under contention control and direct, nine municipal governments, five school boards and five county commissions. Organizers believe a growing fear of "Black Power" by the white power structure is a key motivation behind the states actions. In fact, many cite conservative Republican Senator Jeremiah Denton, who faces a critical re-election bid in 1986, as possibly a prime motivator.

Finally, Black Belt leaders in Alabama point to the developing Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, which extends through the western and southern sections of the Black Belt area. The waterway is expected to be an economic boon to those Alabama Black Belt communities under Black control.

Over a twenty year period (since 1965) the extensive voter registration campaigns, the absentee balloting process as a key tactic to win close and critical elections.

Albert Turner in front of home and car after it was burned down by arsonists in June 1985.

"ROAD TO VICTORY" will be a regular department of Justice Speaks. It will focus on the Black Liberation Movement.
CALL TO JUSTICE
Analysis, Views & Demands From the BWFJ

NORTH/SOUTH ALLIANCE BASIS
FOR REAGAN'S EXEC ORDER

The proposed Reagan Executive Order to abolish legal requirements for government contractors and subcontractors to have affirmative action policies, is an act of racist national oppression against Black people. The order which probably effects Black workers, has the ultimate aim of lowering the value of all labor.

For more than 200 years prior to the Civil War, the slave holders in the Black Belt South were the center and architects of the economic, social, and political policies that became institutionalized into the national life of the U.S. Federal government as a racist system of national Black oppression. A system defining and regulating the conditions to be faced by Black people within the ever changing U.S. political and economic reality.

The Civil War defeat of the chattel slave system was the economic reason for racist policies, greatly weakened the economic base of power for the plantation owners, and ended their independent political rule over the governments of the Black Belt South.

However, even though the South lacked enough available capital to finance its own agricultural economy, the plantation owners who formerly owned the Black slaves, still owned the majority of the land in the Black Belt. Thus, they controlled a vast territory of available cheap labor from which they bargained and formed an alliance with the northern banks and industries to jointly exploit all southern labor to varying degrees.

In order to accomplish the aims of this north and south economic alliance, the Federal government overturned the legal "protections" including the withdrawing of federal troops, that "protected" the former slaves, (who had played a decisive role in the Civil War aiding the North) basic democratic rights and political control over local territories through Reconstruction Governments.

After 12 years of controlling many local Black Belt Governments, setting up free public education for whites as well as Blacks, holding fair and democratic elections, and becoming the main source of skilled labor for that period, Black people had the American carpet pulled from under them. Beginning in 1877 under a period called "Post Reconstruction", with the help of the U.S. Supreme Court, Black people lost virtually all democratic rights, beginning with their right to vote. Black elected officials were put out of their offices (often violently), Black skilled workers were forced back on the plantations, Black children were denied a decent education and Black people were being lynched almost daily in the streets by racist thugs.

The Civil Rights and Black Freedom Movements to challenge U.S. national Black oppression, or all of its' discriminatory effects, it did make the issue of affirmative action into a legally acceptable proof, that the racist system of national Black oppression was still in tact, despite the claims of racial integration.

Since the signing of the 1965 Executive Order, there have been major legal challenges against it; the Bakke and Weber decisions in the 1978's involving a white applicant to a medical school in California and a white worker at a Kaiser plant in Louisiana. These two cases decided on by the Supreme Court, set the stage for labeling affirmative action, as so called "reversed" discrimination against whites. BLACK WORKERS DON'T OWN THE FACTORIES, BANKS OR BIG CORPORATIONS, NOR DO THEY CONTROL THE GOVERNMENT. THEY THEREFORE HAVE NO POWER TO SEND WHITE WORKERS JOBS, PROMOTIONS OR ANYTHING ELSE. Affirmative action is not a demand against white workers; it is a demand against the Federal government and employers.

The ones who cut unemployment benefits and other social programs which also affect white workers and their families. So, while all workers together in defense of social programs, the same should be the case in defense of affirmative action.

The proposed Reagan Executive Order, is an effort to consolidate the forces labelling affirmative action as so called "reversed" discrimination. The goal is to build and sustain a climate of racism that will increase the profits of the North/South economic alliance, a period of severe working class economic crisis.

The alliance is built around maintaining the labor value in the Black Belt South, "below its' market value" throughout the United States. The racist system of national Black oppression used to restrict Black workers to the lowest paying jobs, ultimately lowers the wage scale for all labor in the South, because of the competition by low paid Black workers for higher paying jobs. As a result, labor in the Black Belt is more profitable than Northern labor for the same type of work.

The Black Belt counties were targeted by the Civil Rights and Black Freedom Movements to challenge national Black oppression. Demonstrations for jobs, the right to vote and Black power provided the pressure leading to President Johnson's signing of the 1965 Executive Order "legalizing" affirmative action. While the 1965 Order itself, was not sufficient to end the racist system
The convention was typically dull without the excitement that should be present at a gathering where workers are making plans about how to fight for a better future. For rank and file delegates and newcomers, the sessions and banquet had an "in crowd" or "ole boy" atmosphere. There were many delegates, however, who tried to make others feel welcome.

There were several bright spots. A Black South African trade unionist, Monde Nkbo, addressed the convention. Sister Nkbo is a young woman who works with the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) as the coordinator of their anti-apartheid work. As a staff member of the Council of Unions of South Africa (COSUSA), a federation of Black trade unions, she helped to organize the National Union of Mineworkers. Her speech showed clearly how the corporations collaborate in the maintenance of apartheid in South Africa, and exploitation in the minefields of Kentucky and West Virginia. The convention also passed a resolution condemning apartheid, and among other things, calls for continued support of the Black mineworkers, the release of Nelson Mandela and support for economic sanctions. It remains to be seen what kind of follow up will be done on this resolution by the N.C. AFL-CIO. Although the convention gave sister Nkbo a standing ovation, and passed the resolution in the final session, less than 50 delegates attended an anti-apartheid rally that was held outside the convention hall immediately after Nkbo's speech.

One particularly vicious speech suggested that the Japanese had not really surrendered in 1945 and that these trade battles are simply a continuation of the war. From the speaker's point of view, the Japanese are winning. This kind of thinking clearly creates bad feelings between workers of different nationalities. This was demonstrated several years ago in Detroit when a white worker killed an Asian patron of a bar. It was during the anti-import hysteria in the auto industry, and the killer admitted that he hated the Japanese because of what he felt they were doing to the jobs in the industry in which he worked. Without a doubt, this is the type of preparatory thinking that the government and capitalists need in advance of entering international conflicts that will require the intervention of U.S. troops. Hatred and national chauvinism will help the government pursue its' imperialist aims.

No one has really described the role of the international corporations and international finance capital (the banks) in this process of international trade and the financing of production by foreign companies, or U.S. companies that close their plants and move to the underdeveloped world. The trade union leadership has aligned itself with the bosses, the Democratic Party and the Federal government and will not provide any type of leadership that challenges the anti-worker approach to the problem of jobs. Because of their strength and total domination of the labor organizations by the bureaucrats, workers with different points of view are not allowed to mount any effective opposition to this stand. In the coming months we will try to at least provide workers with an analysis of the real origins of this problem and show how and why it is necessary to always refrain from "jumping in the bed with a variety of allies", meaning our enemies, in fighting for jobs.
DIRECT, PLANNED & HARDHITTING ATTACKS

Turners was set on fire and destroyed. Arson was strongly suspected in both the Turner and American Federations of Co-ops buildings fires.

As the FBI conducted its "investigation" in 1984 & 85, dozens of county residents were rounded up and hauled by bus to face the Mobile grand jury. While "in custody" the detainees (including senior citizens) were photographed, finger printed, and required to give handwriting samples.

The fall of 1984 brought a surprise FBI visit to the office of Booker T. Cook Jr., a coordinator of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives (FSC). FSC had written the "investigation" in 1984 & 85, dozens of county residents were arrested under false charges of "plotting conspiracies". The eight were later exonerated by a racially mixed jury. But the actions of the state in descending upon a black neighborhood with nearly 5,000 soldiers in the middle of the night and the political use of the grand jury in this case as well cannot be overlooked as an isolated incident directed toward "radicals".

It was the city officials of Philadelphia who dropped the bomb on a black neighborhood where sixty homes were leveled and eleven people were murdered in May 1985. Just two months ago, the U.S. government was forced to back away in front of a determined community.

The news of the "New Leader" persecution spread around the world in the past few years, with increasing pressure on the USA to back away from its own crisis.

FREMONT NEWS LEADER A RACIST RAG

In an article entitled "Only Election Upcoming", in the September 26, 1985 issue of the NEWS LEADER, "Publisher's Notebook", to discredit the efforts of Black to hold elected offices in local government. The "New Leader" is published by Merrill in Fremont, N.C.

The article was very critical of the concerns raised by Black citizens in the town of Fremont, about the appointment of a white to the seat of Commissioner. The seat was recently vacated by a Black, resulting in the town board being all white. The criticism was a clear attempt to create a negative shadow on the campaigns of three Black candidates running in the upcoming elections for Fremont Board of Commissioner seats. The candidates are Billy Harvey, Sylvester Artis and Cornell Becton, three Black workers.

The "News Leader" has consistently shown its' racism and contempt for the rights and issues raised by Fremont Black citizens. For example, when the Black citizens demanded that the town Board conduct an investigation into the patterns and practice of job discrimination against Blacks in the local police department, the "News Leader" wrote that "Blacks were complaining" as if to say "what is it now"?

When Leroy Ruffin, the only Black elected to the town Board in the last race, was sworn in, Merrill, when taking a picture of the newly elected officials in the presence of more than 60 citizens, stated to Ruffin "Stand in the middle so that we can have an ORDEFFECT".

To top it all off, the "News Leader" publicized sensitive information deemed to be confidential by the town Board Executive Session, regarding the investigation of charges against a city official accused of making threats on the life and safety of Billy Harvey.

The "News Leader" persecuted Doug Lang, former Fremont town Commissioner, who is the son of Merrill. Doug Lang was charged with making threats against the "News Leader" and other.

The Federation was phenomenal in its service to over 30,000 low-income Black rural families. They maintained 130 co-ops in 14 southern states with a budget of more than $2.5 million. But 85% of their operating money came from Washington, D.C.

Because of the "investigation", all Federal funds were cut off along with many foundation grants, leaving the organization virtually crippled. Yet, no indictments were served or evidence of "criminal" activity found.

October 1984 brought the infamous raid of the Joint Terrorist Task Force (JTTF) on a New York Black community where eight revolutionaries were arrested under false charges of "plotting conspiracies". The eight were later exonerated by a racially mixed jury. But the actions of the state in descending upon a black neighborhood with nearly 5,000 soldiers in the middle of the night and the political use of the grand jury in this case as well cannot be overlooked as an isolated incident directed toward "radicals".

It was the city officials of Philadelphia who dropped the bomb on a black neighborhood where sixty homes were leveled and eleven people were murdered in May 1985.

Just two months ago, the U.S. government was forced to back away in front of a determined community.

NATIONAL OPPRESSION

While the certainly true, anti-apartheid movement cannot be considered a "law" it is certainly true that the movement has had a profound impact on the world and action must be made back the tide. We can take such actions. We must take action. The day will come when we must take action.

In each case, we have the opportunity to initiate the actions.

FREMONT ACTIVIST BILLY HARVEY

DIRECT, PLANNED & HARDHITTING ATTACKS

continued from page 3
**Repression**

The United Black Workers (UBW) has announced Reagan's draft executive order to relegalize the black-owned companies seeking or holding government contracts. The new executive order is a direct attack on the federal level against black and other oppressed sectors of U.S. society who face "criminal" levels of unemployment, discrimination, and despair as a result of federal, state, and local policies.

In each case the government labeled as a "law"; initiated a grand jury "investigation" with little or no actual "evidence" to proceed, against federal, state, or local agents of political police to act in its behalf. Used Black "reprehensible complaints," or "cooperation" to alleviate the attack.

**Struggle Against Repression**

While the old saying is certainly true, it is also true that resistance can be effective or not. NEA's decision to demonstrate a protest against something or it can forge a people's alliance and be powerful enough to turn back the tides of repression and despair.

We can take nothing for granted. We must know who constitutes enemies and who constitutes our friends. The U.S. federal government is the friend to Black people. They must be viewed as Black workers everywhere can create an effective resistance. Only Black workers, organized as such, can have a fighting chance to defeat our enemies.

Every attack against our people is forcefully fought back by the Black community. But in the final analysis, only the most penetrating theories of Black workers everywhere can create an effective resistance. Only Black workers, organized as such, can have a fighting chance to defeat our enemies.

We must oppose the executive order, oppose these voting rights attacks, oppose attacks against "radicals," and oppose all attacks on the institutional programs, and strategies. Black workers must take the lead! This is the one path to victory.

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**Union Drive**

Also, despite the fact that 40% of the Firestone workers are Black, the UBW did not have one Black organizer on staff until several months after the drive began. While this would be good if conditions existed that are the reality is that racial and cultural polarization is still a factor that pretty much led to the social relationships between Black and white workers to their workplaces. There were also no women representatives on the UBW organizing staff. The composition of the staff, Black, white, male, female and minorities, can make a difference in building the unity of the workers during the union drive.

The educational campaign of the UBW was rather weak. It did not tackle the broad range of issues affecting Firestone and other workers outside of their jobs, which a union can and should address, such as unemployment, affirmative action, toxic chemicals, political power, high utilities, taxes and education.

This is especially necessary, when workers are being victimized by so many other issues.

The above errors, weakened by the UBW's defense against the anti-union campaign financed and conducted by the Wilson Business Interests, with the aid of the WILSON DAILY TIMES newspaper. Full page newspaper ads, radio slots and a huge billboard 20 feet off the ground on the main road near the Firestone plant, are some examples.

Firestone allowed the antiunion committee during working hours. Use company equipment to reproduce antiunion propaganda. Unfair labor charges were filed by the UBW against Firestone. However, the National Labor Relations Board under the Reagan administration did not give a favorable ruling to the UBW charge.

Finally, within a few days of the election, the Wilson Daily Times came out with an article, that the UBW was the only one in the country without an election. Firestone has sold other plants. It is rumored that Firestone workers, the only one in a truly dangerous position. The UBW campaign, while not successful, began a process of building an organization among many Firestone workers. The aftereffects of union drives, in terms of possible retaliation by the company against union workers, is all the more reason why the workers must maintain the level of organization started by the UBW effort. Workers should be meeting to assess the reason for losing the election. Meetings need to be held to see if any unionization effort is being harassed, and steps should be taken to conduct education about job-related and community activities.

More and more it is becoming clear that effective trade union organizing requires an alliance between the institutions in the community affecting the lives of the workers, like the churches, fraternal lodges, social clubs and community groups and the unions themselves. Unless this principle is understood and taken to heart by the trade unions, there will be other losses which could have possibly been won. Keep your heads up, pro-union Firestone workers, in the end victory will be yours!
Sometimes people think that colonialism is a thing of the past. They think that the British, French and others have given up their colonies and are allowing the peoples of the world to develop their resources on the basis of independence and national sovereignty. Nothing could be further from the truth. These same people, perhaps, think that the U.S. does not have any colonies. They probably do not know about Puerto Rico and Guam.

For the most part, Britain and France were forced to give up most of their colonies under the force of the national liberation movements that grew strong after World War II. Places like the Malvinas Islands off the coast of Argentina and islands like Martinique still have a colonial status. Then of course there is the South African liberation struggle, the flight of the Irish to rid their homeland of the British and the struggle of the Palestinians for their national territory. There are many others.

It has not been talked about very much, but the French maintain a colony in the Pacific Ocean. It is called New Caledonia by the French and is a small group of islands situated between New Zealand, Australia and the Fiji Islands. The French arrived at New Caledonia in 1853 and using a combination of the Bible and the gun colonized the people. During the many massacres the native people were reduced from 20,000 to only 26,000. From that point on, the Kanak liberation movement began.

Susanna Ounei, a representative of the Kanak liberation movement was recently on a tour of the U.S. She visited Raleigh and explained the origins of the term Kanak. "Our people--our mothers, our parents, and our grandparents--were humiliated every day. Every day you would hear the whites calling us 'dirty Kanaks' and 'Kanak', for them, was a really insulting word. Of course, when they went overseas at that time they said we were Melanesians, because they wanted to put on a good image overseas. But in New Caledonia they said 'dirty Kanak'. After they began to organize their struggle they took a new look at the word 'Kanak'. We put the word 'Kanak' in the forefront. It was our slogan 'Kanak'. When the French saw we were really proud to say 'Kanak', they began to call us 'Melanesians'. Before it was 'dirty Kanak'. In 1974 we began explaining to our people why we wanted to make the term 'Kanak' valuable. And we talked about the land the need to demand the return of our land without conditions".

The French used the settler approach to colonizing the Kanak. Therefore, they did not simply send soldiers and administrators but people to actually take the land from the Kanaks and live on it. This is very much like what happened in South Africa. As a result, the Kanak peoples have become a minority on their own land. The population of New Caledonia is 140,000 but only 68,000 are Kanaks. The rest are French, Chinese and immigrants from other countries or islands. Even so, the Kanaks still demand the right to self-determination on the land that was stolen from them.

The white settlers naturally oppose independence. They want to maintain their French citizenship and their privileges on New Caledonia as they relate to jobs, housing and land ownership. As the Kanaks escalate their protest activities and organize for power, the settlers have come forward with organized violence in response. Last year a group of fascists attacked a car carrying two Kanak leaders from a meeting. They fired guns into the car and then torched it, killing two beloved and prominent leaders.

The phoney "socialist" government of Francois Mitterand refuses to grant independence to these courageous and oppressed people. He wants to leave the decision up to a referendum in which all inhabitants of the island would vote. The Kanak people reject this ridiculous charade. It is their position that the illegal settlers have no right to participate in the decision making around their destiny. They would, on the other hand, welcome anyone who would want to stay and work in an independent Kanak governed country. They would accord full rights in contrast to the brutal and inhumane treatment of the Kanaks, they would not be discriminated against. The French have introduced additional military units supposedly to stop the settler violence. However, the Kanaks are not at a level of armed struggle they do not rule it out. It is a method that may be the only way left to them at some point.

Before coming to the U.S., Ms. Ounei spoke at the U.S. conference on Women in Nairobi, Kenya. She spoke with several groups in Raleigh and Greensboro while she was here. Everyone who heard her was struck by the similarities of the racism and oppression they suffer and that of Black people in this country. Some commented that looking at her and listening to her and forgetting for a moment where she was from, you could have thought that she was any Black woman in the U.S. talking about her life.

We support the Kanak independence movement and extend solidarity to them as another resisting people. We support the Kanak struggle to be free of the treacherous grips of Western capitalism.
RESISTANCE TO APARTHEID GROWING
STORIES PAGE 6 & 8

ALLIED WORKERS PROPOSE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN

In the last 3 editions of JUSTICE SPEAKS, the problems of job discrimination faced by Black workers of the Allied Maintenance Co. at the Firestone plant in Wilson, N.C. have been discussed. Black, minority and women workers are under-represented in the higher paying jobs, and over-represented in the lower paying jobs. They are also denied training opportunities which enable them to increase their skills and chances when bidding on available jobs.

The fight to oppose on the job racism and sex discrimination against Black, minority and women workers, can no longer be represented by mere promises of the bosses or the often well-intended statements of co-workers. It must be concretely spelled out in a program of Affirmative Action. A program...
ALLIED AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN

beginning at the level of the local unions, and developed by the rank and file at the International Union Conventions into a labor wide program, upheld and fought for by all workers, unionized, non-unionized and the unemployed. Affirmative Action must be negotiated in union contracts, as well as fought for in the courts, legislature and in the community. In order for workers in the U.S. to present a solid and truly unified front against the attacks by the companies, they must at some point, hopefully soon, be willing to strike around the issue of Affirmative Action.

The Human Rights Committee of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 2541 representing workers at the Allied Maintenance Co. have developed the following Affirmative Action proposal, which will be hopefully raised in the course of the current contract negotiations:

1. Employment
   a) 40% of the permanent workforce in all job categories should be Black and minority. To achieve this over the next 5 years, Allied will insure that within every 3 month period, new hires will reflect a 2 to 1 ratio of Black and minority to white, with as least 1 being female. This will be reviewed by the union company at the end of each quarter, beginning from the date of a signed Agreement;
   b) Immediately fill the 6 current openings in the maintenance unit with Black and minority applicants;
   c) Allied Temporary Workplace will at all times reflect a 40% Black and minority presence;
   d) Immediately hire the 3 Black workers (2 male, 1 female) with back pay, who applied in April and May 1985 for the positions of Maintenance Helpers.

2. Promotions
   a) Immediately promote to Mechanic II with back pay: Willie Thompson, effective October 1, 1984; Wilbert Townsend, effective December 10, 1984; and Jimmy Smith, effective June 3, 1985;
   b) The Human Rights Committee of IAM 2541, shall review all personnel evaluations to insure that the qualification status of Black and minority employees are determined by non-discriminatory methods.
   c) Black and minority mechanics shall be assigned to jobs in the Powerhouse and Instrument Shop, and given appropriate training to accomplish this.

3. Training
   a) Allied will set up a special training program to be administered by committee, the majority of which will be bargaining unit members at least 50% Black and minority.

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BLOOMER HILL

BLOOMER HILL LOSES WORKING CLASS HERO

On October 9, 1985, residents of the Bloomer Hill community, a Black community in Nash County with a population of 600, were deeply saddened by the death of Mr. Horace Evans.

More than 1000 people attended the funeral of Mr. Evans, held in the gymnasium of Eastman School in Halifax County, to pay their respects to this working class hero.

Several people spoke about his unwavering willingness to help others, not only in his family, but in his community. One man talked about how Mr. Horace, as he was always called, helped him put a roof on his house. What stood out about Mr. Horace more than anything else from the comments made by people at the funeral, was that His Word Could be Counted On.

Mr. Horace and his family were among the founding residents of the Bloomer Hill community in the late 1940's. Shortly afterwards, he became employed with the city of Rocky Mount's Sanitation Department and worked there for 36 years.

Mr. Horace, while working for the city, build and operated a small corner grocery store in Bloomer Hill. While the store made only enough to keep it operating, it had a much more important meaning for the Bloomer Hill community. It was like a gathering place for the elders to hold conversations, play checkers for the youth to play video games and an information center for people looking for residents of Bloomer Hill or stranded in that area, needing groceries for their tables but who were unable to pay. This description, perhaps, the best describes the Black Workers' Building a Better Community.
BLACK WORKERS UNITY MOVEMENT STRENGTHENS AND REACHES OUT

Workers at a North Carolina plant are engaged in a serious struggle against discrimination. Contract time rolls around and negotiations include strong demands against discrimination and affirmative action, in addition to wage and benefit issues. Outside the company headquarters in New York City a group of Black workers and some supporters hold an informational picket, pass out leaflets and get signatures on a petition. They raise the issue of racism in the Black belt and connect it to racism in New York City and Apartheid in South Africa. During a session at the maintaining table the company representative comments to the union stewards, "I see you are branching out." This description of events, it seems, the best way to show what the Black Workers Unity Movement is all about the great potential it has and the great potential it could do the same thing. A class conscious workers party could do the same. Since neither of these things exist in this country yet, it's left to the initiative leadership of Black workers, workers with their allies, to fight for democratic rights and build strong and black trade union movement.

Black Workers' organizations are engaged in the past. Discussions are building a new national Black Workers Unity Movement newspaper. The strengths and weaknesses of this work has been assessed and plans for the coming year have been made. The newspaper will continue to be published on a quarterly basis and include articles about local strategies and our joint work. The BWUM will also take up the campaign to oppose Reagan's Executive Order that will eliminate affirmative action requirements for federal contractors. And, in connection with the growing international support for the South African (Apartheid) liberation movements, the BWUM will undertake two efforts. The first includes establishing firmer contracts with the Black workers movement in South Africa. It is hoped that this will enable Afro-American workers to provide more direct political and material support to the heart and soul of the anti-apartheid movement, the workers. The other solidarity activity is a banner and poster campaign. Black workers will be assisting churches, stores, union halls etc. in hanging banners on their buildings that call for an end to apartheid. Posters with the same slogans will be displayed in front of houses and apartment buildings. All of this will raise the South African question to a level where everyone in the communities will have it on their minds, feel moved to do something about it, and, yes, take sides.

The BWUM feels good about its most modest accomplishments. In the face of many obstacles it has managed to stay on the path of trying to build the leadership of the Black working class in the Black liberation movement. In the coming period, greater efforts will be made to draw in the many other groups and individuals that have the same outlook and are actually working to make this a reality although they are not linked to the BWUM at present.

....continued page 2
CALL TO JUSTICE
Analysis, Views & Demands From the BWFJ

ELECTORAL POLITICS IN THE BLACK POLITICAL MOVEMENT

The resurgence of Black mass activity since 1982 in the form of electoral politics has again raised the seemingly unanswered question: Of what value is electoral politics to the Black struggle for freedom? The basic objective of electing Black representatives has been to secure the opportunity to make input into public policy matters. These elections have often been seen as critical regardless of the consequences or tactics necessary.

Yet, a long, hard look at the net gains of these campaigns for representation time and again reveals the shallow nature of these campaign organizations and their top down, stagnant approach to political power. Cutting deals and lobbying is not enough. We must have the view of power.

In order for Black political representation to be transformed into Black political power, we must organize the very base, community, and representative groups these politicians claim to represent. A campaign organization clearly does not represent a challenge to establishment economic, political and power interests. Black peoples needs can historically be defined as the need for power to ensure democratic rights and the implementation of programs designed to correct institutional forms of racism—past and present.

The key is this: electoral campaigns must begin to emerge out of fighting peoples organizations that are deeply rooted in the day to day struggles on issues beyond electoral representation. Hence the emergence of legislative priorities out of the peoples movement itself, rather than the campaign headquarters.

Struggle in the electoral arena is not stagnant. When political and economic conditions change, the very strategies of these electoral campaigns----even the electoral system and its institutions (political parties, etc.) must be challenged to address the real needs of the people.

WHERE WE STAND

* AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
  - FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor and their organizing of fighting democratic unions of rank and file workers

* AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
  - FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes

* AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racist national oppression of Blacks and all oppressed nationalities
  - FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of blacks and oppressed nationalities

* AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
  - FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH ALL WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND IN 1983 JOIN US!
**GENBEARCO WORKERS FRAMED AND FIRED**

On September 3, 1985, the General Bearing Company (GENBEARCO) falsely accused two machinists, Milton Williams and William Nowlin, of operating their machine without oil. In spite of the fact that as many as 10 workers in the immediate work area as Williams and Nowlin, witnessed them oiling their machines, the company intends on making these false claims stick. They have gone so far as to hire a lawyer to represent them at an unemployment compensation hearing, with the hopes of denying the two workers their entitled unemployment benefits.

This same false oil charge, was repeated against Williams once before. However, Williams challenged it and produced witnesses, one an inspector who accompanied him to get the oil, and Nowlin, who operates the same machine as Williams as his 2nd shift relief person. Nowlin testified that when he relieved Williams, the machine had oil in it and was operating normally.

All of the machine operators know that they are using defective and obsolete machines. In August of this year, the company vice-president, D'Amata, called a meeting with all of the machine operators, telling them that the Browning Sharpe and Davenport Screw Machine were obsolete, and they would be phased out soon. On the day that both Williams and Nowlin were fired, number 10 machine which they operated, had been closed down and moved to another part of the plant.

There was a large oil spill around this machine, possibly because it had been moved. In an attempt to discredit Williams and Nowlin as possible witnesses for each other, GENBEARCO fired both of them. It is also felt that Nowlin was fired as retaliation for his testimony defeating the company's last attempt to fire Williams.

Milton Williams was a leader of the workers at GENBEARCO. He spoke out against the low wages, especially for the women workers in the assembly department. He opposed the so-called "lay-offs" of Faye Whitley and Debbie Viverette that occurred as retaliation because they spoke out on continued page.
NEW YORK 8
SENTENCED
TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

In the September edition of Justice Speaks, it was reported that the
New York 8* defendants who had been arrested and charged with
conspiracy to commit conspiracy under the federal Racketeering
and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act on October 18, 1984 had been
acquitted.

Seven of the eight, however, were convicted on the lesser charges of
gun possession and the use of false identification. Sentencing for those
charges, which could carry maximum penalties of five to ten years in
prison, was scheduled for October 3, 1985.

On October 18, the seven went before the court for the "final verdict" and were sentenced to three months "community service".

Supporters of the revolutionaries hail the "sentence" as a great victory and a fitting end point to the federal governments destructive campaign of repression and harassment.

DURHAM CITY WORKERS
AGAINST APARTHEID

Over the past several months, members of the Durham City Workers Union, AFPMG, have been occasionally seen walking the weekly Monday picket against Apartheid in front of the downtown U.S. post office. AFPMG president Berkley Taylor, and its' business agent, Sam Reid, have been good examples of how all workers, particularly union members, should show solidarity with our economically exploited and politically oppressed Black working class brothers and sisters.

Because of this growing support, other non-unionized and union city workers have either walked the picket across from City Hall or discussed it with their fellow workers. Some city workers have learned from the Durham Committee for Peace in South Africa that their employee pension and retirement funds have been invested in major companies doing business in South Africa.

On September 25, 1985, several city employees met to discuss this question. Many did not know that (1) their employee pension funds were invested in corporations economically supporting South Africa, and (2) that the city of Durham was doing business with Burroughs, AT & T, and other

continued page 7

SHILOH VIGIL HIGHLIGHTS STRUGGLE

More than 120 community residents and supporters rallied at a candlelight vigil on Friday, October 18, 1985. Heritage Day was sponsored by the Shiloh Coalition for Community Control and Improvement (SCCCI), a local group of residents in a small rural Black working class community in Western Wake County. The community was founded after 1866 following the Civil War.

Nathaniel McInnis, coordinator of the SCCCI gave the main address: "Why are we here?" She asked the audience of young and old, union members, Wake County leaders, white and Black supporters. For more than a year this Black community has been organizing and mobilizing its' residents in a struggle to control its' land, community and future. These struggles included the right for control of their community and its' development as residential; the preservation of the historic community, which is a liberal and pro-labor voting district; better living conditions and water to the community whose water supply is scarce and some of which is contaminated; and against the State Department of Transportation's (CDT) proposal for the Outer Loop Freeway, which would disect the community.

Solidarity statements were given by Wolfgang Frederick of the Sierra Club, an environmental protection organization; Kenneth Johnson, a Wake County activist; and Frank Roberts of the Raleigh-Wake Citizens Association. Bruce Bridges of the Know Book Store gave an informative statement concerning the political significance of land.

The Fruit of Labor singing ensemble, the Henderson Grove male chorus, and the Helping Handa Mission Marching Band from Raleigh, N.C. gave a special salute to the hard work and struggles of the Shiloh Community.

The Shiloh Community struggle did not end with the rally. On Monday, October 21, 1985, community members attended the Wake County Commissioners' public hearing.

continued page 7
HERO

One never turned away by Mr. Horace.

As a truck driver in the Transportation Department, Mr. Horace always welcomed members of the BWFJ when they passed out information to him and other workers on his route. When he was not a BWFJ member, he was a close friend.

On February 16, 1985, the Black Workers for Justice, at an evening program of the Workers' School, held at the Bloomer Hill Community Center, presented Mr. Horace with a Self-Determination Award. The award was in honor of him as a pillar of the Bloomer Hill community.

It has been a real honor for workers of the BWFJ to have known and worked with Mr. Horace. We loved him and will miss him deeply.

GENBEARCO

The bond issue. GENBEARCO requested Wilson County Industrial Bond for several million dollars, for new plant construction and the creation of at least 50 more jobs. A coalition for Jobs and Fair Wages was formed involving many of the GENBEARCO workers, which called for support of the Bond on the conditions that there would be a wage increase and protection against layoffs. The workers' request for the Bond was submitted to the Wilson County Industrial Revolution Organization.

Within one month of Williams' firing, he took a petition signed by machine operators to management, demanding job assignments. This was brought to the attention of management and was immediately reviewed by the personnel department. The workers are continuing to meet with management, but no progress has been made. Workers are continuing to meet and lead the city workers of this issue.

HERO

The city workers in Durham must get better organized. In doing so, they will quickly learn about the power of corporations in exploiting workers, as well as the role and influence of an active trade union in the struggle for better working conditions.

DURHAM

companies doing business there. The workers agreed and took up research assignments on this issue.

A delegation visited the City Manager's office the following week to ask the city management to have a note attached to each workers' check stating: "Did you know that your money that is put in the employee pension fund is invested in corporations doing business in South Africa? Contact us for more information."

The manager's office refused! The workers then attempted to use the city's employee newsletter "City Lines" to inform the city workers of this issue. They were told that there would be no more issues of "City Lines" because the money ran out for the newsletter. How was the news to get out to other city employees?

The city workers in Durham must get better organized. In doing so, they will quickly learn about the role of corporations in exploiting workers, as well as the importance of an active trade union in the struggle for better working conditions.

ALLIED

minority, including women. This committee will insure that all Black, minority and women wage employees will have equal opportunity to learn new skills necessary for performing the various skilled jobs. This program will be open to all permanent employees. All training will be subject to review and approval by the committee.

b) All workers will take special affirmative action steps to set up a training program that will prepare janitorial employees, especially women, for jobs in maintenance categories.

4. Supervisory Behavior
a) Any supervisor who makes racial jokes, slurs or engages in racial or sexual abuse of any kind, will be immediately terminated;

b) Management employees will not racially or sexually discriminate in hiring, job assignment, discipline, personnel relations or in any other manner. They will encourage or promote among white or male employees, any anonymity or division against Black, minority or female employees because of their efforts to eliminate discrimination at Allied. Such actions will result in immediate termination.

Black, minority and women workers must call on all workers to support rank and file affirmative action proposals such as above. Human Rights Committees and Black Caucuses must be formed to develop and lead the fight for such proposals. The Black community would rally around such a proposal and become a conscious and powerful ally of the labor/trade union movement. This support has already been shown by the letters, telephone calls, leaflets and meetings carried out in the Black community in support of the Allied workers. Members of the Black Workers Unity Movement in New York City gave active support. The BWFJ will be looking for suggestions on affirmative action in the near future.
SOUTH AFRICAN LIBERATION STRATEGIES....

Conditions of Black Workers Still the Central Problem

Part II
Black Labor vs Apartheid

Therefore it is a struggle to regain that land and exercise political and economic control over it. This is a struggle for National Liberation, an independent Black nation," he said in an interview with Justice Speaks.

The PAC also hopes to achieve an "operational unity in the military sphere" with the ANC, according to Mesando. They envision a "non-racialism" policy for the independent Azanian (South African) society when Africans achieve state power. A society free of privileges based on race.

ANC representative Mesando, in an interview with Justice Speaks, stated that they envision a South Africa society based on the "Freedom Charter" document pushed forward by the ANC in 1955. Mesando said the Charter was adopted into the ANC constitution in 1958 and was reconfirmed as the fundamental ANC program in 1960, the 25th anniversary of the Charter.

The Charter is based on the principle "that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people. You cannot fight racism and substitute racism. You must substitute something superior," he said.

No matter what direction the people of South Africa choose as their liberation, it will not be a simple matter to restructure the basic conditions faced by Black workers there.

In 1981, African workers in South Africa received only 28.4% of all wages distributed while they comprised 73% of the total population. The average monthly wage of an African worker in manufacturing was only $234.00 in 1981, while South African wages in manufacturing averaged $1239.00 in the same year. Moreover, the fundamental problems and opportunities for the revolution are only deepened when the international aspects of the struggle are considered.

Firestone Tire & Rubber Company is one of the ten largest U.S. employers in South Africa. It employs about 2400 workers there while employing roughly 1480 workers (including its Allied Maintenance employees) in its' Wilson, North Carolina plant here in the Black Belt South.

The average hourly wage of the South African workers in the Firestone plant were $1.77 in 1984 or roughly equivalent to $2.58 in U.S. currency. Average hourly wages for Firestone's Allied Maintenance workers in the Wilson plant are roughly $5.00.

Fundamentally, the conditions faced by African workers in South Africa and Black workers in the Black Belt South represent the same struggle against the same enemy.  

****Look for Part III of the South African struggle analysis in the next issue of Justice Speaks.****
BLACK WORKERS AT SHONEY'S
DEMAND MEETING WITH BOSSES

Daily, Black workers at the Shoney's restaurant in Rocky Mount, work in fear of losing their jobs. The management towards Black workers, makes us feel like they are trying to force us to quit, or to react in a way that would justify them firing us," said one Shoney worker.

Several Black workers from Shoney's have been meeting to discuss the problems and ways of addressing them. They have appealed to some of the area organizations and churches for help. At least one of the ministers contacted has written Shoney's corporate headquarters in Memphis Tennessee, informing them about the problems. Shoney's reply was not worth the paper it was written on.

One Black worker was fired on November 21, 1985 for being late even though he had called in one half hour earlier to inform the supervisor and get the okay.

At least one charge has been filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) by a Black worker for job discrimination in hiring, promotions, and sexual harassment.

On the day the worker was fired, Shonna Dillard, a Black waitress, met with several other Black workers and then took a request to John Campbell, Manager, to hold a meeting with the Black workers. Ms. Dillard stated that management should meet with Black workers at Shoney's because they feel they are being treated unfairly.

Campbell refused to agree to a meeting. He later began approaching Black workers asking them in a very intimidating manner, "Do you feel you are being discriminated against or treated unfairly?" He also asked Black workers to sign a paper stating they were not discriminated against, and did not request a meeting. Some Black workers signed the paper. Later the workers said they signed it because they feared losing their jobs.

There were some, however, who refused to sign, and answered "yes they have felt discriminated against," when Campbell questioned them.

The law says that whether workers have a union or not, they can act as a group or through one person for organizing a meeting. These workers continued with their soup kitchen, and to press Shoney's.

Black workers at Shoney's restaurant in Rocky Mount, are taking the weight!!

RESTAURANT WORK IS HARD. BLACK WORKERS TAKE THE WEIGHT!!!!!
Management Refuses To Meet With Workers

speaking on their behalf, to make requests of the company. Protection for such actions is in the law as outlined in the National Labor Relations Act.

Conditions for Black workers at Shoney's are bad. There are 13 Black workers out of 40. There are no Black cashiers; Blacks are paid less; Black waitresses are sexually harassed by white customers in the presence of management; Blacks have had their hours decreased while whites have had their hours increased; the district manager curses and threatens Blacks;

Black customers are usually seated at tables in the rear; older workers are being pressured to do more work than younger workers, often making them sick from the pressure. It's a bad situation at Shoney's.

Workers and citizens in Rocky Mount and the surrounding areas, are asked to write letters to Shoney's and to call management to ask about the conditions of workers at Shoney's. Write and call to: Shoney's, K-Mart Plaza, Rocky Mount, NC 27801. Phone: 919-442-2185.

Supporters of the Shoney workers should demand that they end their discrimination and harassment of Black workers and meet with them. Keep an eye on Shoney's in Rocky Mount. All workers and citizens must be ready to come to the aid of Black Workers at Shoney's. Individual efforts to challenge job racism at Shoney's is fine, but it takes organization to bring about a real challenge and change. Keep meeting Shoney's workers, and get organized!!

WORKERS SPEAK OUT

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name---------
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Durham, N.C.
27702

Dear B.W.F.J.

Hello, I have been looking for some one to help me if I'm correct in feeling that I have been mistreated. I have been working for the state of North Carolina for about 5 years. When Governor Martin took office this year, our unit was given a new assistant director, Mr. Clyde Cook Jr. Mr. Cook is the individual that ran against Sheriff Baker and lost.

Since he's been here I feel that he has been very nasty, bigoted, discriminatory, and just plain old ignorant. When he first came to work for us, he called me into his office and told me that I was a very efficient and outstanding worker. I agreed with him that I was the best worker in our unit...the entire division. Cook had been told that I trained several new workers because the supervisor couldn't train them. Then Cook said he was impressed and thought I deserved a better position in the unit. He said no one works for him without being rewarded.

Cook has made big promises to several other people. We have all learned that Mr. Cook is a chronic liar.

I feel that Mr. Cook and other political co-workers here at DMV are extremely prejudiced towards Black people here. The commissioner here has no Blacks working on the floor that he is on. There are no Black men or staff at DMV unless they are sweeping the floors. We have been told that as employees, we are not to be caught talking about politics in the office. There are a lot of bad practices going on at DMV that I don't think goes on in other State offices.

I don't know if I have a valid complaint, but if I do please contact me soon as possible, because I am in the process of finding another job. I'm exhausted and hurt by the way I have been treated and by the way black women workers here have been treated. There are men in powerful positions who have been heard saying that they have never been around such garbage in the lives. Please help me.

Sincerely,

worker
Department of Motor Vehicles

ALLIED WORKERS

On November 12, 1985, the FM LOCAL 2541, at Maintenance Company in WI to accept their 1986 thru contract. (Allied Mainest employees of Fir Wilson. Both companies are the same plant facilities. The main issues neg the contract sessions we are presently fighting for their COLA, the workers promise on specific language governing pr being, and training.

Also called a dissolution of contract lan would allow the union to promote against the con the company would this de superintendent has definitively dist against Black wo
Shoney's, and citizens in Rocky Mountain and surrounding areas, wrote letters to Shoney's management to ask about the treatment of workers. Write and call the Shoney office:
P.O. Box 2105, Rocky Mt., NC 27501, 919-442-2105.

Racists and harassment of management to ask about the treatment of the Shoney workers in Rocky Mountain and surrounding areas. Racists and citizens must come to the aid of Black workers and citizens in Rocky Mountain, because the Shoney company has definitely discriminated against Black workers in the area.

One day prior to the hearing, for example, all of the workers who had been suspended on behalf of the two fired workers were called into the front office by the company lawyer. They were each questioned as to what they planned to say at the hearings. They worked to get rid of any favoritism in their testimony, however.

The company also launched an attack against William and Nowlin's attorney Phil White from the legal aid office in Wilson. The company wrote a story in its weekly bulletin implying that paralegal White's past and present representation of Genbearco workers were against the best interest of the workers.

Since Genbearco had challenged the two workers' claims for unemployment benefits, representatives from the company had to testify at the hearings. The representatives contradicted each other in their testimony. They could not even look Williams in the face while testifying.

Williams later commented, "I'm shocked to see people lie after having been sworn under oath to tell the truth." Shame on Cliff Gates, Paul Cardwell, and Terzo Devo," said one worker.

The intimidation, lies, and frame-up did not work, however. Both Nowlin and Williams have won. But it's really a victory for the workers facing the company by yourself, even in an unemployment hearing, means that the odds of winning are against the worker. But when workers stand together, as they stood with Nowlin and Williams, victory is possible and in fact, more likely.

continued page 7
WORKFARE: THE GOVERNMENTS
ANSWER TO UNEMPLOYMENT

We are seeing more and more throughout the country that the governments answer to unemployment, is "workfare". North Carolina has at least eight counties with "workfare programs".

In Nash County, the positions of Teacher's Aides have been eliminated. Workers who once held those positions are now sent to jobs under the workfare program by the Department of Social Services. These workers have no health benefits, no paid vacation, get no formal training, are never promoted, and are never guaranteed a permanent job from the places they are assigned. Many people on workfare see permanent jobs handed out while they remain as workfare workers.

Proponents of the workfare program claim that workfare is a program to provide training for unskilled workers or workers with very little job experience. The truth of the matter is that there are people on workfare who have been laid off or terminated from their jobs within the last 12 months here in North Carolina.

In Buffalo, New York earlier this year a number of city sanitation workers were laid off. These workers were members of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE). When their unemployment checks ran out, they had no choice but to apply for welfare. Soon afterward, they too were routed into workfare jobs.

The workfare jobs the AFGE workers were routed into were cleaning city streets and parks. Cleaning city streets and parks was the same work they were doing as sanitation workers before they were laid off. Now they do the same work for lower wages (welfare checks), no benefits, and no union.

AFGE is now in court fighting this program in the courts in Buffalo.

Meanwhile, workers in North Carolina are in real danger since they have very few unions to challenge workfare.

But all is not lost. Workers can and must form committees to mobilize themselves to city councils and county commissioners meetings to oppose workfare. Workers must also demand that the employers go on public record opposing workfare.

IS THE U.S. ECONOMY IN TROUBLE?

Over the past ten years, U.S. workers have been told that they are jobs were becoming obsolete due to high technology. Everything is computerized.

Texas Instruments, a major manufacturer of computers, is closing its plant in College Station, Texas and putting its Houston plant up for sale. The high-tech company is laying off 2,200 workers and deferring pay raises indefinitely that had been scheduled for next year.

Texas Instruments had previously laid off 5,000 workers this year. It's clear that the owners and bosses can't run the economy. The workers must.

WHERE DO YOU STAND?

WITH ALL WORKER?
OR THE BOSSES?
TAKE A STAND IN 1985
JOIN US!

* AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
* AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racist national oppression of blacks and all oppressed nationalities
* AGAINST unemployed, plant closings, "runaway shops"
* AGAINST the political empowerment of all working people, and the freed have vertical liberation of blacks and oppressed nationalities


* AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
* AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racist national oppression of blacks and all oppressed nationalities


* AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
* FOR workers control of the economy from their labor and their organizing of fighting democratic unions of rank and file workers

* AGAINST dangerous conditions and "Killer Shops"
* FOR health and safety on the job and in the community

* AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racist national oppression of blacks and all oppressed nationalities

MOTHER TESTIFIES AT REPARATIONS TRIBUNAL

ABOUT COP KILLING HER SON

On November 16, 17, 1985, the National Reparations Association (NR), held its fourth annual convention in Akron, Ohio at the Westin Hotel.

The Reparations Tribunal is held to document crimes of violence sanctioned by the U.S. government at any level, or its agents. Reparations is a United Nations sanctioned demand, made by an accused or formerly oppressed person, against the government for the crimes.

Simply put, reparations means payment, or release, to a person who is a victim of a crime.

The annual meeting of the Reparations Tribunal was held in Bloomington, Minnesota, on March 29, 30, 31, 1986.

The tribunal was represented at the meetings by thousands of people from cities in more than 20 states. The people included those who had previously been workers, graduate students, prisoners, and university faculty.

Some of them were represented at the tribunal in more than one capacity.

About Cop Killing Her Son:

Riggs, the killer cop, is a 30-year-old white cop. The cop had been on the police force for over 10 years,

But he was fired by the police anyway who claimed he was "frightened" of this so-called disturbance.

Jay was "arrested" by the police anyway who claimed he was "frightened" of this so-called disturbance.

Riggs was represented at the tribunal by thousands of people from cities in more than 20 states.

The parents of Jay Riggs, who was killed by a white cop, spoke of their lack of confidence in the courts, and called on the people at the Tribunal to build support for her case upon returning to their cities.

COURT. The parents are appealing the case, and they miss their son very much, about the continuing struggle to win justice for his wrongful death.

Dear Jay: It's been a long time, but I am filled with positive thoughts. If it is God's will to use our loss in a manner that serves others then nothing can stand in our way. If it is not to be in our time, then his Grace will be sufficient...... Peace my son,

-Your Mama —

Donations for Mrs. Jones can be sent to Mrs. Lillian Jones
3406 E. Fallcreek Pkwy, N. Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46205

JOSEPH JERALD CLARK
BORN Jan 22, 1957
MURDERED Oct 7, 1979

WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO

A Narrative Poem by DARA

We have come a long way, from the shores we were shipped thousands by thousands to the western lands as slaves to make money for the white man.

We were taken from our homes, friends, and family and were beaten, whipped, and treated like dogs.

We fought, we rebelled, we ran, we escaped into the woods. And through all of this we still survived. We still have a long way to go.

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For those postal workers who were uncertain about the role of the police in economic and political disputes, recent events are helping them to see the light. Workers in other industries who have faced the brutality of law enforcement officers on picket lines do not believe that police departments are neutral. Some have concluded that the laws are strictly for the employers.

In recent months, three postal installations, two in Florida, and one in North Carolina, have had incidents where management has used the local police against union officials. In each case, the union representatives were conducting legitimate business covered by their contracts with the Postal Service.

In Tampa, Florida, the president of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) local notified management that she would be visiting a station to investigate a grievance and to file it. When she arrived and requested to see documentation in connection with the grievance, the supervisor refused. She told management that she would not leave until she received the material that she was entitled to under the contract. Management responded by threatening to call the police, which they finally did. The union official was arrested, handcuffed, fingerprinted and placed in a "holding pen." Management has since dropped the trespass charge.

In another Florida office, the APWU president was given permission by a supervisor to interview an employee in the lunchroom. Shortly after the interview began, a temporary supervisor came into the lunchroom and demanded that the union representative leave within ten minutes. The temporary supervisor then knocked the president's arm to the table as he pointed at the union official and tried to assault him. This employee, who the officer did not know, had to be restrained by other workers in the lunchroom. The temporary supervisor would not permit the union official to use the phone to call the police to report this attempted assault but he was allowed to call the Labor Relations Office.

In Raleigh, North Carolina, the APWU president was given permission by the regional director of the APWU to see documentation in connection with the grievance, the president was being ejected from the building. The situation was explained to the Labor Relations person who in turn spoke to the temporary supervisor. Shortly after this conversation took place the local sheriff arrived. He said he did not care about the contract, etc. and that the president was being ejected from the building.

In both of these cases the regional director of the APWU has been in touch with various levels of management to complain about this situation. According to the union, legal and other actions are still pending in the second case.

The Mailhandlers Union in Raleigh was subjected to the same heavy-handed tactics by management. An Afro-American shop steward went to the sectional center on his day off to investigate a complaint by mailhandlers concerning consistent violations of the contract relative to clerks performing mailhandlers' work. He was told to leave by the supervisor although he had permission to be there. She called the tour superintendent who said that he had not authorized the visit. The supervisor became abusive in her comments to the shop steward and called the city police to have him removed. Many believe that the particularly nasty nature of her remarks were due to the fact that he was black and very aggressive in his approach to workers' rights.

The Mailhandlers Union came to the workplace several days later for an investigation. At that time it was rumored that both legal and labor relations type action were under process. However, it appears that management has blackmailed the president into backing off because of threats concerning the steward's personal file.

In each of these cases certain things are apparent. While it is important that the union official may not be escorted by a number of off-duty police officers or that strike service-wide picketing may be illegal, the important level of activity has taken place. Union members, the rank and file, should have been allowed to go in and out of the postal installation and the ones immediately involved in any strike or work stoppage should have been allowed to carry on their legitimate business covered by their contracts with the company.
Following negotiations, approximately 14 workers were promoted. Only four were Black and no women were promoted.

Clearly, there is still a problem with the percentage of black and female (all of whom are Black) promotions, in relation to their percentage in the total workforce. However, the promotions in and of themselves are a good thing.

Leading up to negotiations, the union demonstrated its ability to mobilize the rank and file for direct action in challenging the company's violations and to win active community support. (See Sept, Oct, and Nov issues of Justice Speaks.)

The test faced by all of the workers now is how not to be bribed by a few promises into thinking that the struggle against job discrimination led by Black workers (including their legal charges) will threaten future promotions.

Without effective contract language, Allied can certainly try to use every struggle against discrimination as a basis for a freeze on future promotions. (You know, while their "lawyers" check things out.) But the key thing to remember here is that workers must have more faith and trust in each other than they do in the unwritten promises of the company.

The test faced by all of the workers now is how not to be bribed by a few promises into thinking that the struggle against job discrimination led by Black workers (including their legal charges) will threaten future promotions.

The test faced by all of the workers now is how not to be bribed by a few promises into thinking that the struggle against job discrimination led by Black workers (including their legal charges) will threaten future promotions.
Workers around the world are increasing their support for Black workers in South Africa as both the repression and resistance grows. Workers are using various means to provide moral, political and material support to these determined workers. Passing resolutions, refusing to handle South African goods and raising strike funds are but a few of the activities workers are undertaking.

Postal workers in North Carolina have entered into the battle. Last spring, the Charlotte local of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) withdrew its funds from NCBN because it has issues loans to the South African government and South African corporations; members of the Greensboro local helped organize a boycott of the NCBN in that city; and last December different members of the Greensboro local worked in different ways to stop a Greensboro hotel from giving away the Krugerand, the hated South African gold coin.

Most recently, at the North Carolina State APWU convention held in Fayetteville, postal workers went on record as opposing apartheid by passing the following resolution:

We, the North Carolina APWU, are working men and women, who believe in freedom, justice and equality for all people. We have known harassment and brutality at the hands of hostile employers and law enforcement officials because we organized or went on strike. And, many of us have suffered the effects of Jim Crow racism.

Because of our experience as laborers striving for fair wages, a decent life and democratic rights for Blacks and other minorities, we abhor the brutal apartheid system in South Africa. The racist policies and anti-labor laws must be condemned.

Therefore,

- We call for the release of all political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela who has been incarcerated for over 20 years and is now suffering from kidney and prostrate problems.

- We want an end to the violence and intimidation of the workers who organize or strike. Specifically, we support the 28,000 Black workers whose recent strike was ended by government attacks (armed) on the workers, cordoning off the hostels they are forced to live in, and massive dismissals from employment.

- We call for the release of all political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela who has been incarcerated for over 20 years and is now suffering from kidney and prostrate problems.

- We support economic sanctions against South Africa. We will encourage locals to withdraw funds from financial institutions that do any business in South Africa, and refrain from purchasing from companies that operate in South Africa.

- We support the right of the Black majority in South Africa to determine the structure, policies and activities of the government. In other words, we support self-determination.

This resolution will be sent to the President of the United States and the South African Embassy in the United States.

Resolutions are fine, and I hope that it will spur individual activities by postal workers, their families, churches and organizations. Postal workers have a remarkable example of solidarity for supermarket workers. In July, ten women and one man implemented their union's instructions to handle South African goods. South African fruit was placed on the counter and the customer was refused service. The customer tried to purchase some South African fruit but was refused service.

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Workers all over South Africa, organized and unorganized, must find various ways to help Black South African workers to organize and strike against their employers and topple the racist, undemocratic regime.
Workers at the General Bearing Corporation (Genbearco) in Wilson are gearing up for a campaign to call for all employees who have been laid off in recent months before the company can implement it's revenue plans, say inside sources.

Genbearco was awarded a 4 million dollar Industrial Revenue Bond from the Wilson County Commissioners, in September 1985 on the promise that Genbearco would meet its new "decent" paying jobs.

Instead of following through on the promise, Genbearco laid off 30 workers, who have not been called back.

In order for Genbearco to keep its promise of 50 new jobs, it will have to begin the 50 new jobs after laying back the 30 that were laid off.

Genbearco was allowed by the Wilson County Commissioners, to "lay off" and pay workers on a state "law" requiring a company receiving a bond, to pay the average county manufacturing wage. If they had been required to pay the average manufacturing wage, it would have been an average wage increase of about $3.50 an hour or $160.00 a week.

Bubba Clayton, the Wilson County industrial recruiter, has taken the position that companies know what's best for their workers. Clayton led an anti-union campaign against efforts to unionize Firestone and Genbearco and spoke viciously in a November article of the Wilson Daily Times, blaming unions for the problems faced by workers.

There are so few unions in the entire state of North Carolina, it is clear that unions could only make conditions better, not worse, for the workers.

Genbearco must be forced to honor its promise of 50 new jobs, if it's failure to do so, should be seen as a breach of contract, and Genbearco should be sued and forced to repay the loan with interest immediately.

Workers at the plant say they are calling for the development of an unemployed council involving unemployed as well as employed workers to be formed in Wilson County to take up a struggle to force the Wilson County Commissioners to make Genbearco honor its promise or sue them. Such a struggle would be an example for workers in other counties, who are victimized by bad industrial recruitment policies, like the Blank Check Industrial Revenue Bond Issuance. (More on this in a future issue of Justice Speaks).

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Workers, unions, churches, and progressive people of all races and nationalities are preparing for this first national holiday of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday on January 20th, 1986. This day of celebration has special importance to Black workers.

On April 3, 1968, King stood with the City of Memphis' sanitation workers in the fight against unfair treatment and poor working conditions. The predominantly black sanitation workers of Memphis, as well as other Black workers, remember this period as one of important struggle in the Black workers movement of the late 60's and early 70's.

After more than 16 years of marching, protesting, lobbying, and petitioning the U.S. government this victory of the first national holiday has been won. Black workers through their unions, churches and community organizations played a significant role in the Holiday movement. They organized events, petitioned and marched in the August 1983, 20th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington.

But the real significance of the King celebrations is so often obscured by the "civil rightsers" of today.

Dr. King clearly became an anti-imperialist, opposing the oppression of third world nations and peoples at the hands of the U.S. government, before he was brutally murdered. His commitment to oppose oppression everywhere and at all costs is his most outstanding example to the Black freedom struggle. Indeed, it can be seen that Dr. King grew and changed and so must we. He changed from a righteous concern for civil rights primarily, to the rights of the people of the world to be free and to oppose their government if it is oppress them.

Dr. King's spirit lives on in every act of protest and resistance. Yes, a leader can be killed, but the government can't kill the Black freedom struggle!!!!!!

One of the tragedies of humanity's long trek along the highway of history has been the limiting of neighborly concern to tribe, race, class, or nation. One of the devastating consequences of this narrow group-centered attitude might be that people do not really mind what happens to the people outside their group.

If Americans are concerned only about their nation they will not be concerned about the people of Asia, Africa, or South America. Is this why the murder of a citizen of your own nation is a crime, but the murder of the citizens of another nation in a war is an act of heroic value?

If manufacturers are concerned only in their personal interests they will pass by on the other side while thousands of working people are stripped of their jobs or left displaced on some Jericho Road as a result of automation and they will judge every move toward a better distribution of wealth and a better life for working people to be socialistic.

If whites are concerned only about their race, they will pass by on the other side while blacks who have been robbed of their personhood, stripped of their sense of dignity and left dying on some wayside road.

--- A STRENGTH TO LOVE ---

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The possibility of racist motives as the murder of a 36-year-old Bladen County woman has caused North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence to demand that public officials and law enforcement take responsibility in countering violent hate groups organizing in North Carolina.

The brutally murdered body of Joyce Sinclair was found on October 30 in Robeson County. Mrs. Sinclair was abducted from her home the previous night by a "white man wearing all white," according to Sheriff Earl Storms.

The little girl told them they were getting away for short while after midnight when they heard a knock on the door. "The little girl told us they were getting away for short while after midnight when they heard a knock on the door," Storms said. The mother answered the door and a man described as white wearing all white came into the house. The mother fixed the man a drink and the little girl said the last time she saw her mother was when the man was leading her down the road.

According to local news reports, "Mrs. Sinclair was approached about the promotion and "some bad remarks were made about her." Law enforcement has not been able to trace these rumored remarks back to any particular individuals.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents were called in to aid the Robeson and Bladen county sheriff's departments.

"Mrs. Sinclair's death certainly fits the pattern that we see for acts of racists violence in North Carolina," said Mab Segrest, Coordinator of North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence. Ms. Segrest cited three main groups targeted for over 110 acts of illegal violence since 1979: interracial couples, outspoken radicals and Black workers promoted to traditionally white jobs. "We cannot say who committed this brutal murder, or why," Segrest said. "But the presence of active racist groups in the community stirs up hatred and raises serious questions in people's minds." Segrest said that, according to residents in St. Pauls, one of the White Patriot Party phone messages had carried a tirade against Black people getting "white jobs."

St. Pauls in the past year has developed one of the ten most active White Patriot Party "dens" in the state, Segrest said. The 1984 Klan rally held on land next to where the body was found drew 200-300 participants, according to local news reports. KKK members were clad in military garb and heavily armed. It was the first Klan rally in Robeson County in 20 years. In March, schools in Fairmont were closed after a fight between Black and White student's burning two small crosses.

According to The Confederate Leader, White Patriot Party newspaper, the party has a 20-member den in St. Pauls, and a 10-member den in Fairmont. St. Pauls is listed as having a taped phone message and a contact person.

"Communities with high levels of racist organizing should not have to deal with it alone," Segrest said. "Miller is considered one of the most dangerous racist leaders in the community. In mid-July I wrote to Governor Martin asking him to appoint a state task force on hate groups and racist violence. He never even answered the letter."

125 Robeson County citizens met on November 11 and voted to form "Concerned Citizens for Justice" in Mrs. Sinclair's murder. They plan to raise money for information leading to the conviction of the killer.

North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence (NCARRV) reports that 1985 showed the second highest level of recorded bigoted violence in North Carolina since 1979 with 30 separate recorded incidents. They also reported at least 33 Klan/White Patriot Party marches and rallies in the state in 1985 including two on three Klan factions organizing at once in some counties.
Black trade unions in South Africa merge

The struggle against apartheid in South Africa took a major step forward at the end of November. After several years of discussions, on Nov. 30, 1985, a number of major black trade unions merged into one organization. This new federation called the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) represents 500,000 workers and is the coming together of two important trade union groupings.

On the one hand there was the Federation of South African Trade Unions (FOSATU), which represented white workers in the auto, steel, iron, chemical, food and canning industries among others. It has been the major trade union grouping that has sought to bring black unions under the same umbrella in order to maximize their strength in dealing with individual employers, but the apartheid regime itself.

The second grouping, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), which represented workers in the coal, diamond and gold mines, they are some of the most strategically located workers in South Africa.

COSATU has the potential of breaking the chain that the apartheid government has tied around the Black masses. The highly industrialized economy with its reliance on cheap labor from unskilled and semi-skilled blacks has always been vulnerable to concerted effort on the part of these workers. For this reason, the government attempted to crush the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) in the 1960's when it became too political for the government and aligned itself with the African National Congress. It was not until 1979 that black unions could register as lawful bargaining groups. This was a concession that the racist government gave due to immense pressure at the workplace and in the cities and townships.

As in all societies where industry and the other wealth of the nation is owned by individuals, South African workers hold the power that is capable of transforming that society into one that is more democratic and egalitarian. This is particularly clear in South Africa as it relates to black workers who number over six million in the workforce. They are the bedrock of the economy and the key to any fundamental social change.

White workers in South Africa, with few exceptions, have accepted apartheid and relish the privileged position it gives them in this highly segregated society. In fact they have become major defenders of the system. One white trade union federation, consistent with its membership in their organization, today they continue to be a major weapon against the ANC and others that represent a new consciousness trend in South Africa. Powerful unions like the South African Allied Workers Union (SACTU) and others that represent around 200,000 workers are very important to the overall development of the liberation movement. The black consciousness forces which were out of the student movement of the 1970's and are generally associated with the late Steve Biko calls black leadership in the apartheid struggle and rejects all membership in their organizations.

While these questions cannot yet be answered, they have come to grasp the central role of black workers in the liberation struggle. It is entirely clear why they did not join the federation, or why the federation was aligned with them; the reasons are numerous and are based on their political philosophy, solidarity and the history of their movements. The key to this point, the overall development is important and will support black workers' progressive trade unions in South Africa.

Black trade unions away from the "economic" issues into the fight against apartheid. This can be seen in recent strikes where issues like wage cuts, the state of emergency, other political questions have been raised at the heart of the walkouts. The challenge is that the trade union movement, like its reformist elements which this system can be improved rather than toppling it. However, COSATU was formed on the basis of the fundamental social change.

This new organization embraces those unions that relate to the black consciousness approach. It raises the question of what tactics will be used. The main one is to bring black unions under the same roof and federate. This was a concession that the apartheid regime itself.

The struggle against apartheid in South Africa is important and will support black workers' progressive trade unions. Today they continue to be a major weapon against the ANC and others that represent a new consciousness trend in South Africa. Powerful unions like the SACTU and others that represent around 200,000 workers are very important to the overall development of the liberation movement. The black consciousness forces which were out of the student movement of the 1970's and are generally associated with the late Steve Biko calls black leadership in the apartheid struggle and rejects all membership in their organizations.

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VOTER'S RIGHTS REPRESSION

FROM ALABAMA TO NORTH CAROLINA:

October 1983, could serve up to ten years in prison if convicted.

Organizers of the rally hosted a number of organizations, leaders, and activists from across the state who all expressed indignation that these repression campaigns have been targeted in this state. Those in attendance included Black Workers For Justice, the North Carolina Assoc. of Black Lawyers, the NAACP, and the Christie Institute South (which will provide legal assistance to the case).

Members of Black Workers For Justice leafletted the rally to expose this attack against Rev. Wilson as an attack against efforts of the Black community toward Black political empowerment. BWFJ called for a movement to be built around this case in every workplace and community.

Representatives of the Black Lawyers Assoc., the Christie Institute, and the NAACP also exposed the case as an attempt by federal and state power structures to "chill Black voting strength" across the Black Belt South.

Important campaigns for Black independent political representation are coming up in the First, Second, and Third Legislative Districts this fall. Lenoir County, for example, has a total population of 59,819 (36,811 white, 22,795 black). Of those numbers, more than 24,480 are registered to vote. According to 1984 statistics 17,773 registered voters are white, while only 6,680 are black. The town of Kinston has a total population of 25,214 (11,826 white and 13,393 black).

Earlier in January, a legal meeting was sponsored by the state Lawyers Guild to organize the presentation of Amicus Briefs for the trial expected to be held in April of this year.
In September 1981, three Black workers at the K-MART store in Rocky Mount, N.C. were fired on trumped-up charges. One worker had been accused of stealing seventy-one cents and the others had been accused of "attitude problems." It was assessed that white workers in the store never seemed to get this treatment from the boss.

In response to this constant harassment from K-MART management, three women in the store circulated a petition and also sent a letter to K-MART headquarters in Michigan complaining of the conditions and harassment at the store. Shortly after this action by the workers, the home office sent someone to North Carolina to investigate the situation.

Instead of correcting the problems in the store, the three workers who management felt were the "ring leaders" in standing up against K-MART's discriminatory practices, were fired. It is believed that K-MART intended to eventually fire all of the workers who had signed the petition.

Before K-MART could frame anyone else, the fired workers began to fight back. They tried to get support from several of the local civil rights organizations without immediate success. They later realized that they had to become an organization themselves and build their support in a planned way.

With the help of some local activists, who had histories of being involved in the Black Freedom Movement, the three fired K-MART workers and several still employed, formed a committee called Black Workers for Justice at K-MART. This committee developed a collective position on the firings, put together its' list of demands and laid out a plan for building support.

Instead of going to local groups and asking for support like before, the BWFJ at K-MART called on several groups to co-sponsor a mass community meeting, so the workers could explain their position and set of demands.

When the meeting was held, nearly 500 community residents attended. As a result of the meeting a support committee was formed called the Concerned Citizens Association (CCA).

The CCA representatives helped organize and participated in press conferences for the BWFJ at K-MART. CCA helped support a petition campaign initiated by the BWFJ at K-MART, and later joined in a call for a boycott of K-MART.

From late January 1982 until early March 1982, the boycott and the petition campaign were the main activities of the Black workers' committee. Black workers from other workplaces got petitions signed in their communities and workplaces.

Once a week there was a meeting held where workers would come to report on the petitions and turn them in for blank ones. This meeting also assessed the boycott and recruited people to walk the picket line in front of the K-MART store. Black workers would also speak out at these meetings on problems they were facing at workplaces other than K-MART. These meetings later became known as Workers' Speakouts.

The K-MART boycott was considered a big success but it did not get the three workers their jobs back. It resulted instead in the new worker being removed from the store (officially transferred), but he is believed to have been fired. It also resulted in a great deal of valuable experience for all the workers involved and the community for future struggles.

At the end of the struggle around the Three Black K-Mart Workers, a number of Black workers who had been in the petition campaign and boycott felt that Black workers needed an on-going organization to address the problems they faced in their workplaces and in general.

It was decided that the BWFJ at K-MART would become a Black workers' organization. It dropped the K-MART from its' name, symbolizing its transition from a workplace committee to a mass organization. The new name continued as

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There was a struggle between the workers and the employers over working conditions and benefits. The workers demanded better wages, safer working conditions, and an end to discrimination.

By 1930, Berry was active in the ERS movement to free the Scottsboro Boys. He helped organize the Black Workers for Justice and was active in civil rights issues.

In 1981, after having a stroke, Berry moved from New Orleans to Chicago, where he continued to be an advocate for workers' rights.

Berry was born in January and was a key speaker at the conference on African Nationalism held in Washington D.C. in May of that year. He was also a staff reporter and editor of the African Worker newspaper from 1962 until 1983.

Berry was a lifelong freedom fighter, using his platform to speak out against oppression and discrimination. He was a symbol of the struggles of Black people in the Black Belt Southern States.

In 1989, Berry was active in organizing a march to protest against the Anti-Ballot Law. He continued to speak out against the Anti-Ballot Law and was a strong supporter of civil rights issues.

Berry was a true champion of the workers' rights and a fighter for justice and equality. He will be remembered as a prominent figure in the fight for social justice.

Profile of a Lifelong Freedom Fighter

ABNER WINSTON BERRY

A white woman in Alabama. She was a strong supporter of the workers and a key organizer in the fight for justice.

Her contribution to the movement was significant. She worked tirelessly to improve the conditions of the workers and to raise awareness about the issues they faced.

Her legacy lives on through her work and the impact she made on the lives of the workers she fought for.
CALL TO JUSTICE
Analysis, Views & Demands From the BWJ

Black History Must Advance Our Efforts

"Stolen from Africa
Brought to America
Fighting on Arrival
Fighting for Survival"
From "Buffalo Soldier"
by Bob Marley

Once again Black History Month is upon us. For numerous reasons, this period of observance and celebration is of extreme importance. This month of reflection on the contributions of Blacks to America has always been important dating back to 1926 when Carter Woodson proposed it as Negro History Week.

In the face of freedom always look at the reasoning behind these activities. What is the content of these celebrations and how do these events relate to the present fight for freedom? What are the content of these celebrations and how do these events relate to the present fight for freedom?

Last month's holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr. is an excellent example of what we are talking about. The various celebrations around the country demonstrate several views on how to acknowledge King. There were those who wanted to focus on King; the humanitarian, the orator, the visionary or dreamer and evangelist. Others wanted to take up his legacy as a challenger and fighter, with his strengths and weaknesses, and use them as a point of departure for today's struggles. Even many of his most bitter conservative critics, like Ronald Reagan praised him and tried to place him in the camp of the reactionary flag waving forces that brought Reagan to power.

Black History Month should be viewed in the same light. We can and should establish our own goals for this period. We should insist that this important month be used to advance our efforts in the fight against racism, national oppression and exploitation. We can study and discover new and important information about the Afro-American people and their long struggle against major odds. New information can give rise to pride and that can be turned into discussion about current problems. These discussions are priceless and always lead to planning different ways to make our lives better.

We cannot transform or make minor changes in the quality of life for the masses of Afro-American people without developing strategy and tactics that come from knowing and understanding our history and combining that with a general understanding of how this society works. If we add to this, consideration of the experience of other peoples who have had to fight to free themselves from the kind of choke hold that the American system of profit and greed has on the Afro-American people, we will be better prepared for the task ahead.

Let's challenge our fellow workers, families and friends to learning about our collective history. That is the common, group response to the bestial conditions of slavery, the stifling effect of sharecropping and the horrors of wage slavery in the factories and mines. Great men do not make history, the masses do. True, great leaders do emerge but they are products of the people, their suffering and their struggles.

Let's highlight periods of resistance in our history, the organizations that were born out of them and the vital lessons they have offered. What were the programs, who were our friends and who were our enemies; what was the role of elected officials? What role did Afro-American women play in the struggle? How did we respond to violence from the white supremacists and the bosses? What was going on in other parts of the country and the world at the time these things were happening?

Are Black people simply the victims of racism or are they also oppressed as a nation by the U.S. government and the business interests it represents? These are but a few of the questions that should be answered during this month as we prepare to carry these discussions and our work into the months and years ahead.

Most people tire of hearing about the first Black to do this and the first Black to do that. On one hand, it's important for us to use that we are capable of any achievement. This is a blow against the ideas of white supremacy that say that Blacks are inferior. Unfortunately, some Afro-Americans still lack self-esteem as a people and doubt their individual and collective abilities.

But we should question why so many corporations sponsor ads and activities during this month, mainly highlighting the achievements of "special individuals". Remember these are the same employers that exploit our labor, discriminate against us in hiring, wages and promotions and extract super profits from foreign workers in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East by paying very low wages. Even the racist anti-labor Coors Company sponsors Black History calendars and other such things.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and productive Black History Month; Study, Discuss and Plan.
Massacre In Wilmington

Massacre In Wilmington

contributed heavily to the defeat of these governments was the failure of the congress to turn the land over to the freedmen. The freedmen as a whole were never given the economic basis for real freedom.

This problem would have been solved if the former plantations had been taken from the defeated slave owners and distributed to the thousands of blacks for their use. The planters maintained this property and used it to regain their power and control over their former slaves.

Racist scholars, like the planters, politicians, preachers, and newspapers of the time attack these governments with lies and slander. They raised the question of "negro domination" as a scare tactic just as the white supremacists do today when they lie about the effects of affirmative action, Blacks holding political office and even the Martin Luther King holiday.

They used the cry of down with "negro domination" to rally businessmen, bankers, lawyers, plantation owners, religious leaders and even confused poor whites to participate in a reign of terror that would kill thousands across the South and reinstated the racist former slave owners to positions of power.

North Carolina had one of the last Reconstruction governments to be overthrown. The state had one Black member of its congressional delegation, a customs collector in the port of Wilmington, a Postmaster in Wilson and a deputy revenue collector in Raleigh. Besides these federal jobs, there were four Black representatives in the state legislature, and several in county positions. These county positions were mainly in the Black Belt areas in the eastern part of the state.
Three Black Workers Suspended For Honoring King

Many workers, unions and employed folks were off on Monday, January 20, 1986—MLK Day. We observed the first national observance after many years of petitioning, marches and lobbying.

Wesley Andrews, Richard Sligh, and Wilbert Leathers, employees of Carpenter's Chevrolet in Durham wanted to observe this very special day. Like other black workers across the country, they informed their supervisors days in advance that they would take off this historic day. That following Tuesday, the three were suspended by the company boss, Carpenter.

Carpenter said "Normally, I enquire about a week. There's no way I can have a double standard". Knowing in fact that their boss was making a double standard for their observing the King holiday, the three black workers stood together and said no to this abuse of their rights. "Any other day this wouldn't have been an issue," said Richard Sligh.

In the historical tradition of other black workers, the Durham 3 are challenging the bosses at Carpenter Chevrolet. The response in the community indicated concern and moral support. Already they have the assistance of a lawyer. However, much more is needed to make certain that any worker's rights are not abused.

Workers need to be organized in their clubs, employee associations or unions so that they can better influence the conditions of their pay, policies, paid days off and how they are generally treated.

Workers and community organizations in Durham must form labor support coalitions to defend workers' rights, raise funds for their legal defense, and develop a boycott of Carpenter Chevrolet cars.

Bosses At Allied Still Discriminate

In mid-1985, the International Association of Machinist Union (IAM) Local 2541, representing workers of Allied Maintenance Company, at the Firestone plant in Wilson, started a campaign to end job discrimination against black workers.

Fifteen black workers in the plant filed charges with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) for discrimination in hiring, training and promotions. Allied Maintenance Company has claimed that the Employment Security Commission (ESC) is responsible for referring workers that are hired. Using this as an excuse, the company has attempted to shift responsibility for its hiring and promotions policies. The company has also used the excuse that workers in the janitorial unit applying for mechanic positions, must apply through the ESC for these higher paying jobs.

In October 1985, Allied and the union signed a contract, which included eliminating some contract language for one year. The language would have allowed the union to file grievances against Allied for failure to promote qualified workers. Allied wanted to carry out its "promote from the bottom" policy without being challenged by the union. While several workers felt that it was an error to drop the contract language, particularly black workers who felt the most threatened because of past discriminatory practices, a narrow economic issue led workers to give in. The workers felt that the cost of living (cola) issue was more important.

EEOC, in trying to conduct its' investigation into the discrimination charges filed by the workers, cannot seem to get any replies from Allied about company history and policies. EEOC wrote the New York home office of Allied about its' policy on requiring janitorial workers to apply at the ESC for mechanic positions.
FRUIT/LABOR
Therefore, our "national" character as a people is projected in our common struggle for dignity and freedom in our songs and music. During slavery we sang freedom songs as codes to escape plans and routes. In the 1950's and 60's our songs and music of freedom inspired us to break the "Jim Crow" laws and codes of segregation. Today, Black workers have the opportunity to use our songs, music and culture to promote our dignity, our struggle for freedom, and our struggle against exploitation both as workers and as an oppressed nation.

The Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble is contributing to this movement. We sing and share ideas of the life, experience, struggles, dreams, and victories of Black working people in their communities and workplaces. Song and culture is a powerful force.

COME JOIN US IN MUSIC, SONG AND FREEDOM! Call 833-5269.

Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble.

MASSACRE
Call to you to come over and help us. We will not live under these intolerable conditions. No society can stand it, we intend to change it. If we have to choke the current of Cape Fear River with Negro cacoscass, Waddell headed up the Democratic committee known as the "Secret Nine" which drafted what they called the "Declaration of White Independence". It was a blueprint for Wilmington after a Democratic victory. In the declaration they said that Blacks were inferior. Whites were the most advanced race. The Waddell forces gave the Wilson Record, the local black
The Anti-Apartheid Conference and March held in Raleigh last October was an effective impetus to the city council resolution passed in January.

The movement for divestment of funds from corporations and financial institutions that invest in South Africa continues to grow throughout the United States. On Tuesday, January 21st, the city of Raleigh joined many other municipalities in adopting an anti-apartheid resolution. As of February 20, 1986 Raleigh, North Carolina will begin withdrawing investments from banks and institutions that support apartheid in South Africa.

The resolution requires all banks and financial institutions doing business with the city of Raleigh to file a certificate saying that they do not support apartheid. It also requires the city to end relations with those institutions that do not file. The city is allowed to do business with companies who have signed the Sullivan Principles, which pledges the company to certain equal hiring and promotions practices. These have been found to be ineffective. The resolution also requires the city to ask the North Carolina State Retirement System, which makes investments for government employees, to divest city funds.

Initially, the resolution was submitted as an ordinance. An ordinance would call for a "criminal code". However, the City Attorney urged the city council to accept a resolution. The council was assured that the resolution was binding.

The North Carolinians Against Apartheid (NCAA) submitted a divestment proposal to the city of Raleigh on August 22, 1985. This proposal called for complete divestment and did not include the Sullivan Principles as an escape for not investing. It also called for businesses not to be allowed to sell any merchandise from South Africa. In the mayor's reply to the organization, he stated that it was against state law to divest.

The North Carolinians Against Apartheid and Black Workers for Justice submitted a petition with approximately 600 signatures urging the city council to pass the divestment resolution. Although the resolution passed, the NCAA thinks their work would have been more effective if they had been able to mobilize more workers and other city residents. It will surely require mass support and the monitoring of the city by all workers, community organizations and labor unions to force the city government to comply with the resolution.

The city of Raleigh's resolution is not as strong as the many ordinances/legislation that have been passed throughout the world. Sixteen states including the Virgin Islands as well as 39 cities and a half dozen countries now bar or limit investments in American companies who do business in South Africa.

A list of stores in the Triangle area that deal in merchandise from South Africa includes: Farm Fresh which sells blouses made in South Africa. Kerr Drugs sells cotton flannel shirts with Windcrest labels made in South Africa. K-MART sells camouflage pants and shirts made in South Africa. Toys "R" Us has a plant in South Africa. Delmonte's peaches come from South Africa. And, Thalhims sells furs from Zimbabwe.

The North Carolinians Against Apartheid will be contacting these businesses informing them of the community's concern about South African merchandise and demanding that they remove all items from the shelves. If this is not done within a certain time frame, mass support will be needed to organize a series of successful boycotts.

Keep your eyes open on all the items that you buy.
Rocky Mount: A couple of weeks ago another worker was fired at the Rocky Mount Undergarment Company in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. She didn't have the proper doctors excuse for her absence from work, the bosses said.

The workers say Auriel, the worker fired, was out sick with the flu but didn't have the money to go to the doctor. But to get back to work after missing a couple of days—a worker must have a note from a doctor, according to company policy. So Auriel was forced to turn in some kind of note just to get back to the job. The bosses at Undergarment like to keep on top of things, however, they checked with the doctor and decided that Auriel's note was invalid. Auriel was fired—just like that!

The company sick policies are a sham. Workers are eligible for two and one half days sick pay after one year of employment. If a worker survives for three years, she/he is eligible for five days sick pay. But there's a catch. Workers don't qualify for sick pay until they've been out for three consecutive days. From the forth day on the company will only pay 80% of the average wage for the days missed!!! And don't forget that doctors excuse or you'll get fired!

That's the way it is at Rocky Mount Undergarment. The workers say it's a sweatshop.

Tom Poland, the plant manager, is the big boss. In Poland's office, on his desk sits a big gold plaque which reads, "THE BOSS". Among the workers however, he is known as "THE SNAKE".

More than 500 workers are employed at "Undergarment". Five out of six workers are women. One third of the workforce is black. There are two shifts but it's a ten hour day for most workers. The place is a real sweatshop.

The average wage is $3.35 per hour. That's only about $28.00 per day. To make that $28, workers must clock in 540 minutes by the end of each day. In a half hour, each worker must produce ten dozen boxes of underwear. That's 120 pairs of underwear per half hour; 240 pair per hour; 1900 to 2400 pairs of underwear sewn in an eight to ten hour day!!!! The work is hard at Undergarment.

The plant has no windows and even with air conditioning temperatures are uneven. Unit H, where there are more than 300 sewing machines, is known as "the bowling alley" because it's so hot and noisy, according to one worker. Although the air is filled with lint, no masks are provided for the workers. And of the 300 or so machines in Unit H, only six machines have safety needle guards. If a worker is injured on the job—as often happens at Undergarment—no nurse or doctor is available.

Tisk. Tisk. Tisk. It's a shame. Undergarment is a real sweatshop.

Although company policy states that workers will be paid time and one half for all hours in the excess continued page 7
ALLIED WORKERS TAKE STRUGGLE TO WILSON EMPLOYMENT OFFICE

On Monday, February 24, 1986, workers from Firestone's Allied Maintenance Company in Wilson, leafleted the Wilson office of the Employment Security Commission (ESC). The workers were exposing ESC's partnership with Allied Maintenance in discriminating against Black workers in hiring for positions as mechanics.

Since May 1985, Allied workers through their union, IAM Local 2541, have been waging a struggle, on the shop floor, in contract negotiations, filing charges with the EEOC, in Wilson and surrounding communities, at the Allied home office in New York and now at the Wilson ESC. Community people have made phone calls, ministers have written letters and hundreds of leaflets have been distributed in the plant and the community. Allied workers are leaving no stone unturned in their efforts to end job discrimination.

The leaflet directed workers to look at the number of Black workers in the higher paying non-management jobs in the major companies in the Wilson area.

The Wilson ESC is trying to deny any responsibility for Black workers not being sent to Allied for mechanic jobs. Allied is pointing the finger at ESC. ESC is pointing the finger at Allied. Whoever is the blame, and we believe that both are, Black workers are being discriminated against, and there is not doubt about that.

Local 2541 is waging another fight against Firestone's Allied, but this time over work overalls, which were written in the contract. Allied is supposed to purchase 603 pairs of overalls for the workers. Since the new contract began in November 1985, the workers have been wearing soily and torn overalls day after day. The new order would allow workers to have a clean pair daily.

WORKERS SPEAK OUT

This is one of the most interesting editions of the Justice Speaks I have had the pleasure of reading. Will continue to be a subscriber to this most informative paper. This is an excellent training paper.

A.J.

BRO. A.,

Thanks! Enjoyed the Black History edition of BWJ. Black workers and the community need this publication. Please handle my subscription for three (3) months.

Best Wishes,
E. L.

Subscribe to JUSTICE SPEAKS
one year 6.00
six months 3.00

name———-
address———-

p. o. box 3307
Durham, N. C.
27702
Speed Ups in The Triangle

Since 1980, the population of Raleigh has grown from 150,225 to 250,300. It has grown from 16.7 to 75.5 square miles. It is now the second largest city in the state. Raleigh is not far behind in this race towards development, attracting industry and growth. The controversial Treyburn Development in northern Durham County will have both city zoning near necks, breaking their necks to keep pace with speed-ups, new work quotas and newly added responsibilities. Raleigh sanitation worker informed a new organizer that because of all the newly annexed areas, their picking routes have been extended without more men and trucks. The unorganized and non-unionized workers are having their backs broken, literally. A woman worker from Raleigh said that more clerks and communication specialists are needed to receive and dispatch calls for emergency assistance. Durham water meter readers are now faced with higher production quotas.

The Billings and Collection department in Durham purchased new recording machines that can receive more data than the old ones. Presently, workers must read between 250-300 meters a day on the old machines. Billings and Collections now want to make a new policy—Record 350-400 a day or get a bad evaluation.

In the past, there were seven meter readers, now, there are only five to get around a bigger city! They want workers to get the job done with fewer workers when they should be hiring 5 new workers. As the city grows, citizens are told we will get more jobs. Both the citizens and employees lose with speed-ups. Speed-ups mean fewer jobs, unsafe conditions, poor evaluations and firings.

The city and county grow bigger and faster each day, so will our workload become bigger and faster with speed-ups! City employees must put an end to this now before it’s too late. That’s why we must organize and join unions or workers’ clubs so all employees can have some say-so about the conditions under which they work.

FREEDOM BOOKS

Freedom Books Temporarily Closes

Freedom Books in Raleigh, N.C. is closing temporarily only to reopen in a few short weeks as FREEDOM BOOKS/WORKERS EDUCATION CENTER. The reopening of Freedom Books in this new form and place is a great victory for the people’s workers movement in the Black Belt South. But rarely does the growth and development of institutions that belong to the community happen without great pain and sacrifice. The following is a letter written by a supporter of Freedom Books appealing to the community for help and continued support to keep Freedom Books (and the new workers’ education center) open as a place where your children can grow in both knowledge and history, ethics and substance. FREEDOM BOOKS has become a political institution of sorts for those of higher yearnings. We need this bookstore! We need this dedication! FREEDOM BOOKS has provided a place for many a meeting and program for the community. Gordon and Elaine and their children have provided many a service, as well as considerable time and effort on the part of the community on both the local, national and international levels.

Now I have a dream. I want to help them keep FREEDOM BOOKS open. They need help. They need your help. FREEDOM BOOKS is currently having serious financial difficulties. It is just too heavy a load to carry between two people who are also struggling and raising a family.

One of our own is having a problem. I am begging for help for them.

First, we’ll talk about the people, Gordon and Elaine Dillahunt (and family), then we’ll talk about the problem, FREEDOM BOOKS.

Most of us who know Elaine and Gordon love them sincerely. Those of you who might not know them well, you who might not know them well enough, would love them if you knew them. They are beautiful people (the whole family)! Loving, caring, intelligent, and truly dedicated people. Socially aware and politically dedicated. On a scale of 1-10 as freedom one to ten, a #10 as freedom of their fighters. Because of their political dedication, they fulfilled a dream and opened FREEDOM BOOKS. A place where you can go back to your roots both literally and culturally; a place where you can find out what’s happening to the rest of the world; a world where you can learn and expand your roots both literally and culturally; a place where you can find out what’s happening to the rest of the world; a place where you can learn and expand your roots both literally and culturally; a place where you can find out what’s happening to the rest of the world.

January 24, 1986

Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

Could we talk?
This issue of Justice Speaks provides a special focus on the conditions, culture, and organization of women in the Black Belt South and in Southern Africa.

The month of March has been targeted internationally as a period of recognition of the struggle of women world wide against oppression. March 8th has become the official day of ceremony and celebration.

Internationally, the struggle of women against the oppressions particular to them has become recognized as a fundamental and essential aspect of revolutionary change, that is, the reorganization of societies, of production, and of reproduction to be free of exploitation.

In the Black Belt South today nearly 52% of all employed Black women work in service, factory, or transportation jobs. Yet, black women remain the lowest paid of all workers. This fact is quite similar to the conditions faced by South African women workers. (See story, page 8.)

The South African freedom struggle in its developing trade union working class movement may provide key incites into the direction women's movements must take to resolve centuries of male dominance and oppression.

MacShane, Blust, and Ward in their excellent book POWER: Black workers, their unions and the struggle for freedom in South Africa, highlight the emergence of "women workers' consciousness" as the goal of organization and agitation among women workers. The oppression of women is clearly suggested as reaching "beyond workplace difficulties...beyond even the nature of racial oppression inherent in South Africa and touch upon the life that women have to live subordinate to men, within the family and society itself." Yet, the struggle against these conditions is concretely taking place at the point of production (and reproduction) in the workplaces and in the home.

The national liberation struggle in the Black Belt South must bring the paradoxical elements of the oppression of women to its soul and center. It must bring the struggle against the particular oppression of women to its rightful place as a key to the elimination of imperialism (the oppression of nations) and its back bone --- male supremacy.

WHERE WE STAND!

- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
  - FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
  - AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
  - FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
  - AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
  - FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor

- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops" for jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
  - FOR health and safety on the job and in the community

- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities
- FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!
Zora Neale Hurston: The Champion of Black Working Class Culture

Wandering. Not so much in geography, but in time. Then not so much in time as in spirit. Zora Neale Hurston chronicled her "wanderings" from Harlem to Haiti, in novels, short stories and plays. Her folklife collections and anthropological essays remain a primary source for the exploration and understanding of Afro-American culture. Novelist Toni Morrison has called Hurston "one of the greatest writers of our time."

Why then did Zora Hurston die in poverty as a ward of the state with most of her work out of print? Was it because a Black woman dared to speak her piece and pursue life with a vigor and a curiosity that mystified admirers and detractors alike? Was it because her politics were incorrect? Did her revelations of working-class Black culture embarrass those who sought to cultivate the image of Blacks as aspiring to join, as she put it, "the nice, safe, middle class"? Could it be that confronting the issues of the day through stories of love and comradeship are not as acceptable as tales of violence and war?

It is likely a combination of all of the above that left Zora Hurston lying in an unmarked grave for 13 years until Alice Walker, author of The Color Purple and editor of an anthology of Hurston's work, erected a gravestone proclaiming Zora Neale Hurston a "Genius of the South."

Fortunately, there are those such as Alice Walker, folklorist Julius Lester and poet June Jordan who have rediscovered and understood the profundity of this gifted creator and helped to turn the tide of memory. There is currently a substantial resurgence of interest in Hurston's work, and her books have gradually begun to reappear. The latest reissues, along with Dust Tracks on the Road, are Moses, Man of the Mountain and Spunk: The Selected Short Stories of Zora Neale Hurston.

By Dennis Bernstein and Connie Blitt (Reprinted from AGAINST RACISM, Newsletter of the Anti-Racism Literature Project: Vol. 3, No. 5...Dec.-Feb., 1986)
Another Black Victim Of Lawlessness In Whitakers

On February 7, 1986, a young Black man, Roland Tillery, Jr. (Little Buddy) was viciously shot down by a white farmer, Paul Fisher, while standing by a road in Whitakers at about 12:00 midnight.

Earlier that night, Buddy had called the Fisher residence to talk to Brenda Bennett, the daughter of Nadene Fisher and step daughter of Paul Fisher. It was well known in Whitakers, that Buddy had been dating Brenda.

Instead of Brenda answering the call, the mother, Nadene, answered. It has been said that Nadene made personal advances to Buddy, asking him to come to her house, telling him that her husband was not at home. Buddy refused to go to her house, but agreed to meet Nadene on a road near the area.

While standing by the road, a pick-up truck drove by Nadene Fisher approached Buddy. Nadene was the only one in the cab of the truck. When the truck got close to Buddy, Paul Fisher, who was hiding in the bed of the truck, jumped up without warning and shot Buddy with a 44 Magnum. The bullet shattered the bone in Buddy's right ankle.

*WHAT WAS THE CRIME COMMITTED BY BUDDY? MAKING A TELEPHONE CALL!
*WAS BUDDY ARMED? NO! WAS BUDDY FIGHTING PISHER? NO! HAD BUDDY ASSAULTED NADENE OR BRINDA? NO!
*IF BUDDY WAS HARASSING NADENE AS RUMORS HAVE IT, WHY WASN'T BUDDY WARNED BY THE POT, ICE AS THE LAW WOULD REQUIRE? BECAUSE THE RUMOR IS A LINE TO COVER UP FISHER'S RACIST VIOLENCE!

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However, when it comes to justice for Black people, the law is almost always blind. Nadene was not even charged for her involvement in this crime, and Paul was allowed to go free without paying bond.

Why are Black men being shot down like dogs in the streets of Whitakers by white men, and the law does NOTHING? Does this mean that a BLACK LIFE IS CHEAP?

Does Whitakers have a racist system of apartheid like South Africa, where there is a law for Blacks and a law for whites?

This shooting may cause buddy to be permanently disabled, preventing him from holding a job. A hearing has been set for March 11th at 9:00 A.M. in the Nashville courthouse. The Black community and all people of goodwill should pack the court demanding justice for Buddy.

There will be a mass meeting in Whitakers on Saturday, March at 4:00 P.M. The location will be announced. Please come out.

WE DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE CONVICTION OF PAUL AND NADENE FISHER FOR ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO KILL, INJURY, ECONOMIC SUPPORT BUDDY CAN FINA A STABLE JOB, MEDICAL BILLS PAID AND CONFISCATE FISHER'S GUNS.
holding a job. A key set for March 11th at the Nashville court community and all people should pack the court for Buddy. It will be a mass meeting on Saturday, March 11th at 1:00pm. Location will be announced.

CONTACT
NATHANETTE MAYO
834-3833

FREEDOM BOOKS

Sincerely,
Catherine Mohamed/Adams
Member, The Support Committee to keep FREEDOM BOOKS open.

If you would like to make a pledge to FREEDOM BOOKS of $5 Bi-Weekly
$25 Bi-Weekly
$50 Bi-Weekly

Edelstein and Payne, a peoples' law firm, celebrated its' fourth anniversary on February 28. The three progressive lawyers handle types of cases, their labor and civil rights legal work has been notable as well as their support for the trade union and Black movements.
This "proletarianization" of women's work in South Africa has provided fertile opportunity for the development of women worker's consciousness and organization. This has meant the sharpening of an understanding about the conditions of women which has taken the form of male supremacy, patriarchy, lower wages (sexism), lack of reproductive rights, violence against women and sexual harassment.

The South African trade union movement of the 80s has begun concretely to address these issues as part of the organization of the working class into a united revolutionary movement.

The historic resistance role of South African women has been well noted. The 1956 massive protest of women against the extension of pass laws to women was a milestone in the South African freedom struggle. The demonstration of more than 20,000 African women was the result of an extensive organizing campaign among the whole indigenous South African people, lead by South African women leaders.

Since 1956 however, the social structure of women within South African society has changed.

Between 1946 and 1982, the numbers of South African women workers in production increased eleven percentage points. Today more than 12.8 percent of native South African women are employed primarily in the textile and food industries. And, a shift into "wage labor service sector" jobs has also been evident since 1946. Between 1973 and 1981, women employed in this area increased from 62,488 to 112,024.

Percentage increase of women in the black work-force by sector, 1973-1981

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector/Industry</th>
<th>Percentage increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shoe</td>
<td>23.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical machinery</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textile</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td>12.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-metal mineral</td>
<td>11.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>11.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furniture</td>
<td>10.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemical</td>
<td>10.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>10.0</td>
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(Source: National Manpower Surveys)

Campaigns for maternity rights such as maternity leave or being transferred to jobs that do not tax pregnancy are being fought out by the unions in the plants. Campaigns against sexual harassment on the job and oppressive patriarchal attitudes (such as the wife needing the husbands permission to attend union meetings) are being brought forward by the unions as legitimate issues that concretely affect women's lives. Sexism in the form of lower wages for women workers is being raised daily as an issue of oppression. Indeed, the recognition that the oppression of women is an oppression beyond even the "struggle between the races", between labour and capital, and beyond even the nature of racial oppression inherent in South Africa... seems to be growing.
The fight for justice in the racist shooting of Roland Tillery was on. In the March 1986 issue of Justice Speaks, the despicable attempted murder of Roland Tillery by Paul Fisher, a white farmer in the Whitakers area of Edgecombe County, was exposed. Evidence clearly suggested that Fisher's wife, Nadene, acted as an accomplice in the incident. (See March issue of J.S.)

In response to this unpunished act of racist violence, leaders of the Black Workers for Justice and concerned citizens in the area surrounding Whitakers called for a mass community meeting.

At the community meeting, held on March 15 in Whitakers, resulted in the formation of the Roland Tillery Justice Committee and a delegation of concerned citizens and community leaders to organize a mass campaign to demand legal prosecution of Paul and Nadene Fisher. Also, a petition drive was initiated in Edgecombe, Nash, and Wilson Counties. The three counties make up the 7th Judicial District of the district attorney who is "prosecuting" the case against Fisher. More than 500 signatures have been attained thus far.

On March 20th, a delegation of elected officials, ministers and representatives of the Tillery Justice Committee held a meeting with District Attorney Howard Boney to review the case. The delegation spoke about the failure of the legal system in the area, including the DA's office, to aggressively prosecute cases of racist violence committed by whites against Blacks.

Boney stated that he would prosecute all cases fairly and equally. He assured the delegation that his office would call for an indictment of Paul Fisher on the charge of "aggravated assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and inflict serious injury." He also stated that he would call for an indictment of Nadene Fisher as an accessory to the felony violation. However, Paul Fisher was the only person indicted four days later when a grand jury was held on March 24th.

The work of the delegation is not yet over since Boney promised that Nadene Fisher would also be indicted but she was not. Boney said that the arresting officer, Larry Woody, had arrested both Fishers, but Magistrate L. R. Bass overruled the arrest of Nadene.

Meanwhile, Tillery has just received close to $22,000 in hospital bills not including doctor's fees and medicine.

Concern about this case and about racist violence has spilled over into area workplaces. Workers from the Consolidated Diesel Company (CDC) plant have joined in efforts to bring justice to this case. Several workers expressed that racist violence in the immediate area of the workplace, can foster tensions between Black and white workers on the job— if there is no movement within the workplace to show opposition to these kinds of attacks in some concrete way.
HORMEL WORKERS STAND STRONG

What may turn out to be one of the most significant strikes in years is raging on in Austin, Minn. Founded in the so-called industrial heartland of the U.S., Hormel, a leading meatpacking company has encountered a local union that refused to give concessions to a company that continues to make profits.

On August 17, 1985, 1,500 workers from Local P-9 of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) drew the line on concessions.

From the beginning, P-9 has faced opposition from the national UFCW leadership. Their strategy for dealing with the meatpacking industry is different from that adopted for the Austin plant by P-9 leader Jim Guyette. P-9 is engaged in a systematic plan to organize new locals to replace existing locals that have "adopted" a striking philosophy.

On strike for the past six months, P-9 has been receiving no strike payments they were receiving until the strike began, Hormel reported an 83.6% increase in earnings the previous year. The spirit and militancy of the P-9 strikers has captured the hearts and minds of thousands of trade unionists around the country. Many locals have "adopted" a striking policy and were receiving nothing in return, they were right.

Thousands have joined them on the picket lines in Austin or in solidarity marches held in that city and elsewhere. And in response to roving pickets that P-9 workers conducted at the Hormel plants in Ottumwa, Iowa; Fremont, Neb.; and Dallas, Tex. 400 workers from these plants stayed out and were fired as a result of this courageous act of solidarity.

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WORKERS SPEAK OUT

EDITORS NOTE: In March members of the Black Workers For Justice leafletted the Wilson, N.C. Employment Security Commission (ESC) office charging it with discrimination against black workers. Discrimination in job referrals was one of the particular problems noted in the leaflet. Below is a letter from an unemployed Black woman worker who was at the ESC when it's offices were leafletted.

Dear BWFJ

Now is the time we all [must] pull together as one to unite ourselves in the job market. There is no justice for a black man or woman. Please let me know what I can do, too, am unemployed and I watch businesses discriminate and now our only contact with jobs (the Employment Security Commission) discriminates as well. No must stand on what is right. [I'm] ready to work for free because no one will give me [a] job that pays.

—Mrs. D. M.
WOMEN'S COMMISSION ORGANIZES
A PROGRAM FOR WOMEN WORKERS

The development of women is a key concern in the BWFJ program. A women's Commission is necessary to legitimate and encourage the development of a "women's workers' consciousness movement" as an aspect of building the black working class movement and to create a supportive environment for the growth of women in the BWFJ.
ORGANIZE FOR POWER...

WHERE WE STAND!

- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
- FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor

- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops"
- FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
- FOR health and safety on the job and in the community

- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racism, national oppression of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities
- FOR political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!

CALL TO JUSTICE
Analysis, Views & Demands From the BWFJ
The Black political movement is a correct view of the democratic party! 

While the weakness of the Black political movement is that it's lacking a new choice other than the democratic and republicans parties. The basis of running and electing politicians, yet the strength of the caused is that the movement is organized outside of the parties.

Thus, the program of this movement will be shaped more and more to the struggles of Black people from their national oppression on daily basis. An effective political leadership of this movement will be indispensable to the struggles of the Black community within each sectoral political base being challenged.

Among the most pressing political issues facing the Black political movement are racist violence sanctioned by the judicial system's lack of responsiveness; workers' rights on the job; gender discrimination against women workers; unequal distribution of resources at the county and state levels; and the educational structure—particularly the Rocky Mount school merger issue.

The Black political movement must be taken to the workplaces, at the factories of the fight for decent wages, working conditions and for equal industrial policies. These wages, while more severe for Black workers, definitely affect all workers regardless of race or nationality. The fight against job discrimination at the Allied Maintenance Company, where Black workers are the lowest paid, is also a struggle against the Black community being denied over one million dollars a year.

Reverend Thomas Walker and Reverend Johnnie O. Thorn are chairman and vice-chairman of the Edgecombe-Nash Black Political Caucus. Both Walker and Thorn have shown a willingness to take a stand on the struggles affecting workers. Both took a tour through an Edgecombe County industry at the request of workers who wanted changes in the health and safety conditions. Walker and Thorne were also involved in the press conference and efforts to oppose the Klan march through Rocky Mount in February. The two candidates were also involved in the delegation (along with State Representative Milton Pitch, Jr.) that called on the D.A.'s office to actively prosecute the Tillery case. Reverend Walker, in particular, has been a supporter of Black Workers For Justice since 1981 when the K-Mart struggle was launched. (See Feb 36 Justice Speaks.)

Black political power will bring improvements to the conditions of all workers. Black political power will smash the system of discrimination and national oppression faced by Black people in the Black Belt South and throughout the U.S.A.
SHILOH DEVELOPMENTS

The small predominantly Black community of Shiloh, located in western Wake Co., has taken its future into its own hands in planning for its future. Members of the Shiloh Coalition for Community Control and Improvement with the assistance of the Raleigh-Make Chapter of the BWFJ knew that with the county’s plans for development of the western Research Triangle Park and the state’s plans for the Outer Loop Expressway, the only way to counter “outsiders” plans to develop and destroy the community was for them to plan development which would benefit the community.

With the help of North Carolina State University’s school of Design’s Community Development Program this is what they are doing. Community members have participated in meetings with students working on the project and discussed types of development they want for Shiloh which would succeed in fulfilling its housing, recreational, municipal services (water & sewer), and economic need of the present and future. The community members and students also looked at the possible ways the development could take place and how residents could work along with developers to achieve their goals.

When the project is completed, the community will be presented with a book which summarized all of the discussions and work. It will include plans, which could be presented to developers of community development that residents themselves have played major role in making. The next step would possibly be actual gathering of resources and development.

With Black landloss being at a height, we commend the residents of Shiloh and support them in their fight for preservation of one last Black freeholds in the county and self determination!

CAUCAS BANQUET

The Edgecombe-Nash Political Caucus, will be holding a banquet April 4, 1986, to raise money to mobilize Black voters in the upcoming county elections. The Caucus has been holding weekly meetings to develop and promote a strategy to mobilize Black voters. They have taken the slogan “Organize for Power,” and more Black officials are realizing that Black political representation must have an economic and aware community base, if it is to amount to political power.

Members of the Caucus are closely with the BWFJ. They have been supportive in the fight against discrimination at the Allied Maintenance Co.; the struggle against racist violence in the Rocky Mount; and the earlier for the struggle which founded the BWFJ. The Caucus banquet will be held at the Rocky Mount YMCA at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are $10.00. The Rocky Mount endorses this event. Organize for Power!
HORMEL

A "cooperate campaign" that includes parts of the products manufactured by the target company. With its presence, the UFCW did provide significant payments. But as time went on, they became more and more open with the concessions of the local and got into the trade union bureaucracy to do the work and encourage their locals to support the strikers. This is the usual pattern of many leading officials, and the rank and file organized that it would make them fight it in the future. On March 13, the UFCW suspended strike activities.

As has happened tremendous odds have even been the subject of press by the national guard, called by governors in an obvious show of support between the owners of the power, and the government. In many, children of the strikers stayed home from school and demonstrated at the state capitol on behalf of their striking parents. A national march was in Austin on March 13, but the ballot has been held all across the country. On March 13, the union held a solidarity event at District 85 of the IAM in York City. The supporters, who had been in close contact with the strikers, had to be addressed by a few separate halls while many stood outside. Jim Guyette spoke and passed out leaflets with strikers from the Justice Committee and the striking TWU railroad attendants.

There is clearly a rank and file movement stirring in the U.S. If it can break the shackles that keep the mass of Black workers tied down on it by timidity and democratic trade union officials, it can take up the fight against concessions in a militant and planned fashion, so that it can be seen. In the meantime all labor must render support to our brothers and sisters in their struggle for freedom. As the Washington Post in Austin on March 13, it is the present phase of the labor movement to fight against capital.

Boycott all Hormel products! ! !

TILLERY

Last month a young white worker from the W.C., driving a small red pickup truck, made a threatening comment to a member of the Tillery Justice Committee who was passing out flyers at the plant. The Committee worker was told, "you're a dead man".

This and other racist threats will not stop this movement for justice. Moreover, Consolidated Diesel Company has continually stated that it is a good corporate citizen and has dragged its feet on the Tillery case. Where do you stand CDC?

Members of the Justice Committee believe that the entire area legal system and the district attorney's office have failed in fulfilling their duties. The district attorney's office has failed to do their job. The Community that CDC resides in has a racist legal system and has dragged its feet on the Tillery case. Where do you stand CDC?

The Justice Committee has taken steps to organize a community relationship program. It is being organized with the help of the Justice Committee and the district attorney's office. They have been working with the community to promote peace and order in the school system including the Whitakers' Police Department, magistrate office, and the district attorney's office should be investigated.

A fundraising gospel singing program has been planned for April 26, to raise money for the work of the Justice Committee and to contribute to Roland Tillery's medical related expenses. Gospel groups interested in participating in the gospel program can contact Alexander Evans or the Spiritual Echoes at 437-1261 after 5 p.m. A workshop for speakers about the case, financial donations, or those hoping to join the work of the committee can write to the Roland Tillery Justice Committee, P. O. Box 411, Whitakers, NC, 27891 or call 437-1503. Please make checks out to the Roland Tillery Justice Committee.
BLACK WORKERS MUST STAND AGAINST CONTRA AID

US-DOLLAR

or

US-ARMY

The Reagan Administration's efforts to get approval for $100 million in aid for the terrorist forces trying to topple the present Nicaraguan government is of extreme importance to Black workers and all people concerned with real democracy in Central America.

They are called Contras or counterrevolutionaries because they represent the remnants of the National Guard of the former dictator, Somoza, as well as the class forces (wealthy) that supported him when he was in power.

The entire history of Nicaragua shows a struggle against rich landowners, Spanish colonialism and U.S. colonialism. U.S. businessmen, hired American soldiers as mercenaries and the Marines have been interfering in Nicaraguan life since 1812. The revolution of 1979 brought to an end the string of brutal rulers who stayed in power because of U.S. support.

When Reagan says that he wants to help the contras overthrow the Sandinistas because they have "betrayed" the revolution that many of the Contras fought in overthrowing Somoza, he turns history upside down and inside out.

Again, most of the Contras were Somoza people, and the others who opposed him did not engage in the armed struggle and organizing that forced him out of power. But more than anything else, the U.S. did not support "the revolution" because it had strong bonds with Somoza. They did not like some of what he did but they upheld the view: "yeah, he is a son-of-a-bitch but he is our son-of-a-bitch".

This has been the attitude of the U.S. towards Marcos in the Philippines and Duvalier in Haiti. Only when it becomes clear that in spite of U.S. support that the people are going to oust them from power by using any means necessary, does the U.S. step in to make it appear that they side with the masses. But if a government is leftist and has any type of relations with socialist countries the U.S. does everything possible to try to smash that government.

It matters little what kind of progress has been made for the masses in literacy, health care, housing, etc. The biggest lies and half-truths are thrown around in order to justify U.S. aggression. Check it out, no moves have been made to overthrow the South African government to allow for "democratic elections", etc. In fact, while Reagan talks of the Contras, he condemns any armed resistance on the part of the Black masses in South Africa who are constantly under attack by the police and army. Children and old women are on the receiving end of racist bullets in South Africa.

We must oppose Contra aid and support the Nicaraguans who like the Afro-American people, South African Blacks, Haitians and Phillipino people, are struggling for self determination and freedom from U.S. corporations and the government bosses in Washington.

The concerns of Black workers on this issue also have to do with money being shifted from social programs to the military and foreign aid for reactionary, antipeople forces. And when this aid fails to give Contras a victory, U.S. troops will be sent to boost their efforts. Then, Black youth, who are still in the ranks of the unemployed to the tune of 42%, will have to go and fight other oppressed people in the protection of monopoly capital in Latin America.

There is no threat to U.S. national security by Latin troops marching across the Rio Grande River. The real threat has always been and continues to be the exploitation of American workers and racism in national oppression, all taking place at home.

Learn more about the real war in Nicaragua. Meet with people who have lived, worked and visited Nicaragua and have a different idea than Reagan. Write us if you wish to join a study group.

Reagan will send aid to the Contras. In response, we have to provide support and material aid to the workers and peasants of our own courageous nation.

A Sweat

From Mount Undergraduate, North (R.

The workers worked hard, they were satisfied, and the doctor said they were going to keep working.

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Postal employees at the Raleigh National Center are victims of an increasing number of firings and disciplinary actions. At a time when Postal Service is calling for increased production, more efficiency and "better attitude", workers can expect more and more pressure. There are numerous examples that workers are angry and more and more willing to challenge management. One particular had everyone's blood boiling. An acting supervisor, who happens to be in the Postal Service less than a year, snatched the identification badge from a woman's clothing, clocked her out and fired her. The woman, who is only in her early or middle twenties and Black, had refused to carry a heavy hamper with trays of mail. Besides having a slight cold, the worker had just finished a light duty assignment. The supervisor, who is young and single, clearly had no authority to fire the worker. This act amounted to an assault. Many of the young workers are bristling at the fact that an arrogant white man would be so disrespectful to an older Black woman. It, of course, brought to mind the "Old South", Jim Crow, and white supremacy.

What made this incident so troubling is the fact that the abused worker was "Casual", a category of employee that receives half the wages of regular employees, has no benefits and can be fired at will. Because she had no union rights, the only recourse she had was through an Equal Employment Opportunity complaint. It has gone to the regional office where it sits. In the meantime, the acting supervisor has been allowed to continue his supervisory responsibilities and has only received a reprimand. It turns out most workers strongly dislike him and he has harassed another Black worker who was also dismissed without the benefit of a hearing.

The situation with Casuals is a growing problem for postal workers. It is one part of the "two tier" employee and wage system accepted by the Postal unions as a concession to management. As of the contract accepted in 1984 new employees started at an hourly rate lower than that of those already employed. In addition, several more steps have been added at the lower end of the wage scale so that it will take longer to reach the higher steps. The Casuals are another aspect of the "two tier" set-up that has created a separate workforce. They are without protections and driven into the ground by management. Casuals work side by side with regular employees. They usually work harder because they are afraid they will be fired or that there is some hope that they will be hired permanently if they look good in the bosses eyes. Others hate so they can get more hours. Otherwise, they have to work another job.

Postal Service uses these workers to participate in their speed-up scheme and to avoid hiring much needed full-time workers to keep up with the increasing volume of mail. The contract only allows for two 90 day periods of employment in a calendar year, excluding December. The Post Office can manipulate this by hiring someone in June, re-hiring her in September, then continuing her through December.
SONGS FROM THE FRUIT OF LABOR

NO NEED TO BE AFRAID

CHORUS:

NO NEED TO BE AFRAID
AFTER ALL THE SACRIFICES WE'VE MADE
STAND UP AND FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS
RACISM AND INJUSTICE WE MUST FIGHT
THE REAL POWER IS IN OUR HANDS
LET'S GRASP IT- AND MAKE OUR STAND!

Shiloh residents put aside their fear
Their land, to them, was something dear
Government planned to take it and run roads through
grabbed their power, said the roads must be moved
Still more changes must be made
But Shiloh folks are not afraid

Genbearco workers put aside their fear
Opposition to layoffs and low wages was clear
Bosses intimidated, framed and fired two employees
They grasped their power, determined to succeed
Benefits were gained, petitions remain
Still more changes must be made
Genbearco workers are not afraid!

Allied Maintenance workers put aside their fear
They'd been through an impossible year
Bosses discriminated, threatened, and called them names
They snatched their power to make a change
Bosses were fired, Blacks hired
Still more changes must be made
But Allied Maintenance workers are not afraid!

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Durham, N. C. 27702

WORKERS SPEAK OUT

March 16, 1981

Dear Editor,

My name is Gary Washington. At present I’m the editor of MEAD WORKER’S HERITAGE, an all workers newsletter put out since 1973 by the Mead Caucus of Rank & File Workers (organized in 1972). We don’t have the proper literary skills but we put out a newsletter anyway because there is a need for communications and there must be an integration of theory and practice.

I have a 16mm film about the violent 1972 wild-cat strike that took place at the Mead Packaging Plant in Atlanta, The company called in the GBI (Georgia Bureau of Investigation), the FBI, the entire Atlanta SWAT Team and over 250 city police. Later in a rare move the CTA, yes you hear me correctly the CIA become involved in this labor battle that brought in Andrew Young, the Atlanta University Students, SLC, the Black community and workers from other plants.

We’ve had strikes before in Atlanta this was class struggle at its best.
I also have four video cassette television programs that I’ve taped on to talk about the Klan trying to take over the union at Mead, 527 of the Graphic Communications Union.

A friend showed me a copy of your newspaper and I want to subscribe immediately.

Justice In the Workplace,
Gary Washington
END DURHAM CITY MANAGEMENT ABUSE!!!

Sanitation workers face many problems on the job.

March 14, 1986 was the beginning of a "new day" for pulling Durham city employees together to address problems. Alex Jones, sanitation employee leader, presented a grievance that: 1) highlighted the present problems in the sanitation department, as well as, the continued management abuse of promotion procedures and policy and 2) pulled together an organized effort of co-workers, city employees and union members to testify at a city manager level hearing without fear of intimidation by management. This grievance must be seen as an important step of the continuing workers' campaign for improvements in the conditions in our workplace.

In the past, the sanitation department has had a very large number of black workers, but never a black department head. Workers have had a number of major problems under white department heads Bob Mitchell and later Tom Bastiville (i.e. no air conditioned cabs on tractor equipment at landfill, sexual harassment, job discrimination, buddy-buddy promotion system, physical and verbal abuse of employees at the landfill).

During late 1985, sanitation workers - union members and nonunion workers have been concerned about the new selection of a black department head who would be sensitive to correcting a long legacy of workplace problems and employees concerns. City and county workers union, AFSCME local 1194, brought this matter to city management's attention.

From past to present, nothing has really changed: "The faces have changed (color) but, the policy of management abuse has not changed! There's been a ten year policy of employee abuse in the sanitation department under (white superintendent) Bob Mitchell (i.e. job discrimination, unfair treatment, sexual harassment, wage slavery). Mr Bethea (Black city assistant manager), who is responsible for the sanitation department and the selection of its new black head, is continuing the same policy of management abuse," Jones stated in the hearing.

Bethea's posture and actions, directly and indirectly, on: a) contracting out sanitation services to private companies; b) using the landfill as the place to get rid of "management's undesired employees"; c) no fixed yearly holiday schedule for landfill employees like other city employees; d) manipulation and breaking personnel and selection policy; e) preselection of candidates for promotion opportunities; f) placing unqualified "yes men" in certain positions of responsibility; g) unfavorable treatment of outspoken women and black workers and union members; h) physical and verbal abuse by private contractors of landfill employees... does not best serve city employees or the Durham community.

In closing, Jones stated that this grievance was not just for him. He requested not only back pay with his promotion, but an end to management abuse and an investigation of the department by the community and council. Also, a request to relieve Greg Bethea of all responsibilities for sanitation.
CALL TO JUSTICE
Analysis, Views & Demands From the BWFJ

ROCKY MOUNT SCHOOL MERGER....

The business community in Rocky Mount and Nash County, particularly the banks and realtors, is leading a campaign to dissolve the Rocky Mount public school system.

The Rocky Mount school system has a 72 percent majority Black student population. Contrary to the facts, many racist thinkers, old and new line are insisting that the Rocky Mount educational system is deteriorating. Several years ago, the majority white school board student could be assigned to a class with less than 40 percent white students. Front groups for the white supremacist John Birch Society and the Ku Klux Klan, calling themselves "Save Our Schools" (SOS), put forth arguments justifying a student plan that would make a sensible person vomit! They said that "white students were not used to Blacks"; that the cultural differences made white students feel intimidated and prevented them from concentrating on learning" and on and on.

What they were saying, in effect, was that the educational system is fine as long as white students could maintain some privileged status. The blame here does not fall on white students, but on their parents who refused to speak out opposing this racism.

WHERE WE STAND!

- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
- FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor
- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops"
- FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
- FOR health and safety on the job and in the community
- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people and all oppressed nationalities
- FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the national and national liberation of Blacks, all oppressed nationalities

The Rocky Mount school system is among the top in the state. Students score among the highest on standardized tests; the teachers have outstanding teaching credentials; and the facilities are well equipped to prepare students to function as workers and professionals in the economy.

Yet, the Rocky Mount city schools are "deteriorating," as the upholders of white supremacy would have the students know. No one has asked the students themselves, many of whom have become friends, members of the same teams and clubs, and who have gone on to work on the same jobs.

Black people are being accused of wanting to dominate the Rocky Mount schools. Black people want quality education from the Rocky Mount schools and any other schools they attend. That's all we want.

Blacks have sought to have political power to insure that the educational system and the city as a whole is fair, democratic and equitable for all regardless of race or nationality.

The demand of Black citizens and whites as well in Rocky Mount, must be for quality education for all children. An important aspect of building a system of quality education is to have an elected school board based on the principle of community control of schools. Currently, the Rocky Mount school board is still made up of whites. The people who have refused to buy into the system and the system as a whole is not legitimate in the eyes of the Black community.

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THE TILLERY STRUGGLE

Residents of the Bloomer Hill Community, in cooperation with the North Carolina Student Rural Health Coalition, will be holding a Community Health Fair shortly following the 4th of July weekend. The Health Fair will last for 10 days, providing citizens in Bloomer Hill, Village Heights, Battleboro and Whitakers with a complete physical examination at no charge. The distance to the nearest hospital from Bloomer Hill is about 18 miles. Many people living in rural areas face even greater distances to the nearest health facility. There are many workers in the area also, who are or have been exposed to working conditions that are dangerous to their health and safety. Likewise, people who live near factories and farms who are continuously exposed to dangerous chemicals.

The Health Fair will attempt to provide people with a basic knowledge of their health status and some information about health maintenance and improvement. Tests will be available for blood pressure, analysis, pap smears, blood, noses, mouth and throat exams.

The chairperson of the Fair is Ida Cooper, president of the Bloomer Hill Community Association and worker at Consolidated Tobacco Company, the neighboring plant. Representatives from Battleboro, Village Heights and Whitakers are encouraged to join the Health Fair Organizing Committee.

We are witnessing the takeover of public hospitals into profit-making ones with skyrocketing prices. The health facilities are not only in need of health screening projects such as the Health Fair, they need to establish permanent health screening clinics. Jobs for Blacks in the school system, new schools, a new school system, new schools, a new hospital system, new school buildings, etc., in the Rockymont community must be held to build a community run schools for Black children.

The Health Fair will attempt to help the work of the Justice Committee or to the medical related expenses, should send it to the Justice Committee. Anyone wishing to be used to pressure for an indictment should send it to the Justice Committee. There will be high and low points in this struggle for justice, but for sure there will be a struggle.

BLOOMER HILL HEALTH FAIR

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CHAVIS HEIGHTS WORKERS AGAINST RACISM

Maintenance workers at Chavis Heights Housing project in Raleigh have been faced with racist graffiti on the walls in apartments that are being remodeled in the project area.

The workers suspect that a white supervisor is responsible. Accordingly, they have filed a complaint with the Raleigh Housing Authority that is going through the grievance system and meeting resistance at each step, even from Black Housing officials.

The maintenance workers are planning to meet to plan strategies to press the Housing Authority director on this and other issues of racial discrimination that they have identified. Those workers are no longer satisfied with the conclusion that a group of workers are more efficient than individual complaints.

BLOOMER HILL HEALTH FAIR

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The pre-trial arraignment for Roland Tillery, an 18 year-old Black youth who was dating his 22 year-old step daughter, had been scheduled for April 21, 1986. However, it was postponed.

Meanwhile, the work on the Tillery case is being done mainly in getting petitions signed, which will be used to pressure for an indictment. There will be high and low points in this struggle for justice, but for sure there will be a struggle.
Rocky Mount schools

A white minority, despite a Black majority student population. Many of the white school board members believe that they are not necessarily cause to the Black community merger issue. They will give the impression that they are major in the Black community merger issue. Thus, making it appear that the "referendum" is the only fair issue.

The Black community must begin new meetings to discuss the quality education for all. Within the Black community issue. They will give the impression that the "referendum" is the only fair issue.

The school merger issue is only a small part of an issue. We must certainly discuss the meaning of the "school merger issue. We must move on to discuss the meaning of the "school merger issue. We must move on to discuss the meaning of the "school merger issue. We must move on to discuss the meaning of the "school merger issue. We must move on to discuss the meaning of the "school merger issue.

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International recognition of May Day this year attained a new and special significance when more than 500,000 South African workers conducted a mass general strike against the Apartheid regime on May 1, 1986. This historic action by Black South African workers may indeed mark a new stage in the world revolutionary movement.

This "new stage" may represent a shift from the sharpest arenas of struggle in the Middle East, South and Central America, and Asia against the control of the world's lands, resources, and economies by white, western governments in the U.S. and Europe. This shift may be based on the maturing national liberation struggles of the oppressed nations inside the industrialized western nations: that is, the oppressed Black nation inside the United States in the Black Belt South and, in particular, the oppressed Black nation in South Africa.

The increasingly well organized Black workers movement in South Africa demonstrates a point of exceptional maturity in the world revolutionary movement, and must necessarily advance all fronts of struggle when the organization of Black workers and the national liberation movement merge under one slogan: DEFEAT APARTHEID, SOUTH AFRICA, & U.S. IMPERIALISM!

May Day became an internationally recognized celebration of the struggle of workers world wide against the relentless exploitation of workers everywhere. It all started in Chicago, Illinois in 1886. On May 1 of that year, over 500,000 white workers went on strike in the U.S.A. This has been cited as the first general strike in the U.S. since the civil war when slaves went on strike against the Southern plantation system. While few demands were raised directly in the interest of Black workers who had been suffering under the post-reconstruction terrorism in the South, striking white workers did demand the 8-hour work day. Their slogan, "Eight hours for work, eight hours for sleep and eight hours for what we will", would eventually impact upon all workers who were forced to work 12 to 14 hour days in sweat shop factories. Although we take the eight hour day for granted today, it is a standard that came directly out of struggle. Before the first May Day struggle was over, six strikers, at least four workers, and four leaders of the militant activities had been killed. As a result, May Day became internationally recognized and celebrated world-wide. It is mostly in the U.S. and other western countries that the days' real significance and history is obscured. Recognition of May Day also took place on a small scale at the new Freedom Books/Black Worker's for Justice Center in Raleigh, North Carolina. The Center, soon to be opened officially, sponsored a May Day program to both join in the international recognition event to dedicate the new Center to the continuation of its' history and resource to the growing Black movement in the Black Belt South.

Representatives from the Information Center in New York, the Friends of the Philips, a local group, were among the presenters at the program. The Workers For Justice also gave an informative, solidarity statement.

The presentations on the Haitian situation and on events in the Phillipine's were very stimulating for those who attended the program.

Of particular interest to Labor was the growing nature of the mass uprising against the Duvalier regime. The Haitian struggle, while succeeded by deposing Duvalier, leads us to revolutionary leadership issues. This continues to be a serious concern of many Haitian revolution leaders who are organizing the important Haitian a new round revolutionary content.

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In May 24, 1986 Black leaders of the Rocky Mount Edgecombe County community called a mass community meeting to take a stand against the racist and ongoing policies of city and county officials against the best interest of the Black community.

The May 24 mass meeting was quite effective in getting the movement off to a well-organized start. It was a standing room only crowd at the Greater Mount Hermon Baptist Church where concerns from the community were heard and democratically addressed.

Several debates took place from the floor including what name the movement would take to identify itself. PRIDE won out after some discussion and comparison to other possible choices.

The May 24 mass meeting was

ROCKY MOUNT MOVEMENT

TO OPPOSE

"SEPARATE BUT UNEQUAL" POLICIES

Another important issue was placed on the floor by Black Workers For Justice. The lack of women's leadership in a proposed leadership core group, initially proposed as one chairman and two vice-chairmen, was criticized. Each of the three candidates were black men and ministers. Sister Joyce Dickens was nominated from the floor to become one of them.

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On Friday, May 9th, the Assembly Hall at the Durham YMCA was packed with celebrating Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) supporters. FLOC had just successfully negotiated a historic contract for 6000 Ohio farmworkers with the racist and exploitative Campbell Soup Company and their growers. Farmworker president, Baldemar Velasquez, and other co-leaders, came to N.C. to announce their union's recognition as the representative organization and voice of these workers. The hall of labor supporters rejoiced and celebrated with speeches, cheers, music and song by Larry Vellani, Chris Davis, and the Fruit of Labor (FOL) Singing Ensemble. The event, sponsored by the Triangle Friends of United Farmworkers (TFUFJ), was opened with music by Vellani and a warm welcome by Joan Preiss of TFUFJ.

Activist and cultural worker Nathanielle Mayo, speaking on behalf of the FPLA Coalition, stated to the audience that worker leaders like brother Velasquez. FLOC and its supporters are excellent examples of what we need here in our workplaces and communities in N.C. Support for the seven (7) year boycott of Campbells products by N.C. unions, religious and community organizations and individuals and others throughout the country is credited for a critical role in pushing the soup company to negotiate, said the Chicano leader, Velasquez.

The Fruit of Labor dedicated the song “I'm Gonna Stand” to the rank and file farmworkers. The workers' 10 years of effort to organize the more than 90 workers led to union recognition, a contract, wage increases, medical and hospital coverage, day care paid for by the company, grievance procedures, paid union representatives (at company expense) and a totally independent Farmworker Commission which will monitor the agreement to make certain the contract is followed every word of every contract/agreement.

Union leaders present from Durham Central Labor Union, State Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) local 177 (Duke employees) and University workers) and from 1194 (Durham City/County workers), the striking P-9 (United Food Commercial Workers Union workers) and from workers at the Hormel plant in Minnesota, and the Black and Hispanic workers in the Southeast, had a common basis of understanding the need for organizing unorganized workers in this period of union busting, unchallenged anti-union laws in N.C., take backs and concessions.

Brother Velasquez did not answer the question of political power. “We need to understand the need for organizing workers, black workers in Africa and on the modern farms in the Southeast U.S.” The Fruit of Labor was honored to have the invitation to speak and sing at this celebration. Most of all, we enjoyed hearing the lessons of workers organizing strategies and the role of culture and song. FPLA leaders and singers. We hope that we can pass on these lessons as we contribute to the Black Freedom Cultural Movement's efforts to organize workers in the Black Belt South.
Early in May, Marie Powell was also fired. Why? After two years of steady work at Undergarment, Marie was transferred to a department where the company knew she could not work. They have her medical records showing that she was not to do any lifting. But when Marie asked them to check those records and transfer her to any department where she could work, she was fired. The bosses told Marie she was a "danger and a threat to the company." Later when Marie applied for unemployment insurance, the company fought her right to receive compensation by claiming that she refused to do the work according to company procedures. (We'll let you know what happened in the next issue of Justice Speaks.)

The Women's Commission of Black Workers For Justice passed two leaflets at Undergarment in May. The leaflets were passed out to join with the workers in exposing the real bad conditions at Undergarment.

As one worker said, "The only way you or your family can benefit by being a worker at Rocky Mount Undergarment is to drop dead!!! But, make sure it's on the job!!!

How long must this go on? Only you can make it stop! Only you can change this over-worked, under-paid situation!! Stand-up and fight....no need to be afraid....after all the sacrifices we've made. Stand up and fight for your rights!!! Racism and injustice we must fight!!!

The real power is in our hands, let's grasp it and make our stand. ORGANIZE NOW!!!

REHIRE MARIE ! ! !!
CALL TO JUSTICE
Analysis, Views & Demands From the BWFJ

WHERE WE STAND!

- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
  - FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
  - AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and anti-apartheid national oppression of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities

- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops"
  - FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
  - FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the Nehru-Jomo Kenyatta national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities

- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
  - FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
  - AGAINST discrimination and "killer shops"
  - FOR health and safety on the job and in the community

- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
  - FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor
  - AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? THEN IT'S TIME TO STAND! JOIN US!

DURHAM, N.C.

Over the past few months, black workers in various unions have been moving towards a significant anti-apartheid commitment. The Black Workers for Freedom and Justice (BWFJ) is now actively involved in the struggle for justice for black workers in South Africa and elsewhere.

In August, the federation of black workers and their allies in North Carolina and South Africa went on strike for equal wages and better working conditions. They marched to the state capitol in Raleigh, calling for an end to the "race to the bottom" and demanding jobs for all workers.

In addition, the federation has been working with local community organizations to build support for the strike. They have held rallies and meetings to discuss the issues facing black workers and the importance of standing together for justice.

The BWFJ has been working with other activist groups to plan events and rallies to support the strike. They have also been holding workshops on anti-apartheid education and organizing strategies.

If you want to learn more about the BWFJ and get involved in the movement, you can contact them through their website or social media channels. Together, we can make a difference for black workers and bring about a more just society. #BWFJ #antiapartheid #workersrights
Over the past year, unions and black workers in Durham have played a significant role in bringing the anti-apartheid movement of South Africa into their workplaces in North Carolina.

In August 1985, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 1194 was participating in a weekly downtown picket against the racist and exploitative South African and U.S. policy on this issue. At the same time, retired United Auto Worker unionist and member of the Committee for Peace with Justice in South Africa, forwarded a letter to city manager Orville Powell. The letter requested that the city inform the community and organization about city relations with companies and institutions investing or doing business with South Africa. There was no direct answer to this question from the city manager's office. The anti-apartheid committee informed the community of this lack of accountability.

These important activities lead to a more consistent and broader outreach that eventually involved both AFSCME locals 77 and 1194. In fact last September, city worker Alex Jones of Local 1194, pushed the city employees Affirmative Action Committee to expose the entire N. C. State Public Employees Retirement System for its investment of 1.5 billion dollars in pension fund stocks and bonds in South African companies. City management was unresponsive again in answering the concerns of city workers.

Over the following months, the locals along with the "Peace with Justice..." committee passed flyers, held meetings, and passed petitions to effectively push the issue of city investments in South Africa to greater public scrutiny. Several members of Local 1194 remained vigilant even in the face of management requests to "drop this issue".

The Durham City Council finally began addressing the issue of city investments in South Africa with what city workers called "a weak and continued page 7
SHILOH HOLDS PLANNING LUNCHEON

On Saturday, April 26 the Shiloh Coalition for Community Control and Improvement sponsored a Shiloh Community Luncheon to commemorate the 2nd anniversary of the Shiloh Movement. The Coalition has been involved in a long struggle for community control, community economic development, water and sewerage. They have fought against state DOT road proposals to locate roads in the community and corporate attempts to purchase land cheaply for industrial development.

State Representative Dan Blue, Wake County Commissioner Vernon Malone and Wake County Planning Board member Harold Webb were the elected and appointed officials who were invited to attend the luncheon to discuss with community members the problems facing Shiloh and together develop a strategy for resolving them. Residents quickly found out who their friends were and who was truly concerned about them when none of the invited politicians came out. But this did not dampen the spirits of the community members present. One member commented "We will support them in their campaign and at the polls on Tuesday, May 6th they supported us here today; they must be held accountable!"

The luncheon continued with residents discussing past work, developing a plan of action for the coming months. The luncheon came to a decision to assist the Pride Joy Chapter 579 Order of the Eastern Star, some of whose members belong to the Coalition and the Black for Justice, in its efforts to relocate and restore the "Old House". This structure is over 150 years old and belonged to one of the oldest founding families of Shiloh.

The following letter was sent to supporters of the Shiloh community:

The BWFJ supports the community and its effort to preserve an important piece of history, and asks you to contribute to this cause.

BWFJ OPENS TWO CENTERS

We are proud to announce the opening of the Black Workers for Justice Centers in Rocky Mount and Raleigh. Starting with the December 1982 Rocky Mount struggle against racist and sexist job discrimination of women workers at K-Mart, we have continued our modest efforts over the past 4 years to 1) organize those that face the worst conditions of labor, the Black workers and 2) develop institutions that will contribute to the broader Black Freedom Movement and the New Trade Union Movement.

One of these developing institutions is the the BWFJ centers. We hope they will serve as a meeting place, educational forum/library, a resource center to create and reproduce informational flyers, and a general center for workers activities to build struggles in our workplaces and communities.

The downtown Raleigh center is

Open from 10:00AM to 6:00PM and located at 135 E.Martin Street at the corner of Blount (in the past Freedom Books). Friends and supporters are painting and remodeling center.

The Rocky Mount center is located at 210 Atlantic Ave, at the corner of Ivey. The "Abner Berry Library", named after our member will be housed in the center and dedicated on this 83rd birthday.

We extend a warm invitation to you to come to the centers. We need your support. Contact 833-5269 to help repair or donate. Make checks payable and send to P.O.Box 5574 Raleigh 27605.

Support the struggle to organize and build power in our workplaces and communities. Come visit! Bravo!
rocky mount boycott

Officially a part of the leadership core group. She was already serving as a key member of the planning committee but was left in the background by this traditional male/minister leadership formula. Sister Dickens was unanimously voted to the leadership group. Rev. Thomas Walker was nominated and elected chairman of the movement.

Community members were asked to sign up on committee lists ranging from the strategy committee to the transportation committee. The transportation committee, for example, will handle the logistics for getting people to established great lines as well as to other shopping areas while the boycott goes on.

PRIDE also plans to specifically target the organization of the youth to effectively be apart of the selective buying campaign as well as to bring them forward against this attack on their school system.

In an exclusive Justice Speaks interview with PRIDE chairman, Rev. Walker, the reverend compared the Nash County and Rocky Mount city officials to the ruling apartheid regime in South Africa. "Whether you live in Nash, Edgecombe, or Halifax Counties or if you live in South Africa...if you're Black, you're Blacky, it's the same mentality here as in South Africa," he stated. "But the school merger issue affects a large number of whites because if they cut us off from the tracks, they are going to cut them off, too," Rev. Walker added. So this is an issue that touches the lives of all communities.

Support for the movement is already widespread according to PRIDE leaders and includes numbers of whites who are concretely opposed to racism.

No doubt, this movement will build to a great victory for the people. The racist Nash and Rocky Mount officials are in for a real struggle.

--BOYCOTT--

durham anti-apartheid

legislators for new state purchasing laws and to find ways to divest the city's pension funds.

But no one is fooled by these proclamations. As one worker stated, "We must be vigilant in keeping on top of the city government."

Meanwhile, Local 77 gave one of the best examples of effective support for the South African freedom movement of any organized workers in this area. The local refused to allow their members to be used by the Duke University administration in their struggle against students who had built protest shanties on campus in April and May of this year. Ground crews, who were Local 77 members, refused to tear the shanties down, citing a clause in their contract that allowed them to escape any penalties for refusing to work in this particular instance. City employees and other local unionists in this area should study their contracts and Local 77's tactics to see how workers can take a stand --- legally --- to stand on the right side of history.

Tuesday, May 6th like us here today! They are accountable!"

Then continued with another point and ended the statement. rocky mount boycott

"\n"
Ten years ago, on June 16, 1976, the brave youth of Soweto challenged the racist apartheid system in a serious way. Soweto is a Black township or ghetto, near Johannesburg, South Africa. They called for massive demonstrations to challenge the use of Afrikaans, the language of the Dutch settlers, in their schools. They were also protesting the inferior education that was available for Black South Africans.

On the sixteenth, students from the various schools gathered at 12 assembly points to march with signs to Orlando Stadium. The peaceful marchers were attacked by the police, who began to shoot, indiscriminately, into the crowd. Thirteen year old Hector Petersen was the first of nearly 1000 killed; thousands were wounded. The police and military continued this brutal assault on the children. The youth responded by throwing rocks and sticks. The rebellion lasted for three days and became known as the Soweto Rebellion. It has gone down in the pages of the South African struggle as a key point of struggle.

In South Africa and around the world, June 16 and the days before will be observed as Soweto Day. People will pay tribute to the beautiful and innocent martyrs.

The struggle in South Africa did not end with Soweto. In fact, it has intensified and the number of people struck down by police terror in the last three years, exceeds those lost in the 1976 rebellion. These great sacrifices, however, have moved the people closer to the goal of total liberation from apartheid and the rule of the white minority.

Of major importance is the growing strength and leadership of the Black working class through the independent trade union movement. In addition, the development of local committees in the townships as forms of peoples government is excellent. These bodies are in opposition to the government appointed councils. They are building the rudiments of self-governing municipalities for the time when Blacks hold state power. And finally, armed resistance is intensifying as the Black masses strengthen their military capacity. This is essential for the final victory.

There are two notable events in this period that should be highlighted. On the one hand, many of the courageous students of the 1970’s have become working class activists and organizers. Nonoce Nyaibo is a good example. She was a student who became a labor organizer and helped to start the important and powerful National Union of Mineworkers. Her father was a mineworker, so she knew the hardships mineworkers face. However, most importantly, she came to recognize the centrality of workers in the struggle for liberation in South Africa. In the present, she works for the United Mineworkers of America and deals with their work in boycotting companies that have operations and holdings in South Africa, such as Shell and Massey. Afro-American students must follow her example.

The second important development can be seen in the U.S. anti-apartheid movement. The massive New York City demonstration, while being supported by a broad cross-section of people, was called by labor. The coordination of the march and rally are not by leaders in the trade union movement, but are representatives of Black labor. This is an opportunity for Black workers to play a more active and eventually, leadership role in the U.S. anti-apartheid movement.

Never forget Soweto! Keep up support for the apartheid government. In the U.S. and in South Africa, Black workers must lead!
leader of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) in July when he returned from spending June in the United States, speaking to trade unionists and anti-apartheid activists.

The same issue of July's SPEAKS was conducted with the secretary general of ZCTU about the question of militants. He said, "Certainly we are intensifying with a section of our people to realize that it is militarily essential for the racially separated militarily. But it is a civil war that the army and the political installations of the apartheid state, and that is going to continue killing of whites, not so. The intention of militants to be attacking workers, the army and the political installations of the apartheid state."

The Black community and Edgecombe County selective boycott of Nash County white businesses is gaining momentum. The organization leading the boycott, officially being called the "Buy Edgecombe County" campaign, is People Really Interested in Developing Equality (PRIDE). PRIDE has been holding weekly planning and mass meetings, preparing to challenge the Nash County and Rocky Mount white power structure's brand of racist apartheid.

The formation of PRIDE, signals the development of a mass movement for Black political power which includes human rights and economic justice for all people. Black people must have power to challenge the attack against the Rocky Mount City School System and to demand balanced growth throughout the entire city of Rocky Mount, which means concentrated investment in the growth of the Edgecombe side to make it equal in every way to the Nash side. The Rocky Mount school merger issue, is concretely as issue of balance growth.

The school system, while it is an educational institution, is also an economic institution. It controls hundreds of jobs, millions of dollars in contracts, and millions of dollars in property and equipment. The racism of the white business interests goes deeper than their unwillingness to send their children to the Black majority Rocky Mount School System. In spite of the fact that it is recognized as the best system academically east of Raleigh.

The racism behind the Nash County Line School Merger proposal, is a sacrifice the Children low-life plot of greedy white business interests. Extensive research of the school merger issue has revealed the link between educational issues and economic development. A study by the Division of School Planning (DSP) found that the Nash County Line School Merger plan, would: "divide the city of Rocky Mount into two distinct segments and it offers the main advantages to Nash County who would receive that portion of Rocky Mount with the higher tax base and with a continued page 2..."
However, the majority of the white business interests have not called for any increases in wages and benefits for black or white workers. Even those companies that pay "decent" wages, are hiring temporary workers for low wages and no benefits. Workers are being forced to work alot of overtime, almost to the point of endangerment of health and poor efficiency which eventually gets them fired. Yet these same business interests/bosses, are trying to push white workers to do their racist dirty work of supporting the destruction of the Rocky Mount School System in the name of county line merger.

Black workers must be determined to raise these issues to their white co-workers whom they have worked with for years. Workers must begin holding discussions on their lunch breaks and after work toward unifying in defense of the Rocky Mount School System. Unless this is done, this issue will further divide workers and give the bosses the upper hand to do as they please. The unions must stand on the side of progress and balance growth for the city of Rocky Mount. Black workers must demand that their unions take a public stand and actively work against the county line merger.

I am a worker at the North Carolina Special Care Center in Wilson, a state owned long term health care facility. I have worked there several years and have found my work with the patients to be enjoyable and challenging. But I and other workers have met many prejudices on the job.

The administration is not made up of people with compassion for the patients or the workers. As Health Care Technicians we are treated as though we are being punished for something all of the time. We are robbed of our dignity as people doing a job that counts. When praise is given to our center, I feel that it should start with the Health Care Technician. We are the ones who give the most attention to the needs of the patients with long term illnesses. Yet we never share in the glory about our center's good work. We are forever reminded of minor bad points, but never the good.

We are always having classes in ways to improve our skills and knowledge in health care. But, the wish I could instruct a class on administration and leadership. That would be my lessons for the class. Search yourself and find out what type of person you really are. 1) be able to relate to people on all levels and have a willingness to understand people's concerns; 2) don't forget humanity. Each day we are hoping to -

Workers must stand on the side of growing pains. The building of mass movement, is a process with required patience and determination. It must contend with ups and downs, rivalries and personalities and at times with traitors planted by the opposition. But these dynamics must be honestly addressed and kept in check if PRIDE is to become a powerful movement.

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This article is partly taken from an article in the May 1986 edition of Labor's Champion.

Black people in the county of Sunflower, in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, are fighting for control of their school system. Large plantations have dominated the area since slavery. The population with per capita income, unemployment and health statistics that put it alongside other counties oppressed by the U.S. economic and political system of imperialism such as Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. Even though Black make up 65% of the population they are in positions on the County Commission. They have only one seat of the City Council out of six.

The Indianola School Board, which runs the school system are also held by whites. On the state and clerical levels, Blacks from this area are not elected representation. The current white power structure has sought to prevent Blacks from holding office and reverse the small gains that have been made, by annexing surrounding areas of whites and holding onto the at large voting system to dilute the Black vote.

BOYCOTT WINS STRUGGLE FOR BLACKS IN MISSISSIPPI

This struggle escalated to include a boycott of the Indianola schools on April 14. The boycott finally forced the local white power structure to give in to the demand of Black people. On May 2, the school board announced it was appointing the principle supported by the people. The white merchants's association agreed to pay the former appointee $96,999 in order to obtain his continued page 7

They don't make outrageous production demands.

What was Greenberg doing with the money. We certainly wasn't paying the workers a decent wage or benefits. The next thing we might hear is that Undergarment is going broke and may have to close down its operations, or try to force workers to give up some paid vacation time or holiday to help bail the company out of a financial "jam". Undergarment probably makes $150,000 or more a year. This type of crime is called "white collar" crime, bringing with it a spank on the wrist. If he has to pay a fine, it will not come out of his bank account. It will probably mean something unfavorable for the workers that will be discovered eventually.

When the owners get their hands caught in the cookie jar, the workers must find out what the status is of the company. A committee of workers should be formed to request that Undergarment give an accounting of its profits for the past five years and a projection of future profits. They should demand answers about possible lay-offs in the next two years and get a commitment about raises and benefits for the next two years. More and more, the need to organize a union is becoming real clear. First, the workers themselves must form committees inside to raise the confidence and awareness of the majority of the workforce. Justice Speaks and the Black Workers For Justice will do their best to help this process.
ORGANIZED COMMUNITIES CAN

ДЕФЕЯТ ОРГАНИЗОВАННЫЙ РАЦИСМ

WHERE WE STAND!

PART 1

Clearly, acts of racial terrorism and right wing political tactics targeted and organized against the Black community is not an isolated "civil rights" phenomena internal to the United States simply because the Reagan Administration and other "conservatives" have seized more power.

While the advent of "conservatism" (which has revealed itself as just another form of racial terrorism) is certainly connected to the Reagan Administration, this Administration is only the public (and policy) face of international economic interests held by "the west" including the United States, Western Europe, and South Africa, mainly.

Indeed, President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua recently exposed the U.S.A. as the facists (or right wing terror nation) in the world today. The recent World Court decision against the U.S. which legally verified U.S. actions in Nicaragua only served to prove Ortega's point.

These "western-white" nations perceive — as they have done for the last 400 years — their economic interests and survival as necessarily based on the ruthless exploitation of the land, natural resources, and peoples of the third world, including Black people in the U.S.A. and especially the Black Belt South.

In Black communities across the Black Belt South such as those in Eastern North Carolina, "open season" has been declared against every real and imagined democratic right. And these actions by whites, officially and unofficially in power, are "sanctioned" through various means giving them room to declare this "open season" without fear of retribution and in many cases open, public support.

One of the more intensive tactics being systematically carried out is anything that can generate fear and self-doubt! Therefore, the emergence of fear tactics are taking place on all fronts: indiscriminate firings carried on at the work place -- generating fear of job loss; vote fraud indictments against activists and innocent people — to generate fear of voting; public policy assaults against school systems -- generating fear of the establishment; pot shots and vicious pre-meditated shootings of community people — to generate fear of any community rights; public power displays of right wing groups such as the White Patriot Party (KKK) — generating fear of the "all powerful" white para-military right wing.

But while these strategies are being conducted against the Black community, the Black community must have a strategy of its own — a kind of "strategic defense initiative" that can lead us to the political offensive.

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!

WHERE WE STAND!

- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- AGAINST workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
- AGAINST wars and military spending; make the rich richer
- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racist national oppression of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities
- AGAINST the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!
KITTRELL COMMUNITY RESISTS RACIST VIOLENCE

In Kittrell, NC the African-American community has had all that is required to take from that town grocery store owner and town councilman A.L. VanDyke. For more than 30 years VanDyke has been menacing the African-American people of this small town. Some claimed that he carries a gun in one pocket and a pair of brass knuckles in the other which he has used on more than one occasion.

In May of this year, the nefarious charges of "registering a vote contrary to law" (vote fraud) rained down upon the Rev. Corinne Wilson of Kinston, North Carolina. These charges were dropped.

The vote fraud charges proved to be a part of a national right wing campaign in the electoral arena known as the "Ballot Security Program". The "Program", organized by the Republican Party both nationally and in North Carolina, has posted threatening criminal charges, "foul" interpretations of the law. FBI investigations, press releases about vote fraud, and threats of voting rights activist frivolous charges as tactics specifically targeted against the Black community to quell the rising Black voting strength so prevalent in the last six to seven years.

Rev. Wilson, a 59-year old Black woman, local minister and civil rights activist in Lenoir County, was indicted in September of 1985 for registering 285 mostly Black voters in October 1984. She was participating in a First Congressional District Black Caucus "Get Out The Vote" campaign.

The fact that these so-called "vote fraud" charges were brought after the registrations had been conducted revealed their political and conspiratorial nature. It was only when Republicans gained a majority on the Lenoir County Board of Elections in July of 1985, that the charges were even seriously considered and brought against Rev. Wilson.

Black voting strength is not a problem of Republican against Democratic, however. Black power, whether it emerges in the electoral arena - as it must - or the workplace and community - as it also must - is a critical political problem that the Black community must correctly solve in the coming years.

One of the more outstanding factors in this case was the process of the legal defense of Rev. Wilson. The legal strategy was correctly...
Nearly one-hundred fifty delegates from across the state met in Greensboro for the annual convention of the North Carolina Council of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU). This year's meeting was important because elections were held and preparations for the national convention were made. It will be held in San Francisco during the week of August 9th.

Overall, the convention was a successful one that put the N.C. state organization on a solid path as it relates to postal workers and their particular needs, as well as those of other workers, both in the U.S. and overseas.

Many good resolutions were put forward to be discussed and sent to the national convention if passed. Of these, several are notable. They included support for Black South African workers in their fight against apartheid; childcare facilities for employees provided by the USPS on or near the worksite; paid maternity leave and paternity leave as well.

Another important resolution addressed the problem of casual employees and called for them to be eliminated under the next contract.

Also, many AFSCME workers joined a call to support the workers striking at the Chicago Tribune by refusing to purchase the "scab-produced-sheet". Members Wanda Weaver of Pennsylvania and Jeanie Lambie of Arkansas confronted management at the Drake Hotel to stop AFSCME members from receiving the Tribune. There were also participants in the Communication Workers of America picket line.

The women's committee of AFSCME (established in 1982) met on Wednesday of that week to hold a "equal partners breakfast" where a major discussion of women's issues was held. The breakfast was so well attended that a larger room had to be obtained.

On Tuesday of that week, Black AFSCME members began laying the ground work for a new Black caucus within the national rank & file membership. About 50 Black members met at the American Congress Hotel to discuss the need for to discuss the formation of the caucus.
One of the weaknesses has been, the fear of a "white backlash", which often results in watering down powerful statements and demands which need to be made. Another weakness is, deciding against certain tactics because of legal technicalities. Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement, often made the decision to get arrested if necessary to challenge injustice. When PRIDE is confronted with such a decision, it must have the courage to go forward. However, getting arrested is not the goal; keeping the struggle is, even if it takes getting arrested.

resignation and end the boycott. The victory came after months of bitter struggle during which the local rulers stubbornly refused to give in to the people's demands. The Blacks in Indianola were not frightened that white merchants had taken legal action against the NAACP and other groups in the State of Mississippi, Claiborne County for calling a boycott. While the boycott was a legal action protected by the Constitution, the Blacks were willing to go forward because of the seriousness of the issue at hand. This is a very important lesson which all determined movements must face: if the laws are unjust, then they should be challenged. The problem which the local Black struggles often face, is fearing the obstacles of the struggle more than the vicious system and conditions of oppression. Indianola overcame this problem in this struggle. Boycott, boycott, boycott and strike until the racist walls come tumbling down.

The main weakness that was apparent to many, is the lack of Blacks and women in leadership roles at the state level. This is also a problem in many locals. A network of Black and rank and file activists is being developed to begin to deal with this situation as soon as possible. Any N.C. Postal Workers interested in working on this should write Justice Speaks.
THOUSANDS MARCH TO REMEMBER SOWETO

On June 14, over 100,000 people in the U.S. observed the 10th anniversary of the rebellion by South African Black youth against the racist apartheid system and its inferior education. The peaceful protest against the system were met with brutal repression. During the three days of the actual rebellion and the weeks following, over 1000 people were killed. Soweto has become an important watershed in the long history of struggle against apartheid. The battles with police and burning of property was the most militant mass opposition to apartheid that had been witnessed up until that time.

Opponents of apartheid all around the globe, in solidarity with an anniversary strike in South Africa, held rallies and demonstrations. In the U.S., actions were held in New York City, Boston, Chicago, Atlanta, Los Angeles and San Francisco. The New York City rally, held in Central Park, was the largest, drawing over 90,000 people. Rally participants came from broad and diverse sections of the population. African-Americans, whites, Latinos, West Indians, Africans, Asians and Native Americans were all represented. Organized labor, peace, civil rights, community, student and progressive and anti-imperialist organizations filled the ranks of the massive audience.

The many speakers included politicians, labor leaders and entertainers. Harry Belafonste read a message from Winnie Mandela and Jesse Jackson called on the U.S. to impose sanctions on South Africa.

There were also speeches from South Africans involved in the struggle. The rally included speeches from Mpho Tutu, Bishop Tutu's daughter, Amon Msane from the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and Alfred Mup of the African National Congress (ANC).

One of the shortcomings of the rally was the decision by the coordinators to allow the "big names" and entertainers to go on first. Consequently, many people who left the rally because of the heat and fatigue from the march, did not hear the important speeches made by the ANC and COSATU, as well as the performance of Judy Howatt, the militant Jamaican reggae singer.

The good feature of the rally was that it was preceded by two feeder marches, one from Harlem and one from the U.N. The Harlem march heard militant and revolutionary speeches and cultural performances before it headed south to Central Park. This march was joined by a Latino contingent in East Harlem and the ranks increased to over 5,000.

It was good to see striking TWA flight attendants in uniform, AFSCME locals in union T-shirts and so many young people of all nationalities. It was evident that the New York Black community had made the struggle against apartheid a priority.

The South African situation has intensified in response to the Black masses determination to commemorate those martyrs that gave their lives in 1976. The one day general strike that had been called by the trade unions and anti-apartheid organizations appeared to be very successful. One the day of the strike, June 16th, there was no movement from the Black townships to the cities and centers of employment. However, it is difficult to tell exactly what took place because of the strict press censorship that was imposed by the South African government in the State of Emergency measures designed to stop the 10th anniversary activities.

One of the major actions the racist took in connection with this desperate policy was the arrest of at least 3,000 leaders of civic, religious, and trade union organizations. The top leadership of COSATU was either arrested or forced to go underground. This has left the trade union federation in a position where they could not function. This was particularly damaging to several unions that were in the midst of contract negotiations. They were finally released on June 25th without explanation. However, the government said they were not detained for their labor activities but their political activities. It is precisely why COSATU is not a powerful force because they call the economic struggle with a political struggle. America were must force their unions to do same.

The determination, discipline and defiance shown in the particular round of conflicts strengthened the Black masses shaken the ruling whites. It is becoming clearer and clearer that Black masses will win. It is simply a question of when:

ROCKY MOUNT CENTER
216 E. ATLANTIC AVE.
write to:
P.O. BOX 1863
RALEIGH, N.C. 27605

RALEIGH
135 E. MARTIN ST.
write to:
P.O. BOX 5574
RALEIGH, NC 27605
The Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation (formerly Export Tobacco Company) in Wilson, North Carolina, recently announced a lay-off of 200 or more workers effective September 1, 1986. Brown & Williamson has about 450 workers at its Wilson plant, more than 95% Black in production. Most of the workers are seasonal, working about six months a year and drawing unemployment.

The workers are represented by the Tobacco Workers Union, Local 259T. The tobacco industry is the oldest industry in Wilson and the foundation for the development of its more diversified economy. Thousands of workers are employed in Wilson's tobacco industry which includes working in the fields harvesting, processing in the plants and loading in the warehouses. This is a mainly Black workforce with low wages and benefits, and largely made up of women.

The union held a well-attended meeting on July 28th to formally tell the workers. The local union officials tried to get a representative from the International (head union office) to attend the meeting, but was not successful. The local rank and file must demand more accountability of their higher union officials. The union is calling for the company to divide up the shifts into less hours to avoid the lay-off. Management is saying that the workers not laid off will have to work overtime.

The lay-off is the result of tobacco companies like R.J. Reynolds and others companies need. As a result, millions of pounds of tobacco have been stored in warehouses under a program called stabilization.

The tobacco companies, instead of buying the tobacco directly from the growers, now buy it from stabilization at a lower price. The growers have to pay a storage fee as well. R.J. Reynolds, Phillip Morris, Lorillard, and Brown & Williamson agreed to buy 550 millions pounds of surplus tobacco from stabilization. This government-approved program is supposed to be one of the answers to stopping imports. But, as everyone can see, this has not ended unemployment; it has increased it. It is aimed at lowering the value for the small growers, leading to greater debt, more foreclosures and cheaper prices for the agribusinesses. Small farmers and workers must unite against the bullying of the big.
The Raleigh local of the Black Workers For Justice has initiated a fundraising project that has everyone in the organization quite excited by its potential. One-fourth of an acre of peas has been planted and will be sold to area residents in late August or September when they are ready to be harvested.

The idea for the fundraising garden was developed by Horace Bryant. In addition to being a Shop Steward at his workplace and an active member of the PTA, Horace is a part-time farmer. His participation in other BWFJ fundraisers made it clear to him that the organization needed a way to raise funds that does not consume great amounts of time, and offers larger returns than yard sales and fish frys, etc. Moreover, everyone had a strong feeling that we needed to become self-reliant as an organization and as an example to Afro-American people relative to the long-term goals of freedom and self-determination.

Land preparation, planting, weeding is being done by Horace Bryant. Other members of the organization will pick the peas and market them. Thus, it will take organizational effort and energy, but will have played an important role.

The "Freedom Garden" is located on land made available to the Mayo family in Shiloh. It is significant because this is the land that area developers are trying to rob from the Black land owners in the area.

In August, broccoli and collards will be planted on another half-acre for October harvesting. In spite of the severe drought, the garden is doing fairly well. Readers and supporters should put their orders in now for these vegetables. For issues of JUSTICE SPEAKS advertise dates and prices of these items.

Certainly, the "Freedom Garden" nor any other business or fundraising venture can assure freedom. In fact, freedom cannot be brought. However, activities of this type can put us in a better position to struggle for freedom. The only way it can be achieved.

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BLACK WORKERS SAY IT'S A STRUGGLE AT CDC

The Consolidated Diesel Company (CDC) located just outside of Rocky Mount, near Whittakers, North Carolina, made big promises about being a "fair" employer and "good corporate citizen." They promised to pay every worker a decent wage and to allow the workers to effectively participate in the decisions regarding their working conditions.

CDC workers have been looked at by other workers in the Edgecombe, Wilson and surrounding counties as having it easy. But all is not what it appears to be. The workers at CDC have another story to tell.

There are many temporary workers being used at CDC. These workers make 1/3 less than permanent workers, yet their duties were and still are handled by technicians who are permanent. The temporary workers don't have company benefits. Why doesn't CDC raise these workers permanent mechanics?

The permanent workers are made to work overtime. Their Saturdays have been spent at CDC for most of the period of 1986. Workers are fired and under pressure, creating the possibility of job-related injuries and poor work-efficiency which is held against the workers in terms of pay progression.

New Trade Unionism is being developed by the BWJF Trade Union Commission. The objective of the New Trade Unionism program is to provide the shop floor leader in a unionized workplace with new tools in attitude, consciousness, and methods of organizing and winning struggles on the shop floor and in the community based on the real conditions workers are facing in the 1980s.

In the 1980s the demands by big corporations for larger profits have meant forced concessions in wages and benefits, government policies and practices which are anti-labor, union busting, and an anti-union political environment.

Black workers suffer a double burden, women workers a triple burden. New Trade Unionism suggests that all workers regardless of race, gender or nationality must be challenged to break with all the unhealthy old ways of thinking and instead take up the struggle against national oppression, or racism on the shop floor and in community life as well as struggle against male supremacy in society and sexism on the shop floor.

New Trade Unionism also poses that the decision making capacity of the rank and file must be developed and respected. And it includes a strategy to unite with community movements and to maintain a connection with unemployed workers.

The seminars conducted were 1) handling grievances with workplace organization, 2) labor legislation and political education and action, 3) labor based on Black political power with an analysis of the workers movement in South Africa.

There have been cases where workers were made to work while injured and required to make up lost time for job related injuries. One worker had to elevate his foot and work with a cast on.

A most glaring example of the false image of CDC is the discrimination faced by Black workers. Workers have been reprimanded or fired for so-called violations of company rules, while many white workers committing the same violations get off.

Recently, two Black workers were called to a meeting to be written up or fired, because they made comments to another worker (Black and misguided) about their opposition to racism being shown to a Black woman considered for job reinstatement. The misguided Black worker reported the conversation the management, who in turn, threatened to penalize the two Black workers.

Many workers at CDC, after hearing about the incident with the two Black workers, as well as witnessing other examples of racism at the plant, signed a petition calling for a meeting with CDC management to address the problems. CDC accused the two Black workers of bringing the plant a "bad image" and forced them to work overtime. The two Black workers were reprimanded or fired for so-called "manipulative action, claiming that it is "reverse discrimination". This new "reverse racism" position of CDC must be fought and defeated by the workers at CDC.

In fact, workers in industries in the area, must speak out against this dangerous position, remembering that CDC has a "good image".

CDC recently conducted a training for the minority Business Association of Rocky Mount. Such trainings are meaningless in terms of CDC's fairness toward the Black community when their practices inside the plant discriminated against Black workers.

The millions of dollars in costs for installing water and sewer lines and purchasing land for CDC, raised by the citizens in the Rocky Mount and surrounding areas, is being thanked with the insult of racism against Black workers.

WORKER'S SCHOOL

BWFJ HOLDS WORKER REP SEMINAR

The Black Workers For Justice and Education School, in conjunction with the Trade Union Commission sponsored the "Shop Steward & Workers' Representative Rank and File Training" session on July 26, 1986 in Rocky Mount.

More than thirty workers representing most sectors of the working population from fast food restaurants to health care work to manufacturing in the tobacco industry were present for the training. The majority in attendance were Black women workers.

The seminars for the training were based on the program of "New Trade Unionism" currently being developed by the BWJF Trade Union Commission. The objective of the New Trade Unionism program is to provide the shop floor leader in a unionized workplace, or the rank and file activist in a nonunionized workplace with new tools in attitude, consciousness, and methods of organizing and winning struggles on the shop floor and in the community based on the real conditions workers are facing in the 1980s.

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CALL TO JUSTICE
Analysis, Views & Demands From the BWFJ

ORGANIZED COMMUNITIES CAN DEFEAT ORGANIZED RACISM

AND THE RIGHT !!!!

We must heed public transportation virtually nonexistent, only 37% of the non-agricultural workforce is unionized compared to 28% nationally. Resulting in grossly lower wages less than half of the working poor. The South have graduated from high school compared with 57% national states such as North Carolina among the highest percentages of white hate group activity. Racism then, provides privilege within the context of violent racist killings. Communities must pinpoint specific problems and demand specific solutions. Likewise, direct action must take place on the ground — raising specific demands in specific solutions in specific conditions. Organize for Power in the Black Belt South! Stand up for the Black Political Power and against Racism Everywhere!

WHERE WE STAND!

- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops"
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and the national oppression of the Black and oppressed nationalities
- FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!

A kind of "strategic defense initiative" is imperative for Black communities across the Black Belt South today. Such an initiative is as important as well for specific areas of the South and across the continental U.S. like North Carolina where right wing activity has been particularly acute. The strategic defense initiative is the careful and thorough efforts of oppressed communities to organize for power in the Black Belt. Black political power will create the basis for defeating the right whether it acts thru repressive right, thru paramilitary activity, and discrimination, especially on the job.

Communities of the South suffer from Southern underdevelopment which shows itself in precisely the areas where Southern communities have the most need: public transportation virtually nonexistent; only 37% of the non-agricultural workforce is unionized compared to 28% nationally. Resulting in grossly lower wages less than half of the working poor. Communities must take place on the ground — raising specific demands in specific solutions in specific conditions. Organize for Power in the Black Belt South! Stand up for the Black Political Power and against Racism Everywhere!

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WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!
On July 3, 1986 police were summoned to the Oxford Manor public housing project in Durham's Haytowcon to investigate gunshot reports. When the police finally left the area that night, 21-year-old Charles Grant Jr. lay dead in the woods. Arrogantly, Taylor was shot at close range, killed by one shot to his head.

The few newspaper reports regarding the story state that a white policeman, Kent O. West shot Taylor for "life and death" struggle in the woods. According to newspaper accounts, West and a black woman officer, Sharon Y. Miller, arrived at a dead-end area of Wiggins Street where two men approached the police car. West questioned one of the men (Taylor) and while talking he noticed a small pistol in his vehicle and removed the weapon. West, with the assistance of Miller, "put the man prone" but he struggled, ran from them and ran into the woods. Supposedly, West caught the man near Duke Lane where Taylor was killed. His body was reportedly not removed from the woods for dead. They said the police claimed that they could not get an ambulance into the woods to get the body.

Additionally, residents who say they saw the events leading up to the shooting, state that Taylor was treated brutally and with unnecessary force by both police officers before he was chased and shot. They say that Taylor was not uncooperative with the cops, but that their brutal treatment of him after taking his small pistol forced him to try to struggle and run. He was unarmed when West chased and shot him, they say. No newspaper reports seem to verify at least that much.

Community residents and concerned individuals from the Black community were told that an investigation would be conducted. NACCP representative George Frazier reportedly offered to provide legal assistance to the family and to help with the investigation. The State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) was also supposed to investigate the murder. Meanwhile, concerned individuals formed a justice committee and elected Ray Spencer, a leader in the local Tobacco workers Union to head up the group. Long time community activist Ms. Jesse Ferrell was to act as co-chair.

POLICE MURDER IN OXFORD MANOR

"acted correctly when he shot and killed a 21-year-old man...."
The Oxford Manor community was outraged and saddened by the unjust shooting. A community meeting was called to discuss the shooting and what should be done on July 15th. More than 78 concerned community people from Oxford Manor and across the city attended the meeting. Reportedly, four or five community residents came forward at that time stating that they had witnessed the incidents involved in Taylor's death and that Taylor was simply killed in cold blood by the cop and left in the woods for dead. They said he was killed in the Wiggins Street woods and left there overnight dead. Residents say they don't know how his body got to Duke Lane. His body was reportedly not removed from the woods until the next morning, at least five hours after he had been shot. They said the police claimed that they could not get an ambulance into the woods to get the body.

The 27-year-old West, a Durham police officer for seven years, was placed in administrative leave. The black cop remains on duty. Durham Police Chief Talmadge Lassiter held a press conference on July 4, (the day after the shooting) stating that West had acted correctly when he shot and killed a 21-year-old man...."

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The 27-year-old West, a Durham police officer for seven years, was placed in administrative leave. The black cop remains on duty. Durham Police Chief Talmadge Lassiter held a press conference on July 4, (the day after the shooting) stating that West had acted correctly when he shot and killed a 21-year-old man...."

POLICE MURDER IN OXFORD MANOR

On July 3, 1986 police were summoned to the Oxford Manor public housing project in Durham's Haytown to investigate gunshot reports. When the police finally left the area that night, 21-year-old Charles Grant Jr. lay dead in the woods. Arrogantly, Taylor was shot at close range, killed by one shot to his head.

The few newspaper reports regarding the story state that a white policeman, Kent O. West shot Taylor for "life and death" struggle in the woods. According to newspaper reports, West and a black woman officer, Sharon Y. Miller, arrived at a dead-end area of Wiggins Street where two men approached the police car. West questioned one of the men (Taylor) and while talking he noticed a small pistol in his vehicle and removed the weapon. West, with the assistance of Miller, "put the man prone" but he struggled, ran from them and ran into the woods. Supposedly, West caught the man near Duke Lane where Taylor was killed. His body was reportedly not removed from the woods for dead. They said the police claimed that they could not get an ambulance into the woods to get the body.

Additionally, residents who say they saw the events leading up to the shooting, state that Taylor was treated brutally and with unnecessary force by both police officers before he was chased and shot. They say that Taylor was not uncooperative with the cops, but that their brutal treatment of him after taking his small pistol forced him to try to struggle and run. He was unarmed when West chased and shot him, they say. No newspaper reports seem to verify at least that much.

Community residents and concerned individuals from the Black community were told that an investigation would be conducted. NACCP representative George Frazier reportedly offered to provide legal assistance to the family and to help with the investigation. The State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) was also supposed to investigate the murder. Meanwhile, concerned individuals formed a justice committee and elected Ray Spencer, a leader in the local Tobacco workers Union to head up the group. Long time community activist Ms. Jesse Ferrell was to act as co-chair.

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OPEN LETTER TO NICARAGUA

KITTRELL UPDATE

The Kittrell African-American community continues its struggle against racist violence. The Kittrell Concerned Citizens for Justice pickets Van Dyke's Grocery daily, demonstrating that they will not tolerate any racial violence. The economic boycott of Van Dyke's is a success. Many tourists coming into the area sympathize with the pickets and refuse to go into Van Dyke's. The pickets, mostly women, are not intimidated by threats of attacks on them. Several incidents have occurred: drivers attempting to run down people on the picket line, the Black assistant manager (houseboy) tries to scare the women by calling their names out and recently he has been bragging about carrying a gun.

Van Dyke has a history of racist terrorism in Kittrell. White supremacy is the ideology he has demonstrated in his actions towards the people for years. This year, the community responded significantly when a truck driver was attacked Jackie and Joyce Hayes.

Joyce Hayes, Jackie's stepmother, ordered some steaks from Van Dykes Grocery. Jackie went to pick them up and discovered that they were not what she had ordered. She was told to leave her drivers license and go and return with the rest of the money. Jackie and Joyce returned to the store and informed Van Dyke that they did not want the steaks. Van Dyke told them to leave and as they did he fired a shot at Jackie's feet. Charges of assault by a deadly weapon were filed against Van Dyke.

The trial has been postponed/continued four times. The courts have allowed him to use his "poor health" as an excuse. The Kittrell Concerned Citizens showed the judge a video that pictures Van Dyke looking fine and carrying on business as usual. This tactic by the racist and the legal system will not work. Nor should the Black community be discouraged by it.

The crucial lesson that the community must draw out of this affair is that they, like all African-Americans in the Black Belt South, are vulnerable to this kind of treatment because we do not have political and economic power. Without this power, racist like Van Dyke can get away with murder and the legal system will not work. Nor should the Black community be discouraged by it.

The Kittrell Concerned Citizens are dealing with this economic question by demanding that the utility company stop using Van Dyke's store as a place for making payment, requesting that the U.S. Postal Service build another building for its mail service, and asking Southern Bell to install at least two pay telephones in Kittrell. All justice and freedom for the workers need to be recognized. The workers as being oppressed in Kittrell as well as all the communities that are oppressed in our colony in Africa, Asia, the East or Latin America.

Van Dykes trial date is scheduled for August 19, 1986 at 9:30 A.M. at Vance County Court House.
TABACCO

Workers Unity Network, Black labor across the outlook of smoking for power or for families. Activists are organizing in New York, Chicago and Raleigh, North Carolina. It is to create a national movement.

Workers and citizens of New York and the neighboring towns must fight for the tobacco workers in the struggle for being hiring and education.

Hallam, a 37-year-old facility, said, "We can't afford to lose the tobacco workers. They need to be set up at the workplace, but they are not. We need to support the struggle." And freedom is our right. We must support the struggle for all as long as we are oppressed, and to continue our fights.

And safety and security must be won. We also fight white racist violence in Nevada. We face the struggle for being hiring and education.

KLAN

Workers and prisoners. The fight against discrimination intensified after Person qualified for a promotion within the unit, but was denied the job. On October 12, 1983, klanmen, dressed in paramilitary uniforms went near to Person's home. They threatened him before his family while pointing a gun at him. Reportedly, they also vandalized his family's property, "ran his wife off the road, and threw hate literature onto his lawn." A cross had also been burned in front of his home.

After the civil suit was filed, it sat for two years resulting in no federal indictments. The 81 million suit was finally settled with a consent decree on January 18, 1985 which forced the OPP/KKK to 1) march in black neighborhoods, 2) harm or harass any Black person or white person associating with Black persons, 3) operate a paramilitary organization, and 4) violate the North Carolina anti-paramilitary statutes.

The Alabama based Southern Poverty Law Center, representing Mr. Person, filed charges against the White Patriot Party (specifically the two Millers) for violating the 1985 agreement.

Revelations about the activities of the White Patriot Party were significant and for the first time, according to many court room observers, gave the public a stronger sense of the seriousness of the plans and actions of white supremacist groups across the country.

It was also revealed that Glen and Stephen Miller were the Southeastern coordinators of the infamous undergroup neo-nazi group known as "The Order. The Millers were code named Rounder 1 and Rounder 2 respectively. The definitive connection was discovered when FBI agents broke a code found in Order documents captured while agents were tracking Order leader Robert Mathews.

Nicaragua

Black workers organization. Our perspective is an internationalist one. Therefore, we see the need to support the working people of all countries because we have a common enemy in the form of exploitation and the system of profit. However, our relationship to the Nicaraguan people goes beyond our internationalist duties. We have both local and international solidarity with the working class and the various groups of people who work for change and who demand justice. Pass petitions against police brutality all over the city of Durham."
A BLACK AMBASSADOR REALLY DOESN'T MATTER

The Reagan Administration has attempted yet another maneuver to quiet the critics of his policy towards the racist South African government. In an effort to outflank the opponents of "constructive engagement," as refusal to break economic and political relations with the South African government, Reagan considered the appointment of a Black Ambassador to South Africa.

Apparently Reagan felt that this move would come off as an act of good faith in the eyes of Black South Africans, and perhaps Black Americans. He was willing to risk offending the White government, who naturally would not want to deal with a Black diplomat. The whole affair has backfired but we are glad that it happened because it further exposed Reagan and his "Black collaborators." When news leaked about Reagan's plans to appoint Black North Carolina businessmen, Robert J. Brown of High Point, South African Blacks made it clear what their position was. The African National Congress (ANC) said it matters little who the ambassador is as long as the basic policy of the U.S. towards the Botha government remains the same. They were not interested in the color of the messenger but the content of the message. Reagan had made it clear in his speech to the nation that there would not be any significant change in policy.

The Civil Rights leadership appealed to Brown not to accept the post. It was not convinced by Jesse Jackson, Ben Hooks and others. Black middle class leaders have strange relationships with one another. Brown was in the camp of the enemy as an assistant to former president, Richard Nixon. Yet Blacks who still put all their faith in the Democratic or Republican Parties, serve with him on boards of Black institutions like the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change and several Black colleges.

Brown finally asked not to be considered when some important facts emerged. For one, his public relations firm, BAC Associates has been involved in union busting efforts among Black workers, particularly those in textiles. Corporations hired his firm to go into the Black community and determine how many workers were pro-union and to convince them why the union would be bad for them. While Brown denies that he is a union buster, workers have identified his staff members as the individuals that approached them. Moreover, the manufacturers who retained him readily admitted it.

Not only did he work for the right-wing Nixon administration, but he has openly sided with the bosses on the question of whether workers should have the right to organize unions to fight for better wages and working conditions. This makes it clear that color alone is not the criteria for determining how many workers were pro-union and to convince them why the union would be bad for them. While Brown denies that he is a union buster, workers have identified his staff members as the individuals that approached them. Moreover, the manufacturers who retained him readily admitted it.

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RESTAURANT WORKERS POSE NEW CHALLENGE TO SHONEY'S

As Shoney's Restaurant South company makes millions, its workers are treated like slaves. They suffer poor health and safety conditions, low pay, job discrimination against Blacks and women, no paid dental care, no paid sick leave, no flexible work schedule or rotational schedule to accommodate childcare or attendance at church on Sundays and lie detector tests with NAZI STYLE interrogations of workers who assert their civil rights in the workplace by seeking legal or organizing assistance.

Shoney's uses exploitation and discrimination to keep workers' wages low, as well as Blacks divided against whites and women divided against men. Out of the 69 stores in this region (which includes North and South Carolina) workers know of only one Black manager and no women managers. There are only 2 Black assistant managers. Women and Blacks are generally found in the kitchen or passing tables. There also appears to be a policy to limit the number of Blacks up front as waitpersons.

The discrimination works against the interests of all workers resulting in a lack of standards and policy for upgrading skills or receiving wage increases. Many experienced and skilled workers (particularly Blacks and women) are thereby underpaid by Shoney's bosses. From 1970 to 1985 company sales increased from 18 million to 158 million dollars annually. The company now owns 159 Shoney's restaurants in seven southeastern states including Texas, North Carolina and Tennessee.

In June of this year, women worker contacted the BWFJ for assistance in challenging conditions at Shoney's. The workers began to organize a workplace committee that later expanded outside of Wake County. The secret workplace committee held meetings only disclosed to loyal workers committed to improving conditions. This was done to protect workers from retaliation. However, it was stated that the only guarantee in such a challenge would be that we would "fight like mad" to organize, influence and protect workers.

The history of this method of organizing has brought us some degree of success in other workplace efforts in the region, and at Shoney's. More than 18 workers received raises, and several were offered promotions. However, these concessions by the bosses do not address the across the board concerns of all the workers.

The first undertaking of the workplace committee was to develop a system of informing workers first, and customers secondarily, of their conditions and the need to challenge them. So, for the last three months, several thousand educational flyers were distributed in Wake and Durham County Shoney's stores. The leafletting will be expanded into Nash, Edgecombe, Guilford and other eastern counties, and into Florida and Tennessee.

On August 27th, a picket line at the Wilmington Street Shoney's demonstrated the growing support for the efforts of the workers. Present were BWFJ members, the Ministerial Alliance, the Raleigh/Wake County Citizens Association and the

Honorable City Councilman Ralph Campbell.

On Sunday, September 21st, the BWFJ, community organizations and workers launched a boycott of Shoney's in support of the workers' struggle for fair labor practices. For more information, call the BWFJ Center in Raleigh at 833-5269.
FRIENDS SUPPORT ABNER BERRY

Abner W. Berry, long-time Black working-class Freedom Fighter, newspaper reporter, United Nations correspondent and founding member of the Black Workers for Justice, has lived a life worthy of support from comrades and friends.

Paralyzed on his left side since 1977, Berry has not ceased to play an important role in the struggle for the liberation of Black people and for the rights and power of the working class.

Serving as plaintiff in a major voting rights suit leading to the system of voting in the city of Rocky Mount, N.C. and participating in rallies and meetings challenging voting rights violations against Black people, as well as meeting with young activists and workers in building the Black Workers for Justice. Berry shows by example, that there are few excuses for not taking a stand for justice.

After undergoing a major hip operation in February 1986, Berry's condition required professional health care, special health accessories and medicines.

As is the case for most of the working class, and especially the Black working class, it is almost impossible to meet the high medical costs. Being on Social Security makes it even harder.

Comrades and friends of Berry, after hearing about his medical needs, went right to work as if they were trying to stop a lynching set for one week later, or an unjust eviction. Their response was quick and effective and most of all, a statement of Abner Berry's past and present contributions and worth as a Freedom Fighter and human being.

Comrades leading the call for support were: Max Gordon, Lester Rodney, Bernie Burton and Abe Shoh. Their efforts resulted in contributions of money for medical needs, as well as books for the small library established of the Black Workers for Justice sponsored Abner Berry Freedom Library in Rocky Mount, N.C.

The Black Workers for Justice and Abner Berry are truly grateful to have these comrades and many friends responding to their call. This action shows us that principled unity lasts a long time.

WORKERS SPEAK OUT

DEAR EDITOR

It is very important that the recent actions of Black youth in northeast Greensboro to stop racist attacks in the East Cone Boulevard area be supported by Black workers and other members of the community.

Why? Recently, groups of racist youth have been harassing and even physically attacking Black people in the K-Mart/Big Star shopping area. An organized group of Black young people decided that a show of force was necessary on Thursday, July 31st, 1986, in order to stop the attacks from continuing unchecked.

White people are not, by nature, Black people's enemies. Racist attacks, however, are nothing new to Black people. This is why the Black youth had to act that evening. There has been an unknown history of other Afro-Americans taking similar action in the past in order to defend the people.

Where do we go from here? Black people in Greensboro and throughout the U.S. have a lot of work to do in order to build a viable political movement for self-determination, freedom and power. As is occurring in South Africa, the Black youth is a part of that struggle. To ignore the liberation struggle must be left to the Black working class, organizing itself as the leader of the Black struggle, Black youth can better participate in the movement for a progressive labor struggle and for a controlled, democratic society.

The Hillsdale business eliminated the Commission of a united Black in July. City Council a vote on the this meeting introduced the elimination of group, Improvement A. The Hillsdale a secret meet
Larry Hodge, a Black Health Care technician at the North Carolina Special Care Center in Wilson, N.C., was fired for sleeping on the job and fired, effective September 21st (the same day he was convicted). Hodge has witnesses to prove that he was not sleeping. Furthermore, the Center's administration knew that he had just returned from a 3 day medical leave, and was on strong medication from his doctor. While Hodge was not asleep, one of the side effects of his medicine is drowsiness.

Hodge is currently appealing his firing to the State Personnel Commission. However, his firing must be addressed not only in the legal process, but workers at the Center and surrounding communities need to pressure for an end to the harassment of Hodge. The harassment that the health care workers receive ultimately affects the quality of health care gotten by the patients.

The person charging Hodge with being asleep with being asleep, Nurse Arney Whitley, decided that he was asleep because he had his hands over his eyes. Whitley never shook, called or tried to attract his attention in any way. It was Hodge who removed his hands from his eyes only to hear Whitley accuse him of being asleep. He was immediately taken to the office of Ms. Willis, Director of Nursing, who suspended him. According to several workers at the Center, any charge made against health care workers by management is taken as truth, without regard for the health care worker's side of the story.

The truth of the matter is that this firing for sleeping is a cover by the bosses for their retaliation against Hodge. In August, Hodge initiated a petition, signed by 40 workers about harassment from supervisors. Technicians, registered nurses and licensed practical nurses, Black and white, signed the petition. Hodge first complained about harassment to the personnel manager, Mr. Fulcher, who told him that he should get other workers who had dissatisfactions with supervisors to sign a petition. Hodge told Fulcher that he thought management would retaliate against him for such action, but agreed to start the petition.

CONTINUED PAGE 7

WILSON BLACK COMMUNITY

DEFENDS HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC)

The Wilson City Council and business forces conspired to eliminate the Human Relations Commission (HRC), but was defeated by a united Black community. In July of this year, the Wilson City Council held its' meeting to vote on the 1987 annual budget. At this meeting, a resolution was introduced by one plan for the elimination of a Black community service group, the Wilson Community Improvement Association (WCTA).

The Wilson City Council is made up of 7 members, 5 white and 2 Black. The white members of the council held a secret meeting to decide on dumping the HRC from the budget. The 2 Black council members were not informed of or invited to the meeting. In fact, the last meeting attended by the 2 Black council members dealing with the budget, allocated funds for the HRC and WCTA.

When notice was given in the newspaper about the public council meeting, a number of Black citizens showed up to protest the proposals. The mayor, who was chairing the meeting, immediately set his ground rules for presenting testimony at the meeting. Challenging council members would be ruled out of order according to his ground rules. Several meetings had been called within the Black community, by various groupings. The first council meeting was more of a protest by the various groupings in attendance, than an organized challenge. Following the meeting, a more organized and unified plan of action was developed with a united front formed with a spokesperson.

The Human Relations Commissions were formed during the late 1960's to mediate racial problems around civil rights issues. While the HRC's have virtually no power to bring legal or municipal action against the violators of civil rights, particularly for individual complaints, they have been a factor when there is group action, by raising the issues within the city government.

Over the past 3 years, there have been many group actions within the Black community, which have required the Wilson HRC to play more than a mediator's role. The voting rights suit and public hearings around the at large voting system in Wilson city and county, the struggle against job discrimination at Allied Maintenance/Firestone Company, and the struggle at Genbearco Company for better wages and working conditions, are a few of the group actions.

According to an article in the Wilson Daily Times newspaper, area
BLACK INDEPENDENT POLITICAL ACTION:

A TASK OF THE BLACK FREEDOM MOVEMENT

The struggle for Black political power, an essential movement to bring progress to all citizens in the city of Rocky Mount and Edgecombe and Nash counties. Without political consciousness and organization among Black people, certain neighborhoods and communities will remain poor and underdeveloped in the Black and poor white working class areas.

Reverend Thomas Walker and Reverend Johnnie Thorne, two incumbent Edgecombe County Commissioners, have been important factors in the developing Black political movement in Rocky Mount. The issues which they fight for, while more sharply seen among Blacks, are issues which affect the poor and working class populations. Jobs, social services, quality education, health and the right to elect candidates of your choice through a ward elections system, have been some of the struggles waged by Walker and Thorne in conjunction with the Black communities and people of good will.

The Black electoral movement, is part of the Black Freedom Movement. The campaigns to elect Black candidates who stand for the needs of the Black and poor populations, must reflect the level of commitment, discipline and organization dedicated to winning.

WHERE WE STAND!

- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
  - FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
  - AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
  - FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
  - AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
  - FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor

- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops"
  - FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
  - AGAINST dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
  - FOR health and safety on the job and in the community

- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racist national oppression of the Black and oppressed nationalities
  - FOR the political power and national liberation of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities

WHERE DO YOU STAND! WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!

NEW EVIDENCE!

Lynn Whately, Attorney from Atlanta, recently issued a new evidence package concerning the murder of Atlanta Child Murders.

A strong justice movement is part of the Black Freedom Movement. We must see that the Black political movement is part of the growing movement for independent political action. Black political power will find its' best allies among those who oppose invasion of Nicaragua, who demand an end to apartheid in South Africa, who oppose the huge military budget, who join the political movement as a right of workers to organize and campaign for the freedom and political independence of the Democratic Republicans who are committed to the big corporations, and interested in racist policies at home and abroad.

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WHERE DO YOU STAND! WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!
MOVEMENT

The political powerlessness of people, and racialization of the Blacks as subhuman, led many to call for the creation of Black political organizations and movements.

I STAND WITH THE FREE BOSSIES? TAKE US!

The political powerlessness of people, and racialization of the Blacks as subhuman, led many to call for the creation of Black political organizations and movements. This has led to a widespread outrage among people around the country. They were intended to, and did, cause fear among the Black population, in Atlanta and elsewhere. But they inspired not only fear, but also organization, as self-defense groups such as the Tech House Bat Patrol were formed to prevent further killings. Hundreds of Atlanta residents also joined in well-publicized searches for evidence together with the FBI and the local police, who tried to appear as the protectors of the Black community. Despite growing suspicion of Klan involvement in the murders, in June of 1981 the police arrested Wayne Williams, a young Black promoter and charged him with the murder of two young Blacks, adults in their twenties.

Although Williams was never charged in the murders of any on the children, the judge allowed the prosecution to introduce evidence implicating him in the deaths of ten of the children as well. The evidence was all circumstantial; matching fibers and dog hairs that were found on the bodies were used, and the government's best all was used. The government's best all was used. The government's best all was used. The government's best all was used. The government's best all was used. The government's best all was used. The government's best all was used. The government's best all was used. The government's best all was used.

Meanwhile, in February of 1981, another separate but secret investigation began into the murders. (continued on page 7)
TRUCKERS STRIKE FOR BETTER CONDITIONS

In Kinston, N.C., a small eastern Carolina town of about 25,000 people, 25 out of 28 drivers employed at Kinston Wholesale Grocery are on strike because of "unsafe and unfair working conditions". Like workers all over the nation, these workers are union members, and they struck on August 25, 1986, the first day of the work week, salaries, and unsafe conditions. Spokesperson Frank Squires said management called in warehousemen on Monday to drive the trucks, and when two refused, they were fired. One of the company's trucks, driven by a warehouseman, overturned in traffic, while making a turn. After he was treated for injuries, he was given another truck and told to go out again.

It's just this cavalier disregard for workers' lives that causes driver Bob Carlyle, to be concerned about the maintenance of the trucks. He says that there was one "shade-tree mechanic" for 15 tractor-trailers and 16 "short jobs". "Trucks have gone out on the highways with bad brakes, poor steering and no headlights".

Drivers log an average of 65-70 hours per week for a weekly salary of $250-$300. Because they have a five-day work week, a driver may work 60-65 hours in four days, but, if he's not available for work on the fifth day, he can be considered absent and lose a day's pay. According to Frank Squires, most drivers actually average between 15 and 18 hours a day, 5 days a week, when they drove to Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. When supervisors insist that these conditions occur daily and weekly, Transportation limits, they have been taught to "do it... or else". (Up until a few months ago, there were no layoffs, and kept and most drivers have not been taught to fill them out.)

The Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) has made KW (Kinston Wholesale Grocery) put any of its trucks in the shop for repair, change tires on vehicles on the road. A D.O.T. inspector at the premises Friday, 9/6/86, full report is expected soon.

The owner, Marie Elrod and his son also were premised almost every day since the strike began, but they have not been able to talk to reporters or the news as a group. Their managers attempted to divide the workers, talking with some individuals, sending letters to their homes, blocking their attempts to unite. Working conditions are up against a powerful family, continued.

CULTURAL WORKERS MUST MEET WITH THE PEOPLE

A freedom or resistance movement, organized to bring power to the oppressed people such as the black and poor people of the Blackbelt South, or others of the third world struggling against social justice, must organize a new and revolutionary culture among the people as one of its major tasks.

The Black revolutionary movement of the 1960's (popularly called the civil right's/black power movements) clearly demonstrated that a dynamic, integrating, cohesive force cultural expression and organization can be in spreading and sustaining new ways of thinking, acting, and being during high and low tides of revolutionary struggle.

How do we organize cultural programs among the people? What methods are best in bringing about new ways of looking at old problems? What is the most effective way of involving the people? How do cultural workers gain a correct understanding of what is most important to the people themselves?
**IONS**

**FRAMES-UP**

One of the main reasons for the strike was that many workers felt that they were being harassed and that the company would not take action to change the situation.

The petition stated: people have a right to be treated in a humane manner in the workplace, without fear of discrimination.

The signatures and comments that were received show the importance of the issue.

North Carolina Special Care Center is a state facility, supported by taxpayers. Taxpayers must get involved in this issue. The state should make the necessary changes to the policies and procedures that are affecting the workers.

The management of the company is divided and is not able to agree on a solution. The workers have started their own organization to address the problems.

This railroad job on Hodge must be stopped for public scrutiny. The first kangaroo court held trials were unfair and were not acceptable.

The workers have started the Health Care Workers United and have made the necessary changes to the policies and procedures.

The striking workers have also written letters demanding that the investigation be conducted thoroughly and that the management and the workers unify to solve the problems. The workers are also demanding the right to strike, which is guaranteed by law.

Address: Dr. Donald H. Levin, Wake County Health Director, Cooper Hospital Building, 225 North McDowell Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27613

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**WILSON HRC**

Employers feel that the Wilson HRC proposal will be troublesome for them. Could this be the real reason behind the City Council's decision?

In August, over 150 Black citizens called for the City Council meeting to make the council reverse its decision.

It was made clear that the system of government does not only discriminate against the Black community, but also against Black representatives. It becomes clear that the Black community needs a united and definite political strategy to bring strength to its elected representatives. The attack against strike leaders is only one of a larger attack against gains made over the years by the Black Freedom Movement. The Reagan administration and much of the democratic party is opposed to affirmative action and special programs to address the problems of discrimination faced by Black people.

Any agency of government that can be influenced by the Black community will strengthen the positions of Black elected officials and will also be influenced by strong Black officials. While the heads of these agencies are not always as strong as they should be, the agency must be defended, strengthened and influenced by the Black Freedom Movement.

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**CULTURE**

Thiong'o's presentation about his work among the Kenyan masses who he described as struggling against Kenyan neocolonialism was more instructive than Ngugi wa Thiong'o's presentation about his work among the Kenyan masses who he described as struggling against Kenyan neocolonialism.

Thiong'o drew out several important lessons from his experience that cultural workers (or artists) all over the world may learn from:

- **Plays, for example, contained humor and music as methods to make the messages more easily understood and accepted by the people.**
- **Development starts with the people themselves. Therefore, cultural workers must have the relationship with the people to produce the work that will move them.**
- **Involving the people to build trust with them was very important to producing useful works. The key was to learn from the people and build with them.**
- **People's act should enhance optimism and instill confidence among the people that they can understand and change their conditions. Art should instill strength among the people.**

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**ATLANTA**

When an inspector with the Atlanta Police Intelligence Unit received a startling report from one of it's "reliable informants" in the Klan that the Klan was indeed involved in the murders, a high-level meeting of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation formalized it's investigation on March 4, 1981, reportedly deciding to keep it's efforts secret after supposedly discussing the explosive racial situation in Atlanta at the time.

There is much more to tell about this "secret" investigation and it's "cover-up", part 2 of the story will run in the November issue of Justice Speaks. Special thanks to Labor's Champion and one comrade in particular who provided us with information and made this series possible.
Two members of BWPJ recently returned from a two-week (August 2nd thru the 18th) fact-finding trip to Nicaragua. The Witness for Peace first Black delegation to travel to the Atlantic Coast was composed of eleven delegates (teachers, college professors, ministers, an engineer, a machinist and a student).

The objectives of the trip were:
1. to gain a better understanding of the situation in Nicaragua and Central America in general.
2. to broaden the concern and discussion around events in Nicaragua and the role of the U.S. government.
3. to promote friendship and international solidarity between African-Americans and the Nicaraguan people.

Most of the time for the delegation was spent on the Atlantic Coast living with Afro-Nicaraguan and Mestizos (a mixture of indigenous Indian and Spanish peoples) families. The remainder of the time was spent in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, on the Pacific Coast. While in Managua, there were interviews with Sandinista trade unionists, community leaders, religious leaders and government officials.

The delegation also demonstrated in front of the U.S. embassy, protesting against U.S. intervention in Nicaragua. North Americans demonstrated in front of the U.S. embassy every Thursday. The U.S. embassy was the only place visited in Nicaragua that prohibited cameras, tape recorders and where personal belongings were searched. It was also the only time the delegation was subjected to a metal detector.

Nicaragua's vast Atlantic Coast region contains more than half of the national territory yet, the Coast's 250,000 people are less than a tenth of the total population of Nicaragua. The multi-ethnic composition of the Atlantic Coast includes the Suna Indians, Rama Indians, Miskito Indians (indigenous peoples), the Afro-Nicaraguans (Gaufonas and Creoles) and Mestizos.

While on the Atlantic Coast, the delegation visited the city of Bluefields, and smaller communities such as Pearl Lagoon, Kakra Hill, Orinoco and Marshall Point. In all of these communities, the Afro-Nicaraguans speak English.

BWJ members distributed JUSTICE SPEAKS and the Open Letter to the Nicaraguan Peasants and Workers (see August 1986 issue of JUSTICE SPEAKS). The various communities, individuals and organizations were pleased to receive the political statement from BWJ. The Open Letter was an expression of international solidarity.

There is a cultural difference between the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts of Nicaragua. The Atlantic Coast was colonized by the English while the Pacific Coast was colonized by the Spanish. One manifestation of these separate pasts is quickly noted in the fact that the city of Bluefields resembles a New England fishing town, while Managua has more of the flavor of a New Mexican town.

After the overthrow of the world's greediest dictator, Somoza in 1979, the Sandinista government sought to unify the Nicaraguan people. As the process has proceeded, the Nicaraguan people have recognized the importance of maintaining the unique cultural identity of each group, as well as having a voice in the Nicaraguan government.

The vehicle for this is the Autonomy Plan. The first draft was completed in July 1986. This plan is currently being discussed with the people on the Atlantic Coast. The final document will be presented to the National Assembly for incorporation into the Constitution of Nicaragua.

We were inspired by the Nicaraguan people's determination to rebuild and strengthen their country to resolve their internal conflict. We urge you to demand an end to U.S. intervention in Nicaragua.

*PART II IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE*
FABCO WORKERS DEMAND JUSTICE

BLIND WORKERS
STAND UP !!!

PART I

During the past two years blind and sighted workers at the Raleigh Lions Club have attempted a union organizing drive so that they could improve their general working conditions.

The Raleigh Lions Club is a federal contractor and a partly state-funded employer. State and federal governments contract the Lyons Club to manufacture pillows and mattresses. Sighted and unsighted workers labor as a team to meet production quotas.

Under federal law, a two-tier wage system is enforced. Unsighted workers start at $2.25/hour and sighted workers at $3.35/hour. However, all of the workers suffer under the same slave-like production quotas; the same poor health and safety conditions (breathing in feathers, dust, and other debris); the same abusive and threatening next page
LESSONS FROM THE SHONEY STRUGGLE

Over the past (5) five months Shoney's Restaurant workers have illustrated the potential of organized workers in influencing the conditions of their labor. Workers' organizations are the key.

Shoney workers organized an invitation-only house meetings of co-workers who wanted to change work conditions in the restaurants. They planned the distribution of educational flyers regarding poor conditions and the need for action. They filed job discrimination complaints. They participated in a workers' school training and picket.

Recently, the Shoney's workers' demands for a program of fair labor, and an end to job discrimination was the focus of a region-wide speaking tour in Raleigh, Shiloh, Durham, Greensboro and Tampa, Florida. Information was also offered to the general public thru several radio shows and press conferences.

This activity was significant in building a community labor support movement to break the silence of fear among workers and the "new image" that Shoney's Restaurant South Inc. is trying to promote while it maintains its "old unfair labor practices and job discrimination". The speaking tour and ongoing resistance efforts have pushed the workers and their struggle forward, while at the same time, educating the broader community about the Shoney workers struggle.

A letter was sent to Shoney management requesting them to sit down and discuss the "across the board" issues that affect all employees. Additionally, an official HONKOUT OF SHONEY'S campaign has been launched.

Activities will continue in the Shoney fight for a just workplace. Look for a labor support and rights forum to be held on Tuesday, November 18, 1986 at 7:00 P.M. at 135 E. Martin Street.

Call 833-5269 (11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. or 833-2258 for more information.

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BLIND WORKERS ORGANIZE con't

managers; and the same lack of benefits including insufficient paid leave. Likewise, they all must pay the same high rent, water, grocery and utility bills. So why does the law attempt to divide them along wage differences?

This is a common example of the "exploitation" of one section of the working class, so that another section of workers can be superexploited. It attempts to keep employees divided and non-unionized.

The super exploitation of blind workers as "shelter shop" workers is only a "two tier" scheme to divide the workforce and keep them from uniting for a program of fair labor practices and standards in the plant.

Facing these unfair conditions the workers contacted the Federation of the Blind and the Union of Operating Engineers Local #465 to get a union drive rolling. The workers organized to hold an election.

The bosses at RLC fought them every step of the way with intimidation, firings, threats, etc. After the election, all ballots were impounded as a result of a complaint filed by the company with the National Labor Relations Board. The bosses argued that they did not fall within the definition of employer under the National Labor Relations Act.

In an effort to combat this strategy on the part of the company, RLC workers and Black Workers for Justice members working there pooled the resources of the organizing effort into a workplace committee.

The purpose of the committee was to do research, run errands and to make cassette tapes of reading materials relevant to their struggle. (Please call 833-5269 if you can help). They also formed to continually size up the ongoing situation and future plans for workers action.

On September 16, 1986, Raleigh Lyons Club workers had a successful mobilization of more than 25 workers to a National Labor Relations Board hearing. The Board heard arguments on the right of these blind and sighted workers to organize their union after two years of collecting union cards and having the cards impounded.

The RLC workers' representative argued in the hearing that this employer the Lions Club was covered under the National Labor Relations Act because it exercised employee rights, such as among workers and the "new image" that Shoney's Restaurant South Inc. is trying to promote while it maintains its "old unfair labor practices and job discrimination". The speaking tour and ongoing resistance efforts have pushed the workers and their struggle forward, while at the same time, educating the broader community about the Shoney workers struggle.

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BUILD THE BLACK WORKERS POLITICAL PLATFORM CAMPAIGN

THE TIME IS RIGHT:

PART I

Two years after the 1984 presidential election, and in the immediate aftermath of the 1986 congressional campaigns, workers and oppressed people are looking closely at how they should relate to U.S. political parties. Major shifts in political alignments, and a new face on both the Democratic and Republican parties, the parties of Big Business, make it critical for anyone who wants a change in their conditions, as well as a fundamental change in the economic, political and social organization of this society, to make some serious decisions.

This is the time, in our view, to engage in very critical political activity. We are faced with the task of building an independent electoral movement that addresses the needs of Black workers. This, we feel, is an essential part of developing a Black workers' political platform in the Black Liberation Movement as well as the overall working class movement. Connected to this, is the other urgent task before us, that is, building a mass political party that consists of and represents labor, oppressed nationalities and small farmers. These two tasks are historic and recent conditions, as well as a fundamental change in the economic, political and social organization of this society, to make some serious decisions.

It is apparent to us that the only way the Black liberation movement is going to overcome the setbacks of the last fifteen years and to eventually succeed, is to have firm leadership from Black workers. This will be a crucial link between the growing movement of Hispanic workers (especially Puerto Rican and Chicano/Mexicano workers) to fight for their rights at the workplace and in U.S. society as a whole. The important and obvious ally is the swelling anti-concessions movement among trade unionists. Black workers already play a role, formally and informally, in this movement and share common interest with these forces in challenging the bosses and their politician friends in both of the capitalist parties.

CONDOLENCES

The BWFJ heartfelt condolences to the Evans and Wilkins families for the loss of James Palmer Evans and Joe Earl Wilkins of Bloomer Hill. The two lost their lives in a hunting accident a week ago.

We urge the families and the community to stay united.

The Burlington Industries plant in Rocky Mount held a silent memorial by shutting down production lines ten minutes early one day last week for Palmer Evans who worked there for several years.

We are all especially aggrieved of this great loss to the Evans family, remembering that Horace Evans, father of Palmer Evans, died of cancer only a year ago this month. Please lend the families your positive support in actions, thoughts, and prayers.
The evidence of the Klan's role in the Atlanta murders should not surprise most people. Since the post-Civil War period until the present day, the Klan has been used to terrorize the Afro-American people, mainly but not only in the Black Belt South, through lynchings, bombings, cross-burnings, etc. Racist terrorism has been a tool of the bourgeoisie and the plantation owners to "keep Blacks in their place", as an oppressed nation and national minority inside the United States. This racist terror has been the Klan's role from the crushing of the Reconstruction governments after the Civil War, through the attacks on the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's and 60's, and against the Black Liberation Movement today.

What may be more surprising to some than the evidence of Klan involvement is the length to which the government went to conceal the evidence of the Klan's role in the murders.

The excuse made for the cover-up by the bourgeoisie was that charging the Klan in the killings would lead to a race war. This was accepted by the compromising Black politicians in Atlanta.

The real reason for the cover-up is that the state did not want to expose the Klan. The story of the threat of a race war is a lie! Blacks in Atlanta were not preparing for a race war, but for self-defense, of their children and their community. Those that think that this is the same as a race war also think that the Black urban rebellions of the 1960's and '70's were "race riots". Certainly the killings of Black children caused fear among people. But, at the same time, many were connecting these murders to the whole history of national oppression.

An example of this comes from a statement put out in May of 1985 by the Coalition of Concerned Black Women: "Atlanta is the culmination of the four years of slavery and a people who are unfree. It's young, open game for the weapons of unchecked and cold-blooded slasherers. Atlanta is young but also the battles of Southeast Asia and El Salvador for "democracy" neither they nor their people have ever experienced. Atlanta is Black World War I veterans lynched in their uniforms because the war had made them forget how to act like "boys" when returning South. Atlanta is Black boys being gunned down on New York City streets by "bad dog" police officers."

What this describes in an elementary way is the oppression of all working people, and the freedom of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities.

WHERE WE STAND!

- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
- FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor

- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops"
- FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
- FOR health and safety on the job and in the community

- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racial oppression of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities
- FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!
The unveiling of once obscured facts was the key to the investigation. The informant and the subsequent investigation (wiretaps revealed that the Klan (Sanders family) held caches of M16 rifles, bazookas, hand grenades, machetes, and plastic explosives along with a "wide assortment" of uniforms such as police, Coca-Cola, Parolator, etc. Moreover, conversations with the informant or thru the wiretaps revealed statements that the Klan planned to create Black riots. They planned to kill one black youth a month until the riots came. Police sources also revealed statements from the Klan that they were picking up or planned to pick up more black youth from Atlanta's Stewart-Lakewood shopping mall on January 3, 1981. From Atlanta's Stewart-Lakewood shopping mall on January 3, 1981. From Atlanta's Stewart-Lakewood shopping mall on January 3, 1981. From Atlanta's Stewart-Lakewood shopping mall on January 3, 1981. From Atlanta's Stewart-Lakewood shopping mall on January 3, 1981.

Moreover, according to Spin magazine, "A woman who witnessed a frightening scene at the site of one of the murders, gave police a description of the man she saw there that fit the description of a suspect in the the GBI case." It was a white male.

The story goes on with evidence so overwhelming that there should clearly have been a blow up in the case and a halt to the whole thing. The Klans' plan to force race riots and the collecting of caches of arms is known to be held nationally by several of the Klan-Nazi factions now operating throughout the country. Yet, when the time came to break the thing wide open -- the real evidence was covered-up or destroyed. Wayne Williams was arrested, convicted of two murders and implicated in the deaths of many of the black youth.

The cover-up fell into place. Again according to Spin Magazine it was systematic and drastically.

"On the day that search and arrest warrants were to be obtained in the investigation of the Sanderses, the warrants were suddenly abandoned."

"After an interview of one of the key suspects by the supervisor of the GBI investigation, Joe Bledsoe Jackson, the cover of the key informant in the case was dangerously blown [apparently by Jackson], damaging the investigation." "Against GBI procedure, Jackson destroyed key tapes and other evidence obtained in the investigation."

"While being disposed by one of the lawyers for Wayne Williams as part of the move to win Williams release and possibly a new trial, Jackson was often combative, secretive, forgetful and hostile, frequently contradicting himself and still elusive even when confronted with his own signature indicating he had destroyed the critical evidence."

And there were other reports of a secret meeting in the Governors Mansion just before Williams was indicted. Reportedly, there were plans made there to close out the investigations. Atlanta and Georgia officials supposedly feared a race riot.

What do they fear now?
MLK: WORKERS MUST CARRY ON
THE LEGACY OF RESISTANCE

from North Carolina. Over the next three years, the BWFJ sponsored the Annual Martin Luther King Support for Labor Banquet.

This January 17, the banquet and program will attempt to give a special meaning to the life and death of Dr. King from the point of view of the struggles of black workers, their communities, and the labor movement.

We urge you to join us and others in taking up King's legacy of commitment to political action. That is the political power to influence and change the policies and ultimately the structures in society to best serve our interests.

For the coming holiday activities, Black Workers For Justice will sponsor a petition campaign and drive for a paid national and state MLK holiday for all workers. We will inform you of other community celebrations as well. Please join us in the petition campaign.

Call BWFJ at 833-5269 between 11:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M., or write P.O. Box 5574, Raleigh, N.C. 27685 for more information.

STUDY THE LIFE OF MLK

Stop by FREEDOM BOOKS at 135 East Martin Street (Intersection of Blount and Black) everyday to study the life and times of Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement.

There are many lessons we should study to understand where we are and where we must go in this period of the Black Freedom Movement.

We cannot allow the same government who is ultimately responsible for killing Dr. King (remember racist Strom Thurmond and Ronald Reagan signed the King holiday Bill) and the media or the many black and white misleaders to define our movement.

Two readings on King worthy of your time and effort are MLK and Black Workers, or MLK: Government, Repression, Liberation and The Workers Movement.

That do a more in-depth reading about the political meaning of Dr. King's assassination, government repression, and the B&W labor movement today. Get In The Know!
control over the production of lifetime pillows, conducted surveys of the workers, and set up a fund although the federal government has some standards for the wages of the employees (i.e. production line)

CONTINUED IN PART TWO

Nicaragua

coast. The proposed autonomy plan is a vehicle through which the Nicaraguan government is attempting to unify the people of Nicaragua.

The Autonomy proposal, "Principles and Policies for the Exercise of the Right of Autonomy by the Indigenous Peoples and Communities of the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua", is written in four native languages. The proposal is in the discussion stage. It is to be discussed and revised by the people, and communities of the coast region, and then submitted as a constitutional provision. The document declares that this small country with 2.7 million people in Central America is one nation, and that the indigenous peoples are an indispensable part of a multi-ethnic country struggling against all forms of discrimination and racism. The document states that the people of the Atlantic coast have the right to preserve their own culture, languages and historical heritage: the right to organize their social and economic activity. The autonomy plan also states that the use of national resources should benefit the economic development of the people of the coast determined by the people of the coast through their own authorities. The indigenous peoples and communities of the Atlantic coast will take responsibility for the natural resources of the region.

Nicaragua especially oppressed and have particular grievances to redress; it's triple oppression. All of these different forms of oppression are conditioned by and coalesce under a system that by its very nature places maximum profit above human needs.

Above all, we were highly impressed with the character of your founding congress. The democratic debates, the singing and rallies have left an impression on us. The way in which the fight for women's rights was taken up in the discussion around the COSATU emblem or logo was politically sophisticated and powerful. Although we recognize that the context of our two struggles is different, we have been greatly inspired by your accomplishments. In spite of some of the differences in circumstances and influence in the South African labor movement. These profound efforts to fight racism are, in the main, a cover for their role in promoting U.S. foreign policy and business interest, often in conjunction with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). We realize that you do not need such cautions, however, we thought it important to at least express our position on this matter.

We wish you success in your future efforts and express solidarity with your leaders who have been impressed by the fascist state. We know that you will do your best to secure their return.

In conclusion, we hope that we can publicize your work in a bigger and broader way and sponsor speakers from your federation and its' affiliates in our areas.

In solidarity,
Black Workers Unity Movement

ATU will always have the backing of the workers and threatened to close the company to

The proposed six month agreement (preliminary contract) is being negotiated as a function for the workers in the future. In the company does leave, the threats and harassment of the workers have brought the involvement of the BACO, two Bertford County commissioners, and a number of citizens into contact with the workers and the Fabco owners.

Fabco workers must take action and move the company to

NATIONAL REUNION will always have the backing of the workers and threatened to close the company to
BLACK DELEGATION VISITS AFRO-NICARAGUAN BLUEFIELDS ON ATLANTIC COAST

PART II

Within the next year, Nicaragua will be the first country in the Americas to include indigenous peoples' right to autonomy in its constitution.

Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast is home to six indigenous peoples and ethnic communities described below. They have lost their language and many have lost their land. One community developed as Creoles live around the city of Bluefields. This community developed from escaped African slaves brought from the North American mining corporations. They speak Bama.

The Miskito Indians are approximately 67-70,000 people. They originally lived in the Panamanian part of the North Atlantic coast and migrated following the discovery of gold in the area. They are considered mestizos, descendants of African slaves who worked in the mines. They speak Spanish and Miskito.

The Suma Indians have approximately 5-70,000 people. Their communities, along the rivers south of the mines, have been seriously affected by chemical waste contamination from the North American mining corporations. They speak Suma.

The Rama Indians, who were virtually annihilated by colonialism, today number less than 800 people. They have lost their native language and now speak English.

An English-speaking Afro-Nicaraguan population, concentrated in two communities on the west bank of Pearl Lagoon. They are descendants of a mixture of fugitive African slaves with Carib Indians of the Lesser Antilles. Most of them have lost their original language, but the Nicaraguan government is assisting with the redevelopment of the indigenous peoples' language and culture of the Atlantic coast.

The remaining population of the Atlantic coast are 120,000 Spanish-speaking Mestizos, many of whom were displaced from their farms by wealthy Pacific coast landowners over the last 40 years, and were forced to migrate east.

BWUM OPEN LETTER TO COSATU

The Black Workers Unity Movement (BWUM) extends its' congratulations to the South African workers, who in the face of the fascist apartheid system, have been able to form a Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). It is BWUM's feeling that the unification of over 500,000 workers into one federation, the plans to merge the various affiliates in the same industry into one national union, and the formation of one national union, are all significant steps in the national liberation struggle, will hasten the defeat of the settler-colonial regime and the restoration of the rights of South African workers.

Members of the network come from the South African labor movement, from the trade union federations, and from the community. These are generally found in the following industries: mining, metal, and paper; textiles and apparel; transport and construction; and agriculture.

We are small network of Black Workers' organizations and individuals in the U.S. who have been working together for nearly three years, in an attempt to build the consciousness, strength and leadership of Black workers in the U.S. Members of the network come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Some of us are union officers, organizers and shop stewards; others work in shops and industries that are not organized; we work in the north, the south and midwest; we are men and women, young and old; some of us are new to the workers movement and others are veterans of the trade union movement, the Black Liberation Movement and the African Liberation Support Movement. It is our goal to establish a national Black workers' organization that will provide a positive example to workers everywhere in their struggles against wage slavery, racism and national oppression.
MEAT PACKING WORKERS FIRED UNJUSTLY

On Wednesday, October 22, two Black women and three Black men were fired from their jobs at First Carolina Industries for failing to work more than 16 straight hours the night before.

First Carolina Industries (FCI) in Williamston, N.C., Martin County, is a meat processing and packing company. FCI employs about 75 people, 95% Black with 75% of the management being white. The workers travel from 5 to 35 miles one way from Bertie, Martin, Pitt and Sampson Counties to work, earning $5.60 - $5.00 an hour.

The five fired workers had been working 12-hour days for the past several weeks without let up. Additionally, they work in the most hazardous department, the Ham Knockout Department, which is understaffed by nearly 50%.

In the Ham Knockout Department, the workers take hams coming from a chilled tank, and cut them into individual hams. They then trim, bag, box and stack these hams. The workers use various knives, high speed knockout machines, and a dip tank filled with boiling water to do their work.

Being understaffed and over worked has led to many injuries in the Ham Knockout Department as well as in other departments. All five workers fired have suffered job injuries. Mr. Cherry sealed himself ALLIED FOUND TO DISCRIMINATE

In August 1985, 14 Black workers at the Allied Maintenance Company at the Firestone plant in Wilson, North Carolina, filed charges with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) against Allied for discrimination in hiring, promotions and training.

In October this year, EEOC found discrimination for 3 of the 14 workers. While EEOC made a finding for only 3 workers, it's very clear that there was/is a pattern of discrimination against Black and white workers at Allied. However, this ruling is a victory for the continuing struggle against discrimination at the plant.

The decision to file EEOC charges was the result of the rank and file activity of Black members of the International Association of Machinists Union, Local 2541. Black workers called on their union to support the fight against job discrimination, and, as union members, took the lead in the struggle. They first demanded that a white supervisor (Tom Morris) be fired for calling a Black worker a "nigger". Then, taking the struggle to the community for support, they called on people to write letters and make telephone calls demanding that Morris be fired. Morris was fired within one week of the incident.

It was the rank and file struggle that created the climate in which the 14 Black workers could come forward to file the EEOC charges. After filing the charges, the workers had to stay on top of EEOC for them to conduct an effective investigation. Time after time, the Commission investigators would tell the workers' representative that there was no evidence to support a finding of discrimination. But, the workers would not give in, insisting that EEOC keep digging.

To date, however, no settlement has been made. Of the three, only one is female.

KING'S LEGACY

Stories pages 4, 5

Inside the SPEAKS

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Blacks Hill
Shiloh
Pemberton
Rocky Mount
Miccosukee
THE TIME IS RIGHT:

BUILD THE BLACK WORKERS POLITICAL PLATFORM CAMPAIGN

PART II

All of this activity should have as an essential feature, the discussion of the creation of a labor party in the U.S. It has often been said that this is the only advanced capitalist country that does not have a mass political party that at least claims to represent the voice of the working class. Far too many American workers continue to labor the illusion that the needs of the employers and employees can be manifested in the same political organization. The differences and needs of these two groups in our society are irreconcilable. We are not so naive as to think that building a labor party will be easy under U.S. conditions with its electoral system (unlike the parliamentary form) which does not allow for smaller parties to be represented in its political bodies and its bourgeois ideology (thinking of the wealthy) that controls and guides much of our activity. Nor do we think that elections, finally, or in and of themselves, will fundamentally change society. However, it is a form of struggle that we must engage in.

There has long been talk by progressives and militant trade unionists about the need for a third party. We say now is the time to start serious and broad discussions on this question. There is an openness on the part of many to the formation of a party that represents labor, oppressed nationalities and small farmers. This sentiment clearly exists in the Black, Chicano and Puerto Rican movements. Within the trade unions there are numerous voices amongst the rank and file that are calling for such an organization. We would even suggest that there are a few union officials, particularly on the local level, who would favor such a development. We think that the right program they might be attracted to.

The theory of independent working class politics must not only come from the historical and international examples. It must also derive from the practice of working class electoral politics. The theory and practice for us must come from our own and efforts in this arena. City, county and state elections say a lot. We have seen excellent testing grounds for rank and file workers as independents on a pro-worker, anti-big business platform. The sun total of these small struggles is.

continued page
BLOOMER HILL FIGHTS NASH COUNTY

Bloomer Hill, a Black community in Nash County with a population of close to 600, is being oppressed by the community of Rocky Mount and Nash County.

Existing in the heart of an industrial growth area, this Black community has experienced its share of being stepped on over the years. For seven years, Bloomer Hill tried to get block Grant financing for community development without success. However, when Consolidated Diesel Company decided to locate a plant next to Bloomer Hill, it was easy to see the workings of the system of oppression (national oppression) against this Black community.

The white business interests began forming front groups such as “Pace for Progress” and the “Nash County Business Development Authority,” Whikers, a small town neighboring Bloomer Hill, was used to apply for a six million dollar federal grant, proposing to improve water, sewer and housing in Bloomer Hill and surroundings. Whikers knew very little about the grant. When the residents of Bloomer Hill asked to have input into the grant application process about improvements in their community, they were told by the officials in Whikers that they could not have input because they were not citizens of Whikers.

The white businesses were trying to use the Whikers grant (it approved) to pay for water and sewer, to widen roads, to buy 47 acres of land, and to build a training facility to satisfy a commitment to Consolidated Diesel Company for locating in Nash County. Promises had been made to the diesel engine company by former Governor Hunt.

Bloomer Hill and a neighboring community, Village Heights, began to challenge Nash County about the six million dollar grant by demanding community improvements.

Meanwhile, the grant was not funded, and Bloomer Hill and Village Heights received funds for housing rehabilitation and community improvements. Bloomer Hill received two grants totalling about one and a half million dollars over two years.

The money, however, has been controlled by Nash County and Rocky Mount. Nash County is the grant recipient, since Bloomer Hill is not a town with official governmental powers and Rocky Mount administered the grant.

Rocky Mount determined who would get the contracts to do the work. Bloomer Hill got water and sewer, housing rehabilitation and street improvements. The water line connects to Rocky Mount, but Bloomer Hill has no official input into the decisions about water rates because they are not citizens of Rocky Mount. The water bills have been very high compared to those from the water system that was owned by Bloomer Hill. Work still has not been completed on some of the homes and there are problems with the new water and sewer systems.

While it is clear that the work is not finished, Rocky Mount and Nash County want to close out the project, leaving the residents of Bloomer Hill with the burden of managing a defective sewer system and with other problems which need to be inspected and approved.

There is still about $28,000 left of the grant to complete the work in Bloomer Hill. However, Nash County is proposing to take it away from Bloomer Hill to give to another major Black community known as Drake. Not being a town or governmental body, Bloomer Hill is once again victimized.

Instead of allocating money out of its’ budget, or seeking additional funds for the Drake project, Nash County efforts are aimed at dividing the Black communities. This is especially clear, since Bloomer Hill half and half make up part of a newly constituted Black majority county commissioner district, which recently elected its’ first Black commissioner.

Drake is a community in the same position politically as Bloomer Hill, having no official governmental powers. The amount of money needed by Drake to address its' water problems is about $128,000 according to some estimates. The $28,000 would not help Drake, but would definitely hurt Bloomer Hill. Bloomer Hill and Drake must not let themselves become divided. Instead, they must unite and make a joint demand on Nash County and Rocky Mount in the interests of both communities and against the policies of the county against Black communities.

But Bloomer Hill and maybe Drake as well, must quickly move in the direction of having governmental power, local self-determination. Just as workers need to organize unions to have collective power in their relations with the company, communities like Bloomer Hill need to organize towns (get incorporated) to have collective power for the residents in their relations with Nash County. Local self-determination for Black communities!!!! National self-determination for Black people as a Nation in the Black Belt South!!!
HONOR DR. KING WITH POLITICAL ACTION

Presently, the Black Workers for Justice and other progressive workers and activists will be honoring Martin Luther King every day of each year by building an independent electoral movement and organization from grassroots bottom up. It will address the needs of Black workers from the point of view of an immediate and long term interests of the Freedom and labor movements of all workers. It will address issues such as a paid King Holiday for all workers, unemployment, jobs, mass political power in our communities and territory in the Black Belt South, unifying the South, workers, housing and municipal services, sexual harassment and job discrimination, the liberation of South Africa, health and safety on the job and in the community, hands off Nicaragua, and to plan closings and wage/benefit concessions to the bosses.

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WHERE WE STAND!

- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
- AGAINST democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
- AGAINST social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor

- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops"
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
- AGAINST health and safety on the job and in the community

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!

- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racist national oppression of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities
- AGAINST the political empowerment of all working people, and popular and national liberation of Blacks and all oppressed nationalities

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- AGAINST health and safety on the job and in the community
1968: THE MEMPHIS SANITATION STRIKE

PART I

As the nation prepares for the Martin Luther King Holiday, it is important to examine the last struggle which King was involved and its relationship to the present struggle for freedom, justice and equality.

The basis upon which our banquet was established is that King's last and perhaps most important contribution was his support for workers, particularly Black workers, and their right to and need for unionism.

In January of 1968, 1300 Black sanitation workers found themselves in conflict with the plantation conditions. The wages were $1.60-$1.80 an hour, and the weather was bad. The average wage earner sent home $500 a defective compactor on their truck. Two workers were crushed to death by the machine.

The sanitation workers had few opportunities for advancement; they had limited opportunities on the job. One worker said they had "a sandwich in the weather was bad, workers were sent home after reporting for work. With weekly wages averaging $50 a week take home pay, 42% of the sanitation workers qualified for welfare payments and many received unemployment compensation. The city offered their families $500 a month as a gift for burial expenses and one month's pay. The workers were outraged. Before it died down, the city was to "add insult to injury". On February 11th, several Black workers were sent home while some other Black workers and all of the white sanitation workers were told to stand by until the rain cleared up. When it did, the remaining workers started working and the white sanitation workers were told to leave.

There had been two previous attempts to organize, in 1963 and 1964, but the city got injunctions against the threatened strikes and fired the most militant workers. One of these fired workers later organized his former co-workers for a full time organizer for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

The final two indignities that ended the workers to the brink of despair in January and February.

Two workers were crushed to death by a defective compactor on their truck. The city offered their families $500 each as a gift for burial expenses and one month's pay. The workers were outraged. Before it died down, the city was to "add insult to injury". On February 11th, several Black workers were sent home while some other Black workers and all of the white sanitation workers were told to stand by until the rain cleared up. When it did, the remaining workers started working and the white sanitation workers were told to leave.

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As the strike developed over the next three months, it put in conflict those forces which today also represent on the one hand, the force for progress and justice, and on the other, those represent for exploitation, oppression and reaction. There was the labor movement and the Black movement on one side, and on the other, municipal authorities, big business, the civic power structure and white supremacists. The ruling class used every tactic it could muster to smash the strike. Beatings, tear gas, mace and jailings were a regular part of their arsenal. Then, they attempted to use the courts to get injunctions against the strike and legislation that would prohibit municipal workers from forming unions or negotiating collective bargaining agreements. The city also hoped to starve the strikers into submission forcing them out of their homes and forcing them to pay bills owed to landlords and other creditors.
JUSTICE SPEAKS

FREMONT POLICE CHIEF ARRESTED

Andy Williams, police chief of the town of Fremont in Wayne County, N.C., was arrested in September 1985, for accepting a $1500 bribe from a person charged with "reckless driving".

Williams, after arresting the driver, was told by the driver if he would let him off in exchange for some information about some stolen lumber or timber. The driver was referring to lumber stolen from Pikeville that was being used to build some houses in the Fremont area. After the bribe offer, the driver made contact with the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) through the area district attorney covering Wayne County.

The SBI and the district attorney arranged for the driver to get $1500 in marked money for the meeting with Williams to make the payoff. A tape recorder was concealed on the driver while he waited for Police Chief Williams to meet him at the prearranged location. When Williams accepted the money, the SBI moved in and arrested him.

Despite this clear evidence against Williams, the city council in Fremont has voted to allow Williams to return to work as police chief, before he goes on trial for accepting the bribe.

Fremont's city council has a history of refusing to take effective action against its' police chiefs and white businessmen. The last police chief, Kilpatrick, was not fired when it was common knowledge that he referred to Black Fremont citizens as "niggers", and discriminated against a Black police officer. The council refused to take effective action against the Evans Grain Mill, after having proof that the mill was receiving electricity for almost one year without paying for it.

However, three years ago, some members of the present council, William East, and some white businessmen of Fremont pressured for the resignation or firing of Doug Lane, Lane, a Black councilman, was supported and elected Fremont mayor, was accused of allegedly mishandling $70,000 given to him by a resident to pay an electric bill. He was not allowed to work until he went to trial. Furthermore, the evidence was questionable against Lane compared to that of Williams.

There will be three seats up for election in 1987. There must be a campaign to win a Black majority, built around a political platform that addresses the real concerns and needs of the Black and working class population of Fremont. The racist and undemocratic practices of the city council must never go unchallenged. Challenging injustice will benefit our children materially tomorrow, even if it only sometimes benefits us individually, emotionally and organizationally today.

ROCKY MOUNT TO ANNEX RACIST COUNTRY CLUB

Four of the seven members of the Rocky Mount City Council voted to annex the all-white Bennett Country Club into the Rocky Mount city boundaries. The four council members voting in favor of the annexation were White, the three voting against were Black.

The Bennett Country Club has no Black members and is clearly discouraging and excluding Black membership by its policies. People cannot directly apply for membership and a limited number of members are accepted each year. This means that either no current White member of the club has Black friends or associates "worthy" of membership, or that White members have been told not to sponsor Blacks. The fact that Blacks were once "officially" excluded from the club makes the current policies racist and discriminatory as Blacks are not allowed direct application for membership today.

Yet, the city of Rocky Mount will use taxpayer money to finance water and sewer lines; 3) agreements to preserve this historic community. Its' political representation on the North Carolina town board will be so small as to make its' political and legal strength a token.

The Shiloh can and will be turned into a "giveway", cheapo "givaway", and a limited number of members are allowed direct application for membership today.

The frustrated Black community is organizing to ensure that the contest for its' destiny is not won by a "one man, one vote" clause in the new town charter.

As some members of the Rocky Mount City Council have told the Black community, it is time for them to fight for the rights of the Black community.

The three Black councilpersons; Helen Gay, Leonard Haywood, and Donald Armstrong, strove for their votes against racism, must go further to challenge racism.

They must propose ordinances which eliminate the practices and policies of many and other institutions, white employers within the city limits.

The recent call by the organizers in the community for an equal representation in area posts to help mobilize support in the community for an equal ordinance if proposed in council.

White workers also show an interest in opposing the Bennett Country Club and its' Black members who are clearly and directly victimized by racism should fight against the city council for an ordinance of elimination.

The Center Alternatives, in addition to fighting against the Bennett Country Club, have begun organizing the town of Shiloh.

SHILOH

effective May '87, will control over its' destiny and is clearly encouraging and excluding Black membership by its policies. People cannot directly apply for membership and a limited number of members are accepted each year. This means that either no current White member of the club has Black friends or associates "worthy" of membership, or that White members have been told not to sponsor Blacks. The fact that Blacks were once "officially" excluded from the club makes the current policies racist and discriminatory as Blacks are not allowed direct application for membership today.

Yet, the city of Rocky Mount will use taxpayer money to finance water and sewerage, trash collection, and provide other services to this "good old boys" club. Many of the members of the club are the directors and managers of area companies, the Chamber of Commerce and city or county governments. The Bennett Club area includes 125 acres of land located in Nash County.

The imbalanced growth between the Edgecombe County side and the Nash County side of Rocky Mount has defined housing patterns, economic investment patterns, and is currently threatening the destruction of the Rocky Mount City School System, through a school merger movement demanding implementation of the Nash County Line Merger Plan. (See the June 1986 issue of JUSTICE SPEAKS on County Line Merger).

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Mr. Cherry mangled his hand in a belt. Workers have strained at the back, had groin pulls pushing carts with faulty wheels, loaded with 1200 pounds of snacks. A worker in the Ham Community Department cut off two of his fingers one week before the accident, which took place in the Black Community Department.

The list goes on. The fired workers are not taking laying down. They are fighting not only for themselves, but for all the workers at the plant. They have filed discrimination charges with the EEOC, preparing to try and get unemployment benefits, and to set the record straight about why they were unjustly fired. They involve their families, friends, and the community in a press conference in front of the plant on January 2, 1986 at 2:00 P.M.

The Center for Women's Economic Autonomy, a workers' advocacy group based in Davis, Cal., is assisting the fired workers in carrying the struggle.

In addition to demanding their jobs back and pay, the workers are trying to build support for the following demands: 1) a written policy requiring workers to get 2 days' advance notice when working more than 10 hours a day; 2) hire more people in the ham knockout department; 3) repair machines in the ham knockout department; 4) train more supervisors; 5) a written grievance procedure so that workers may receive more redress; 6) notice to workers of searching locked lockers.

Supporters are asked to write letters in support of these demands:

Jim Mack, plant manager, First Class Packing, P.O. Box 1184, Killen, AL 35645; Helen White, P.O. Box 392, King, Va. 24485 (703) 775-7922.

The Black Women's Movement, 1909 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94110, is available to help these fired workers.

The Rainbow Coalition that supports Jesse Jackson's presidential candidacy, is very much reflective of this thrust for an independent initiative. The various forces around the coalition have different outlooks on how things should be done. Admittedly, many feel that the role of the Rainbow and those masses that come to support it should be as the reforming element of the Democratic Party. Even some of those elements who champion independent course do so from the point of view of personal political ambitions. Yet, there are honest forces in and around the Rainbow coalition, some even sharing our outlook on the goals of the working class. The honest forces in the Rainbow will want to take up the program advanced by Black workers and the questionable forces will have to go.

If we work effectively, energetically and honestly, we can have an important and positive impact on the Rainbow. This can only happen, however, if we dedicate most of our energy to building the independent program and organization of Black workers. To us, this is the best way for Black workers to participate in the rainbow front. Moreover, it must be kept in mind that our independent politics will necessarily take us beyond the 1986, elections, Jackson campaign, and the Rainbow Coalition.

We call on all Black workers to work with us in carrying out this important task. We need the support of individuals, rank and file caucuses, union locals, workers organizations and community groups. You can help by joining a local, state, or regional Black Workers Political Platform Committee. You can begin to initiate discussions on the concept and the actual elements of the platform at your workplace, union meetings, etc. Organizing and participating in workers assemblies to hammer out the platform will be a critical part of this work.

Support us in the development of the platform and the Black workers trend in general. There is much that needs to be done and numerous areas of cooperation and joint work that exist.

BUILD THE BLACK WORKERS POLITICAL PLATFORM CAMPAIGN
Nicaragua, the Central American country the size of the state of Iowa, is in a historical position. The decision by the Nicaraguan government to respond politically to the demands of the peoples of the Atlantic coast is significant and based on the principle of national unity.

Autonomy is becoming a reality in the community of Orinoco, inhabited by Garifonas. The residents of Orinoco have elected their own authorities who govern in local affairs and represent them in all matters concerning the Regional Presidential Delegation and army. The participation of the coast people in their own territorial defense against armed aggression has been a key element in the realization of autonomy.

The major obstacle to autonomy is the U.S. government's support of armed counter-revolutionary forces active on the Atlantic coast. The $100 million U.S. dollars to the Contras will have devastating effects for the Nicaraguan people who are attempting to plan their destiny.

The indigenous peoples of the Atlantic coast see autonomy and dialogue as an alternative to the armed conflict and the opportunity to actively participate in the decisions affecting their lives. It is important for us to fully understand that autonomy means not only the recognition of the historic needs and demands of the people on the coast, but also the realization of fundamental principles of the FSLN program.

The U.S. media will never reveal that the Nicaraguan government promotes the autonomy process and that the Atlantic coast people support the autonomy process as part of the FSLN program.

Nicaragua's government supports the autonomy proposal based on the historic needs and demands of the people on the coast, but also on the realization of fundamental principles of the FSLN program.
KING STOOD UP WITH WORKERS

1968: THE MEMPHIS SANITATION STRIKE

As the nation prepares for another Martin Luther King Holiday, and as the Black Workers for Justice mobilizes for its' Fourth Annual Martin Luther King Support for Labor Banquet, it is important for working people to examine the last struggle in which King was involved and its' relationship to the present struggle for freedom, justice and equality. The basis upon which our banquet was established is that King's last and perhaps most important contribution was his support for workers, particularly Black workers, and their right to and need for unions. He had concluded that the key to battling poverty is winning jobs for workers with decent pay through unionism. In January of 1968, 1,300 Black sanitation workers found themselves facing plantation conditions. They had no bathrooms, washrooms or showers to use after work. At the same time, they had no special or protective clothing, therefore, they had to go home in the same clothing they had collected garbage in. They had no eating facilities and had to eat while on the job. One worker said they would have "a sandwich in one hand and a garbage can in the other". The sanitation workers had few opportunities for advancement; they were denied promotions; they had no pension or retirement system; they did not qualify for workmen's compensation. The wages were scandalous as well. The average wage was between $1.60-$1.80 an hour, and when the weather was bad, workers were sent home after reporting for work. With weekly wages averaging $53-$60 a week take home pay, 40% of the sanitation workers qualified for welfare payments and many received food stamps.

There had been two previous attempts to organize, in 1963 and 1966, but the city got injunctions against the threatened strikes and fired the most militant workers. One of these fired workers would later help organize his former co-workers as a full time organizer for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). The final two indignities that pushed the workers to the brink happened in January and February. Two workers were crushed to death by a defective compactor on their truck. The city offered their families $500 each as a gift for burial expenses and one months' pay. The workers were outraged. Before it died down, the city was to "add insult to injury". On February 11th, several Black workers were sent home while some other Black workers and all of the white sanitation workers were told to stand by until the rain cleared up. When it did, the

continued page 2
remaining workers started working and earned a full day's pay. Those workers who were sent home demanded that the city pay them for the lost time, but were only offered two hours compensation. As a result, the Black sanitation workers walked out on strike the following day, February 12th.

As the strike developed over the next three months, it put in conflict those forces which today also represent on the one hand, the forces for progress and justice, and on the other, those representing exploitation, oppression and reaction. There was the labor movement and the Black movement on one side, and on the other, municipal exploitation, oppression and six months.

The Black community came to understand full well the importance of fighting for better working conditions for workers. One of the slogans was "Justice for the Strikers! Jobs for all People". Over $100,000 was raised by the Black community alone for food and clothing.

King spoke at a rally of 15,000 on March 18th at which time he called for all out support for the strikers. He returned to Memphis on March 28th to lead a march that had to be called off because of a police riot and attack on the marchers. The courageous youth of the march fought back. He returned on April 8th in preparation for a march on April 11th. On the day of his arrival, he was gunned down by James Earl Ray, who represented the forces of white supremacy, domestic capitalism and U.S. imperialism abroad.

While over 100 cities faced the struggle of the encraged Black masses and millions of others mourning, 40,000 people marched in Memphis as planned. It was a march in solidarity with the militant strikers and a memorial to King and his sacrifice for Black workers seeking a union and a better life for their families. Dr. King had been warned to stay away from Memphis, but would not be intimidated by threats because he felt the strike was so important.

On April 16th, sixty-five days after the walkout, the strike was settled. The workers did not get all of their demands for their contract, but they did win the right for the union to be recognized, a grievance procedure, dues checkoff, anti-discrimination clauses in an agreement. Granted, they did not get everything they wanted, but nonetheless it was an important victory. In the same way, it is possible to find fault with certain tactics or to identify errors that were made, but they in no way overshadow the tremendous political triumph and lesson that the strike represented.

This leaves us to ask the question: where are all the self-proclaimed leaders and keepers of King's legacy when it comes to organizing workers in the North? It is too often during organizing drives for unions for Black and white workers, they sit on the sidelines and in some cases, side with the employer, private sector's government. They have either forgotten the dream, never understood it or consciously distort it. In any case, they have become enemies of the dream, the legacy, and Black workers.

You cannot "Keep the Dream Alive" or "Live the Dream" unless it is of U.S. workers. This leaves us to ask this question: where are all the self-proclaimed leaders and keepers of King's legacy when it comes to organizing workers in the North? It is too often during organizing drives for unions for Black and white workers, they sit on the sidelines and in some cases, side with the employer, private sector's government. They have either forgotten the dream, never understood it or consciously distort it. In any case, they have become enemies of the dream, the legacy, and Black workers.

The legacy is especially important for the Black community. The Black community came to recognize recognition of the Black community alone for food and clothing.

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WATSONVILLE: 15 MONTHS OF A CRITICAL STRIKE

One of the most important strikes to take place in recent years is the Watsonville, CA. Obviously it is not received adequate or fair coverage in the mainstream press. The Watsonville Canning Strike was a demonstration of the power of workers movement against exploitation and union busting as well as the fight of all oppressed minority workers against racism and exploitation. We are extending solidarity to the Watsonville strikers our full support. Following are excerpts from the leaflet they issued in November 1986.

"We are the Watsonville Canning workers who have been forced off strike since September 9, 1985. All of us are mostly Mexican and Cuban women, members of Teamsters local 114. We are still out on strike and have not been a single defection. We are taking a stand against the inhuman concessions that the company wants to demand of us-such as $6.56 an hour to $4.25 an hour and taking away numerous other benefits from us and our families. We are on strike because we are proud of our work and we want to do a fair day's work.

We know we are not only fighting for wages and dimes but we are fighting for JUSTICE AND DIGNITY as working people and for more control over our lives. When management forced a decertification election as a tactic, we won the certification of the union on August 14, 1986. We were able to mobilize 1,000 strikers, some returning to Watsonville from as far away as Mono and Los Angeles. This victory brought back the morale of all the strikers. Today, after 14 months on strike, our picket lines are full and we are even more determined to win this strike.

It was this determination that led to the closing of the plant for 11 days last September. The owner, Mort Console, ran out of money and could not reopen without putting up 13 of his personal properties as collateral for a loan. He was able to reopen and continue to keep us out on strike, only with the backing of Wells Fargo Bank.

In this next period it will be crucial to continue to broaden support for our struggle, in California and throughout the nation. For the labor movement under attack, this represents a resistance that cannot be left unsupported. It is the duty of all workers and progressive people to make sure that it is victorious.

We are determined, but we rely on your support to be able to win. To defeat Watsonville Canning and Wells Fargo's backing of the company we need your donations of food and money.
DURHAM CITY WORKERS FIGHT ANTI-UNIONISM

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)/Durham City Workers Union 1194 is "organizing the unorganized". Durham Local 1194 has set the goal of signing up 250 members by the end of this year in spite of the anti-union climate in the Black Belt South and in North Carolina.

North Carolina's General Statue states: "Any contract between....any city and any labor union as bargaining agent for any public employee...is declared to be against the public policy...".

In its organizing effort, Local 1194 is recognized but must educate workers of their "human right" and constitutional right to organize, associate with fellow workers, join unions, discuss their concerns, speak out about them, and implement actions to influence conditions on their jobs and in their communities. During 1986, Local 1194 reactivated its' members and recruited new members by calling for a public investigation of the Sanitation Department, pushing for affirmative action in hiring and promotions, recognition of the King paid holiday for all city employees, and city divestment from firms investing in South Africa.

In the Water and Sewer Maintenance Division, rank and file activism of union members resulted in a meeting with management and a press conference. This shop floor struggle activated old members and recruited new members. Not only did it educate workers about their right to organize and join the union, but it won workers a new water fountain, cleaner restrooms and building, a huge parking lot located at the front entrance of the city maintenance facility and affirmative action in the hiring and promotions of Black and women workers.

Local 1194 is also starting a campaign to remove all racist and sexist pornographic pictures and slogans from every wall, locker and desk in all departments and facilities of the city...from field offices to City Hall. Women union leaders of 1194 will conduct a shop by shop, floor by floor tour to put an end to this degrading practice that has gone unnoticed and unaddressed by management and supervisors. It will provide a healthier and less offensive work environment for all employees - Blacks and women in particular.

Finally, Local 1194 continued its' bold gate way distributing union educational material and signing up members before and after work hours at the worksite.

In December 1986, union members unorganized workers at a public workplace to sign up a few and conduct a written survey concerning union membership. Informed workers of the importance of the upcoming ML King celebration January 19, 1987 to working a 1194's special annual tribute January 5th, and Durham Central Union's Forum "King and His Legacy for Workers".

ORGANIZING THE UNORGANIZED TO RIGHT IN THE WORKPLACE!
While it is fairly well known in North Carolina that 300 workers at Isett and Myers will lose their jobs shortly, and many others at Chrysler may also lose their jobs because of the relocation of the company headquarters, there was a little known but equally as devastating plant closing in Raleigh. On January 28, 1987, thirty employees of Apollo Industries received pink slips and Apollo closed its doors. The company that purchased Apollo Industries is State Industries of Ashland, Tenn. They also have plants in Reno, Nevada and Ohio.

On the three days prior to the closing, the 30 workers, six of whom were Black, worked diligently to complete an inventory process. The workers thought this was a routine inventory and were not informed in any way about what was to come. After working from 7:00 A.M. to 5:45 P.M. on the 28th, management called a meeting and notified employees that the company had been sold to a competitor in Tenn., and that they were laid off permanently. They did not offer the workers jobs in Tenn. or anywhere else. They were given one check that the bosses had kept in the hole from the first week of employment, a check for four days' severance pay. Just like that, their lives were completely turned around without them playing any role in the decision.

Apollo Industries, located on Route 1 North, manufactured water heater units. It was a local company that opened its' door approximately 3 years ago. The company ran one shift during this time and offered extremely low wages, long hours and little to no benefits. Consequently, there was a high turnover of the very young workforce.

There was no union, and employees said that the company expressed a deep fear of unions and constantly made it known to the workers. This type of plant closing that destroys the lives of workers and sometimes their communities, is a constant threat to the so-called "free enterprise system". Of course, the real freedom in this whole deal is reserved for the owners to squeeze maximum profits from their enterprises by pushing workers to the wall, by extracting blood, sweat and tears from the workers. Freedom for working people in this situation is freedom to be pushed and pulled, exploited and oppressed.

In the absence of the working people of the nation owning the factories, etc. and making decisions about products, distribution, relocation and so on, there must be resistance to this deadly blow to workers and their families. We must struggle for policies, contracts, agreements and so on that force the wealthy bosses to give at least a half year's notice and then give each employee one year's severance pay. In addition, they must be made to make a financial payment to the community (under worker control) as a penalty to compensate for the disruption. This is a minimum demand for workers to fight for.
As part of the 1987 Martin Luther King Day mobilization, Black workers in North Carolina are participating in a Black Workers for Justice (BWFJ) initiated petition campaign for a paid King Day. Thousands of signatures have been collected by workers for a "paid" King holiday for "all" workers. Workers have spoken and solicited signatures in their workplaces - organized and unorganized, churches, unions, community groups, local NAACP's, Central Labor Union meetings, and at M.L. King celebration events. Black workers from rural Pitt, Wake, Nash, Edgecombe, Wayne and Wilson counties, unemployed and employed workers from the factories and mills of Burlington, public service and postal workers from Raleigh and Durham are all participating in challenging the state of North Carolina to honor King. This campaign is consistent with the B.W.F.J.'s M.L.K. mobilization theme: "Honor King with Political Action."

After weeks of getting signatures and doing speaking engagements, the BWFJ officially launched the King Day petition campaign and Black Workers Political Platform Campaign at its' 4th Annual M.L.King Support for Labor Banquet. During the banquet it was stated that N.C. is one of 11 states that refuses to recognize King's birthday as a state holiday or as a paid holiday for all workers so that their families and friends can participate in educational activities and events re dedicating ourselves to the struggle for freedom, justice, equality and the liberation of our people. Also, N.C. has one of the worst records for voting rights. Black political representation and political empowerment, unemployment, low wage rates and unfair labor laws, i.e., "right to work" for slave wages law. We must respond with political action.

Consistent with this legacy, the BWFJ announced that they and others would be convening meetings, conferences and workers' assemblies in an effort to build a "Black Workers Political Platform" for action to address all of the above issues and more. This program will address the paid King Day, labor issues, democratic rights, international issues, and address in Black National Liberation issues the Afro-American peoples' right to "their own political power", "their own government", and "their own representatives" in the Black Belt South.

The platform will be developed from the bottom up by rank and file workers and grassroots organizations in Black communities. It will address the needs of our real allies in the labor and freedom movement. It will not count on the two capitalist parties (Democratic and Republican) to address and take action on our concerns and working-class interests. It will count on us. Let's discuss and take action together. Come to the BWFJ sponsored Black History Month programs in February. They will be held in Reidsville, Durham, Raleigh and Fremont. Call the BWFJ Center at 833-5111 between 11:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. for more information.
KEYSVILLE STRUGGLES FOR BLACK POLITICAL POWER

Keysville is located in Burke county, one of Georgia’s 20 majority Black counties. The county, more than 53 percent Black, was forced to file suit against county government in 1976 to demonstrate that discrimination in the county prevented the Black majority from electing county officials. The supreme court ruled in favor of the Black residents in 1980. Subsequently, Blacks took a majority of the five county commissioner seats.

Black elected officials on the Burke County commission were an important factor in the ability of Black Keysville residents to get help in their first efforts to reactivate the government.

Georgia is 35 percent Black, while only 6 percent of all elected officials in the state are Black.

Keysville mirrors conditions in Georgia and across the Blackbelt, Medain annual income for a Black family of four is $18,975 — roughly half of median annual income for a white family of four ($19,561).

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Editors note: An article about blind and "handicapped" workers at the Raleigh Lions Way shelter shop ran in the November 1986 issue of Justice Speaks. Following is an editorial about the direction these workers must take to continue their fight to change conditions in their workplace.

On October 20, 1986, the workers at the Raleigh Lions Way got word of victory in their first battle...they won their right to organize a union. However, they know the bosses will appeal and fight it. They must not stop and wait to see what the court or administrative appeal rules. They must organize a strong workplace committee of "rank and file" workers who will fight every day on the job to influence the conditions of their labor.

The workplace committee must try to develop a more collective leadership among loyal pro-union rank and file workers, rather than depend solely on one or two pro-union people. The broader the collective leadership of rank and file workers, the stronger the workers organization or union; the deeper the connection of workers in the different shops, the more thorough the discussions, planning and accurate assessments on the different ups and downs in this long struggle to unionize and get a strong contract to improve conditions.

WHERE WE STAND!

- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
- FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor

- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops"
- FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
- FOR health and safety on the job and in the community

- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and national oppression of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities
- FOR the political empowerment of all working people and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!
Injustice reigns in Georgia. Many observers are still waiting to get the full story on Klan involvement in the Atlanta Child Murders. The ominous truth lingers in the background while the white supremacists rage on in Forsyth County — standing tall on their own criminal history of violence and murder. Meanwhile, Black residents of a small majority Black town in Georgia also suffer attack at the hand of white supremacists.

Keysville, Atlanta, and Forsyth County in Georgia are the evidence of a vast, emerging struggle for power and justice in the South. Clearly, this struggle for power is a struggle for revolution and progress against fascism, fascism, and injustice. It is a struggle against a system, a psyche and its institutions, and the forces of exploitation. As the struggle sharpens, the stakes get higher. But victory belongs to the oppressed!

**Forsyth 1912**

When 20,000 marched on Forsyth County last month, perhaps it was an incomplete retribution for the terrible history of violent national repression in Georgia and across the Black Belt South.

In 1912, three black men in Forsyth County were accused of brutally raping an 18-year-old white woman. A lynch mob kidnapped one of the accused from a jail in Cummings, Georgia where the accused awaited trial. He was immediately murdered, mutilated, and dragged from a telephone pole. Several weeks later, the other two men accused of the rape and murder were tried, convicted, and hung. Nearly 10,000 whites came to witness the hangings.

When viewed in the context of 180 years of lynchings throughout the South — often based upon some accusation of rape, “looking at a white woman,” or being an “ uppity nigger” — these lynchings must be viewed as a part of the violence of the post-reconstruction era. Moreover, historians have attempted to prove that the rape and murder of the young woman in Forsyth County was really committed by two white men. Now, reports say, no one really knows.

But the deeper injustice came in the weeks following the lynchings. Blacks were told to leave Forsyth County — en masse.

One report of a Black family recollection of the event quotes: “They come around and gave us all notice we had to be out by a certain time or they was gonna burn us out.”

“Dozens of homes belonging to Blacks and to whites sympathetic to Blacks were burned. Black churches were torched and the violence spread into neighboring Dawson County.”

On Oct. 18, 1912, the Nugget [a local paper] reported: “A gentleman of Forsyth County, who visited here last week said every Negro who lived in it was gone, not a single one is left to tell the tale.”

Historians estimate that only about 1,800 Blacks lived in the county at that time since Forsyth is outside of the traditional Black Belt area of Georgia. Newspapers report that three other north Georgia counties have no Black residents: Dawson, Union, and Towns counties.

**Forsyth Today**

The violent legacy of Forsyth County continues to this day. In 1980, a black Atlanta firefighter was shot and killed while driving through Forsyth County as he returned from a visit in the Lake Lanier area. He was attending a company picnic. The two white men convicted of his murder admitted that he was killed only because he was Black.

In 1986, five Mexicans were beaten and threatened they would be murdered if they did not leave Forsyth. Reportedly they were there helping a local resident build a home.

Forsyth County is also infamous for the 1836 “Trail of Tears” forced removal of thousands of Cherokee Native Americans who were “relocated” to Oklahoma in the massive exodus.
Nearly 350 people gathered at Fevers Entertainment Center on January 17, 1987 to participate in the Fourth Annual Martin Luther King Support for Labor Banquet. This annual and growing activity is sponsored by the Black Workers for Justice as a way of acknowledging Dr. King’s support for the labor movement and Black workers in particular. It is also a time to acknowledge the work of various individuals and organizations who are struggling in their workplaces and communities.

Each year the King Banquet has been presented in connection with the militant and progressive aspects of Dr. King’s legacy and the current tasks of the Black Liberation Movement.

The banquet was successful in mobilizing people from all over the state, from Wilmington and New Bern in the East to Burlington in the West. Besides workers and their families, there were activists from the various progressive movements in our area. Farmworker advocates, labor and civil rights attorneys, trade union activists, progressive ministers and politicians all joined to support the ongoing work of Black workers to organize themselves.

One of the highlights of the banquet was the Self-Determination Awards given to people who have made important contributions to the development of various struggles taken up by working people in North Carolina. Recipients were Irene Goodson for work in the Chavis Heights struggle for heat and against asbestos exposure of workers and tenants. She has also been fighting for a union of blind and sighted workers at the Raleigh Lyons Way and she is also a member of the Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble; Leah Wise for supporting many projects and struggles with technical support and resources; Rev. Thomas Walker for supporting workers’ struggles at K-Mart and other Edgecombe, Nash and Wilson County workplaces as well as the fight for quality schools and the Martin Luther King Holiday for all workers; Milton Williams for promoting internationalism as a member of a Black delegation to Nicaragua.

The keynote speech was given by Angaza Laughinghouse, a member of Black workers for Justice. She articulated the organizational assessment of the political contributions of Dr. King, we forward the need to continue the petition drive to make the holiday a paid holiday for all workers. Most importantly, she set out the framework of a campaign for Black workers to establish their own political platform that addresses issues critical to the working class and that is not dictated by the bosses of big business or the Democratic Party.

The speech and other highlights of the banquet are available on tape through the Workers School Library and can be obtained by writing the BWFJ, or calling our Workers Centers. Speeches from the 1986 Banquet are also available on tape. The cost is $5.00.

Most people left the banquet with a good feeling and a desire to continue to fight, or for some, to get involved for the first time. Many people applied to join the Enrollment that was initiated at the banquet and will continue through end of February. If you have not joined yet, now is the time.
SOME NOTES ON BLACK HISTORY

AMERICAN DATES

FEBRUARY 1 - Black Student Movement launched in Greensboro, N.C. 1960.
- Langston Hughes, Poet, Author, born in 1902.

FEBRUARY 2 - Dr. Eduardo Mondlane, leader of Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) in Africa, was assassinated in 1961.

FEBRUARY 3 - Rosa Parks, the Black woman who sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott, was born in 1913.

FEBRUARY 4 - Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) began its struggle in Angola, Africa against European colonizers in 1961.

FEBRUARY 5 - Benjamin Banneker, at age 23 made the first clock in America in 1754.

FEBRUARY 6 - Malcolm X Tribute: Culture, Reflection, Discussion and Video. 7:00 P.M. at the House of the Lord Church in Raleigh.

FEBRUARY 7 - Orangeburg, S.C. - Police murder unarmed Black college students in 1968.

FEBRUARY 8 - Black Education Institution founded in Augusta, GA. in 1867. It later moved to Atlanta and took the name of Morehouse College.

FEBRUARY 9 - Cetewayo, great Zulu king who defeated the British army, died in 1884.

FEBRUARY 10 - F.D. Perrell invented the Menstrap in 1898.

FEBRUARY 11 - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), civil rights organization, was founded in 1908.

FEBRUARY 12 - Voices from South Africa, Rabbi Ben Isaacson from Johannesburg and Rev. Zuckariah Mogobobbo from Soweto, 7:00 P.M. at the Beth-el Synagogue at 1804 Watts Street in Durham.

FEBRUARY 13 - Forum and Slide Show: "Free the Afro-American Nation" by Edward Faison, Jr. from Clinton, N.C.Vantage Press, 1987. 7:30 P.M. at FREEDOM BOOKS at 135 E. Martin Street in Raleigh.

FEBRUARY 14 - Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), civil rights organization, formed in 1957.

FEBRUARY 15 - Ernest Just, brilliant biologist, received a Ph.D in 1915.

FEBRUARY 16 - U.S. and other foreigners defeated in Cuba; Castro became premier of an independent, revolutionary Cuba in 1959.

FEBRUARY 17 - Huey Newton, organizer of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, militant organization for Self-Defense and Liberation, was born in 1942.


FEBRUARY 19 - Book Party: "Racism, the Inevitable in America" by O'ward Faison, Jr. from Clinton, N.C., Vantage Press, 1987. 7:30 P.M. at Freedom Books at 135 E. Martin Street in Raleigh.

FEBRUARY 20 - Negro History Week was founded by Carter G. Woodson in 1926.


FEBRUARY 22 - Black History Forum: Black Workers. 3:00 P.M. at FREEDOM BOOKS at 135 E. Martin Street in Raleigh.

FEBRUARY 23 - Freedom Books Film Series: FUNDI (ELLA BAKER) and ALVIN AILEY. 7:30 P.M. at FREEDOM BOOKS at 135 E. Martin Street in Raleigh.

FEBRUARY 24 - Afro-American History Program: 7:30 P.M. at Enloe High School in Raleigh.

FEBRUARY 25 - Bob Marley, international reggae musician, born in Jamaica in 1945.


FEBRUARY 27 - Black History Month Event at Freeland High School.

FEBRUARY 28 - Women's Commission Sponsors: "Women Worker's Speak Out" Programming:

Recognizing: International Women's Day
When: Saturday, March 7, 1987
Where: Black Worker's For Justice Center
216 K. Atlantic Ave. Rocky Mount, N.C. 27802
Raleigh 833-5269
Durham 489-9375
Time: 4 - 7 p.m.

Featuring: A Film A Panel Discussion
* Speak-Out From The Floor
* Potluck Supper (bring a covered dish)
* Refreshments Served * Childcare Provided (must register)
The following excerpts are from Organized Labor and the Black Worker by Phillip Foner. We think they address important aspects of the history of Black labor in the U.S.

Most labor historians today agree that craft unions created an aristocracy of skilled workers at the expense of the unskilled and semiskilled and, at the same time, retarded the further organization of American industry; thus, in the long run, adversely affecting all workers, skilled as well as unskilled. Yet not many are willing to acknowledge that the racist policies and practices of organized labor created a privileged group of white workers at the expense of Black workers and thus strengthened the employers' ability to divide the working class and weaken efforts to unionize major industries. The crippling effects of racism on organized labor were recognized soon after slavery was abolished by the Boston Daily Evening Voice, one of the staunchest champions of Black-white labor unity. An editorial on October 5, 1865, read:

The workingmen's success is simply impossible without united and harmonious action. If the machinist says to the wielder of the pick and shovel, I will not associate with you, if you want better wages you must get it on your own hook; the clerk says to the coal-heaver, between you and I there is a gulf fixed; or if the white says to the Black, I do not recognize you as a fellow workman, these feelings prevail, there is the end of hope for the labor movement.

Look at it for a moment. There are now four million of the Negro race about to enter the field of free labor. If we take them upon equal ground with ourselves in the contest of labor, they become an ally; but if we reject them—say we will not work in the shop with them—what is the result? The Black man's interests and ours are severed. He that might have been our co-operator becomes our enemy. The vast force of four million workers is in the field against us. We refuse their alliance; the enemy see and seize his opportunity, and the Black man becomes our competitor. He will underwork us to get employment, and we have no choice but to underwork him in return, or at least to work as low as he, or starve. Shall we then be so blind and suicidal as to refuse to work with the Black man? Here he is—a power to tell one side or the other in the contest for the elevation of labor. Shall this power be on our side, or on the side of our opponents. It is first offered to us. Shall we reject it? We hope there is more intelligence among workingmen than to persist in the indulgence of an old prejudice when that indulgence is the ruin of their cause.

In at least one instance, however, white workers before the Civil War sought to improve relations with Blacks in their trade. Negro [Black] waiters in New York were successful in 1853 in forcing their employers to pay $16 a month at the same time that white waiters received $12.00. In this exceptional situation the whites held a meeting to form the Waiters' Protective Union and to force equalization of their wages. While they did not open their ranks to Blacks, the whites invited the leader of the Negro [Black] waiters to attend the meeting. The New York Herald of March 31, 1853, reported that "Mr. Hickman colored...said the colored men were the pioneers of the movement, and would not work for less than eighteen dollars a month." The paper quoted the Black waiter as saying, "I advise you to strike upon the 15th of April at $18 a month; and if the landlords do not give it, then you turn out, and be assured that we will never turn your places."
In the spring of 1984, a grievance filed by a woman worker with the city of Durham mentioned the presence of pornography and sexually offensive pictures on her worksite. Three years later the issue continues to go unresolved. Members of her union, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local 1194 Durham City Workers' Union then took up the issue as an important one for women workers and for all workers.

In January 1987, the Personnel Department responded to a letter written by the union. The letter mentioned the complaints of 1194 that continued to receive concerning pornography, sexually offensive pictures and racial harassment of workers—especially women workers. Personnel Director Frank Lewis, Public Relations Coordinator Sally Dobis, and the Assistant Personnel Director Alethea Bell cooperated with the union and agreed to meet and propose a plan of action before the union.

The plan included a tour of city departments and worksites to evaluate how broad the problem was. Secondly, the findings would be documented in a written report and distributed to the City Manager and his assistants. Recommendations for change would go beyond developing a city policy. The union wanted a follow-up tour to ensure that policy was being enforced and possibly the formation of a women workers' committee to continuously work on ending this practice of sexual and racial harassment. These objectives were agreed upon by both union representatives and management, and on Tuesday, February 18th, the tour began.

Participating in the tour were two women union representatives and the city's Public Relations Coordinator. The choice of two women representatives by the union was not by chance. It was the overall opinion of the union that women union members would be more sensitive to things which may be sexually offensive than male members.

The tour proved to be enlightening. Incidences of sexually offensive pictures as well as racial graffiti such as "K.K.K." scratched on a bathroom door were discovered on the first day.

The tour was to be completed on the following Thursday, February 12th, but was abruptly called off by the Assistant City Manager Greg Bethea. Bethea felt that it was simply a question of writing a policy first. How can anyone pose a thorough solution to a problem when they have not investigated the problem? Greg Bethea, time and time again, has denied workers input to help resolve problems which they are confronted with. This latest dictatorial act just shows how truly insensitive and sexist this assistant city manager is. His past actions also show that he is anti-union.

Local 1194 is a strong and determined union! We will not sit back quietly while our members are confronted with problems! We will find other means to investigate and find meaningful solutions to these and other problems. Women workers must continue to take the lead in this matter... for the union makes us strong!!
The Struggle and Potential of Black Women

Who are we?

We are Black women, working women. We are women trying to make a decent wage to feed our babies and keep a roof over our heads in one of the poorest, most exploited, racist regions in the United States: the South.

Almost three out of every four Southern working class Black women work in plants, behind typewriters, or in the service sector. (Almost 60% of Southern white women do too). It is hard, honest work...or rather underpaid, unsafe and under valued work.

More than half of Black women in the South make less than $13,000 a year. Most of us make less than the \textit{official} U.S. government established poverty level income (roughly $11,000 for a family of four). In North Carolina, the 1983 average weekly wage for a service worker was $128.57 or $6685.64 a year. North Carolina ranked 47th in the country in wages per hour for factory workers; 35th in percentage of jobs in high occupational disease industries; 49th in percentage of jobs in low wage industries; 44th in the number of state laws to protect workers, and, or because it ranks 53rd in the percentage of unionized workers. It is on our backs that Frank Perdue rakes millions off "his" children.

It is also because of our sense of responsibility that we are, and always have been, the true backbone of our churches, unions (and other workplace organizations), civic leagues, community associations, families and the Black freedom movement for economic justice and political power.

What do we want?

We want secure jobs with adequate wages and benefits such as time and a half for overtime, no forced overtime, and sick pay. We want safe working conditions that aren't a hazard to our health. We want equal pay for equal and comparable work, and we want education and job training so we won't leave us at the complete mercy of the corporations and the banks. These companies not only pay inadequate wages but shut down with little or no notice and no compensation to us, our families and communities. (They throw us away to go and exploit other peoples in 50 cents a day in another country.)

We want the power to control whether that plant moves, what it pays and the working conditions inside it. We want power over our lives and our children's lives, over schooling, health care and everything else. We already know what happens when power is held in the hands of the corporations and the bosses.

What is our struggle?

The first step is communications. We've got to talk to each other about what's going on in our shop, department, job or community. We might then find out that what we thought was our "own, personal, unique, problem" is really part of the latest strategy used by the company to keep us divided, conquered and ruled. The company's latest tactic is to keep us from communicating and therefore organizing.

Secondly, we've got to organize ourselves to meet together regularly to share experiences, get and give suggestions, strategies and support for us to fight back. We also need to call on our churches and clubs to speak to the issues that effect the company's latest tactic of keeping us from communicating and therefore organizing.

These support committees can make donations, gather resources and help spread information for the work of bettering our conditions as workers. We might find out that the same company trying to cut your wages through speed-ups is the same company trying to become exempt for a law or tax in another member's town or county. By meeting together we can give each other the information to develop the strategies to defeat the company and all its strategies.

How bad do we want it?

We must want freedom bad enough to continue.
Members of the Keysville Concerned Citizens including the mayor and city council-elect have announced plans to hold a demonstration and rally on the steps of the Georgia State Capitol Building on March 30 to demand that Governor Joe Frank Harris appoint a designated slate of government officials to Keysville.

Black residents in Keysville have raised the question, "Is Keysville another South Africa?" Members of the community have stated that they feel the situation in Keysville is like the situation in South Africa because Black people there cannot assume majority rule and power.降水位居民对黑人市区会表示，他们感到在Keysville的情况与南非的情况相似，因为黑人不能拥有多数权利。

Members of the Keysville Concerned Citizens believe that the residents have not been heard by the government. They support the reactivation of the town and demand their rights.

Members of the community have stated that they feel the situation in Keysville is like the situation in South Africa because Black people there cannot assume majority rule and power. Members of the community have stated that they feel the situation in Keysville is like the situation in South Africa because Black people there cannot assume majority rule and power. Members of the community have stated that they feel the situation in Keysville is like the situation in South Africa because Black people there cannot assume majority rule and power. Members of the community have stated that they feel the situation in Keysville is like the situation in South Africa because Black people there cannot assume majority rule and power. Members of the community have stated that they feel the situation in Keysville is like the situation in South Africa because Black people there cannot assume majority rule and power. 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WOMEN WORKERS “SPEAK OUT”

This issue of Justice Speaks is especially dedicated to the struggle of all women, worldwide, to end male supremacy, class exploitation, and national oppression. Each year, in March, we find an opportunity to bring special attention to the world-wide oppression of women through recognition of International Women’s Day (March 8th) and throughout the entire month of March.

On March 7th this year, the Black Workers For Justice Women’s Commission will hold its first public “Women Workers Speak Out”. Last year several women members of BWFJ met to follow through on a plan adopted at the last organizational planning retreat to create a women’s commission to address the particular conditions faced by black women workers in North Carolina and throughout the South.

The dynamic of this meeting was essentially our first “Speak Out”. We “spoke out” to each other about our experiences, our history, our hardships and struggles, our problems, our thinking, our views, and our visions for the future. We “spoke out” emotionally, politically, and theoretically. It was a moving and enlightening experience for each of us.

It is our hope with this issue of Justice Speaks and with the March 7th Speak Out to both teach and learn. We want to learn from the real dynamics of life what our conditions are — now, today in North Carolina. We want to teach that by joining together to bring voice and light to our real conditions, we can find a way forward. We can create a shared understanding, a shared consciousness, a shared vision about how to bring about change.

Organizing, consciousness, organizing—listening, taking action, learning—these are our tools we have now to move forward. Hopefully the articles going forward in this issue will reflect these hopes we know we share with all women all over the world who are changing. In “Women Unions But Porno”, we reflect the issues and perspectives of women who are organizing to control their work conditions. In “The Struggle for Potential Of Black Women”, we reflect something about our general conditions today in the South. In “Keysville, Another South Africa”, we reflect briefly on the first black mayor of that small town — a woman. In “Profile Of A Freedom Fighter”, we touch upon the life of Ella Baker — someone whom we should all know. Both in “Women In Nicaragua”, we hope to demonstrate both the intersection of women's oppression and the powerful possibilities of organizing for liberation. That is, organizing for our own liberation and for that of our entire peoples.

WHERE WE STAND!

- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
- FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor
- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, “runaway shops”
- FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and “killer shops”
- FOR health and safety on the job and in the community
- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people and the political and national oppression of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities
- FOR the political empowerment of all working people and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!
Perhaps the old saying is true. We never really know what we’ve missed until its gone. But a lack of understanding is never more important than the point of growth. The death of Ms. Ella J. Baker will be a point of growth for many and a continuing aspiration to persevere for many more.

Ella J. Baker was a freedom fighter whose lifetime of work spanned more than 50 years. She was born in rural, Virginia in 1903 and died in New York City on December 13, 1986 — her 83rd birthday.

Although those close to her will miss her, her contributions to the ongoing struggle (world wide) for freedom, justice, human rights, and equality can not be missed. Her work is imperatively intertwined throughout the very fabric of the Black Liberation Movement. Indeed, her next was a solid contribution to the foundations upon which at least part of the next stages of the “war” against exploitation, injustice, and racial oppression will be made. As the wisest among us know — history holds the secrets to victory.

Ella Baker was an organizer of great latitude. She knew the key to lasting change rests in the organization of the people. The leadership of the masses or the “grassroots” must be developed. And organizations must demand a kind of “group-centered leadership” or collective leadership character. The “leadership-centered” group cannot serve our purpose well. These ideas were among her great lessons. Another was that the youth must be given the “space” to grow and develop as a part of the movement. She passed these lessons on from generation to generation teaching all those who cared how to make change.

Beyond all of the lessons she brought to the people are the lessons that can be learned from her life.

In the 1920s Ms. Baker worked in factories and restaurants in New York. She had graduated from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina before moving to New York. While there she also became a staff member of the American West Indian News.

In 1966 Mahalia Jackson, in the book Moving on Up, said this about the development of freedom music during the ’60’s Civil Rights Movement: “The Freedom Songs’ began back during the Montgomery Boycott when Blacks began singing in the churches to keep up their courage, when the students began to go off jail during the sit-ins, they began to make up new words to the spirituals and hymns and old gospel melodies that the Blacks had been singing in their churches for generations. Some got printed, some got put on records and some just got passed around...

Using songs as a way of expressing protest and gaining strength and hope runs way back deep within the African American music traditions. From slavery to the present, music has always played a major role in the African American struggle and culture. The first music made by Blacks in this country had to be African. The slow development of this music into blues and jazz is an example of the great flexibility its basic character had. The changes in and development of African American music is a direct result of and reflection of social and political issues, concerns and development within the African American society.

“Freedom music” is one style of Black music that has grown out of the struggles of African Americans in this country. Struggles against their exploitation as workers and for control over their lives and communities.

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Using songs as a way of expressing protest and gaining strength and hope runs way back deep within the Black American’s past. When the slaves on the plantation sang, “steal away to Jesus, I ain’t got...”
Editors Note: This article was contributed for publication in Justice Speaks by a New York activist. The expressed political views are those of the author and not necessarily those of 1989.

ANOTHER RACIST MURDER

POLICE COVER-UP

Last December 29, 1986, one Black man was killed and two others were injured in an attack by a racist white gang in the Howard Beach section of Queens, New York. Their car had broken down on the highway, and the three walked into the all-white neighborhood to find a phone to get help. They stopped in a local pizzeria, and when they came out, they were set upon by about a dozen thugs who beat them with baseball bats and tree limbs. One of the victims, Timothy Grimes, escaped, but the other two were pursued towards the highway. Oodric Sandiford, badly beaten in the face, managed to get away. The third victim, Michael Griffith, tried to run across the highway and was struck by a car and killed.

This was the initial story that appeared in the capitalist news media. Since then, more facts have come to light. Sandiford has said that the car that killed Griffith was used by the gang in the attack and that the driver struck Griffith intentionally. From the beginning, the cops refused to believe Sandiford’s evidence. It turned out that the driver of the car, Dominick Blum, is a court officer whose father is also a cop.

The police are clearly trying to cover up their role in this racist murder. Blum’s account of what happened is simply not believable. He claims that he was just driving home when he hit something that he thought was a tire or an animal. But Griffith was running, not lying, on the road when he was struck. His body was tossed in the air, and broke the car’s windshield. It is impossible that Blum did not know that he hit someone. However, the police have refused to charge him with any crime. The only ones charged, three white youths, are charged only with “reckless endangerment”, a minor felony.

From the beginning, the victims in the attack were treated as criminals by the police. While the three men had stopped at the pizzeria to seek help for their broken down car, the cops came in to check on a report that they were “suspicious” characters. Clearly, for the police and other racists, any Black person in Howard Beach is considered suspicious. The police left the restaurant as the racist gang was forming outside. (Note the similarity to the murder of three civil rights workers in Mississippi in the summer of 1964, who were held by the police until the Klan had time to gather and finish them off.) After Griffith had been killed, the cops questioned Sandiford, holding him for 3 1/2 hours without taking him for medical attention. They searched him, and asked him about an unrelated shooting elsewhere in Queens. They refused to believe his story about the attack, one of them telling him: “It didn’t happen that way.” It is worth noting that the cops were the 106th Precinct, which became infamous in 1985 when several Black youths testified that they had been tortured by cops from that precinct using electric stun guns. Once again, we see that the cops are not there to protect the people, but to uphold the racist system of national oppression and class exploitation.

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WOMEN

strategize and fight without getting decimated by the gossip, smear-mongering, and lies the company will spread about you. Bad enough that all you see is getting rid of dangerous conditions you work under. Bad enough that you won't see yourself or anybody else be killed, raped or be sexually harassed, or be sexually harassed by the supervisor anymore. Bad enough that we all realize that we have no choice but to stand up or go down.

CULTURE

willing to stay here", they weren't singing just about heaven, they were expressing their secret hope that too, would have their chance to go up north to Freedom...

If you are interested in joining our effort, whether it be by singing, writing, fundraising or setting up and managing engagements, please contact us and let us know! We are also available to participate in your Black History program or celebration.

Write to:
The Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble
C/o Mathanette Mayo
P.O. Box 5574
Raleigh, N.C. 27605
Or call:
Freedom Books/WMFJ Center
833-5269

INSPIRE THE STRUGGLE WITH SONG!

 KEYS VILLE

Legislature Black Caucus member Representative Tyrone Brooks called Keyville "Another South Africa". "This struggle is no different from the struggle in South Africa. Our people are disenfranchised," Brooks said. "Those who have been elected cannot run their government."

Nevertheless, she went on into the 80s to help form the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). She defended the right of the youth to have organization and political thinking of their own. And she was later a key organizer for the important Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party — working with Fannie Lou Hamer.

Ms. Baker remained active throughout the 70s and 80s — teaching and inspiring new efforts and movements for change, both locally and internationally.

As one historian said, "there is a river". The lessons of Ella Bakers' life point out to us that there is critical need in the Black Liberation Movement for a people united through organization, ideology, and political direction. It must be a movement that harnesses collective leadership and opposes male supremacy. It must be a movement that utilizes the experience of the elderly and the energy of the youth.

The Freedom Songs have caught and expressed something about music that is notorious. It is a penetrating that your soul gets lures'' treble comes to a person, music can expressed by the spoken word, it did

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Historically, women have been actively involved in the national liberation struggle of Nicaragua. As early as the 1930's, women fought with the national hero Augusto Sandino, whose army held the U.S. Marines during a six-year guerrilla war. On July 19, 1979, the people of Nicaragua led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) overthrew the repressive dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza. A large number of women fought militantly and participated in every facet of the anti-Somoza oppositional movement.

After the overthrow of Somoza, the Association of Nicaraguan Women Confronting the Nation's Problems (AMPROWONAC) was formed to promote the complete integration of women into society and advance their particular needs. This organization was built on a broad base. It played a key role in mobilizing and organizing women against the dictatorship and around issues of their particular concerns. After the victory of 1979, the association changed its' name to honor the first woman member of the FSLN to die fighting - Luisa Amanda Epinosa. A large number of Nicaraguan women have been left to support their families. This situation forces them to take any type of job just to make ends meet.

Women's involvement in the revolution is a result of their class condition. Working class and peasant women have had to continually fight daily for the bare necessities of life. The oppressive conditions prompted women to become involved. The widespread repression and in particular, the way the repression centered on the youth, outraged the women from all classes. The repression was so terrible that it was a crime just to be young! Women often became involved because of what was happening to their sons and daughters. Women took the lead in organizing in the defense of their children and young people.

Though it would be naive to think that after a revolution the repression of women would be abolished overnight, it is clear that the national liberation struggle greatly advanced the cause of women's liberation in Nicaragua. The vital role played by women in the war of liberation caused a healthy re-evaluation of sex stereotypes. In post liberation, women in Nicaragua continue to play an active, and more equal role. They are prominent not only in the government, but also in Sandinista Popular Army, Sandinista Popular Militias, Sandinista National Police and Sandinista trade unions.

In addition, AMNLAE consistently lobbied in legislation promoting the interests of women. Like other local organizations, the AMNLAE's proposals included:
- sanctions against sexual harassment at work.
- legal punishment of the physical abuse of women and children in the home.
- the right of education, and political participation of women.
- the right of women to decide the number and timing of their pregnancies.
- the right of abortion.
KING HOLIDAY BILL PASSES
FOR STATE WORKERS

THOUSANDS SIGN PETITIONS DEMANDING HOLIDAY FOR ALL WORKERS

The North Carolina State Legislature ratified a bill, sponsored by Representative Dan Blue, to make the third Monday in January a paid holiday for all state employees in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The bill was ratified on March 25th with a 114 to 6 vote in the state house and a 37 to 10 vote in the state senate. Recognition of the holiday will begin in 1988.

Efforts to secure the bill, however, did not come easily or without controversy in the State Legislature. The old racist tactics of red baiting Dr. King and the racist attitude that other "confederate" or national "leaders" don't have paid holiday recognition rang throughout the debates.

Significantly, the momentum to secure passage of the bill did not just build from the "smoke filled backroom deals" of the legislature. The will and sentiment of the masses of working people was captured in a simple mass movement petition campaign conducted by Black Workers For Justice and other organizations across the state calling for recognition of the holiday for not only state workers, but all workers. We initiated the campaign with the intention of involving the masses of people in effectively raising this heartfelt demand. The petition campaign proved to be a tremendous success.

More than six thousand signatures (from New Bern, Wilmington, Greenville, Fremont, Rocky Mount, Raleigh, Burlington, Durham, Greensboro, and other localities in support of a paid King Day) were collected from every day working people. And completed petitions continue to come in from across the state of North Carolina every week.

The petitions were presented to the public at a well attended and covered press conference on Tuesday morning, March 17th. Presenters and those in attendance at the press conference included representatives of the American Postal Workers Union, Raleigh Local Cosmopolitan, Local 1194 Durham City Workers of the...
Workers at the Raleigh Lions Clinic held their first union election since the National Labor Relations Board sustained their right to hold an election and to organize for a union. The decision of the NLRB was being appealed by the Clinic bosses.

The election was held on Tuesday, March 31 at the Federal Court House building in Raleigh. Those who organized for the union lost their campaign by eleven votes. A meeting to analyze the election and the tactics in the long struggle to unionize the Clinic will be held on April 7th, also in Raleigh. Results of the meeting will be published in a future issue of Justice Speaks.

The following is an open letter from Black Workers For Justice passed to those workers on March 19th to encourage them leading up to the election day.

AN OPEN LETTER

A few weeks ago, the Black Workers for Justice (BMWJ) and other justice minded folks joined the celebration of courageous unsighted and sighted workers' forward step in the struggle for union recognition.

We cheered the successful workers struggle and legal victory against the Raleigh Lions Clinic's (RLC) bosses in their efforts to stop your struggle for human dignity, health and safety in the workplace, and an end to job discrimination and a subminimum wage of less than $3.00 per hour.

The recent National Labor Relations Board decision against the bosses appeal means that blind and sighted workers have the same rights as all workers throughout the state and the U.S. The democratic right to come together as workers and solve their workplace problems must be protected.

We encourage all workers, their families, friends, churches, labor unions, civil rights organizations, women and youth clubs, and citizens to come out on Tuesday, March 31 at 5:30 p.m. at the Federal Court House building at 318 New Bern Ave. to witness the counting of ballots. This will decide whether we have our union now or next year, we will not give up. And we will continue to build broad community support for the workers struggle throughout the area. We are considering launching a boycott against private contractors, such as Super Dollar Stores, that use slave labor of the unsighted and sighted workers.

It's April presidential campaign. Alread Republicans have declared their candidates and hit the campaign trail. Senator Harris, the Republican, declared himself the Democratic candidate for president by announcing his candidacy and hitting the campaign trail. Senator Harris has not yet announced.

The story of the renewed United Farm Worker grape boycott, with its emphasis on the devastating effects of highly toxic pesticides on farmworkers' families, neighboring communities and consumers is told in a powerful 14 minute documentary, THE WRATH OF GRAPES, which is available for screening in North Carolina.

To arrange for a showing, or to purchase your own 1" video copy of THE WRATH OF GRAPES, or for more information, call Joan Papert Preiss, (919) 489-2659. Write to her at: TRIANGLE FRIENDS OF THE UNITED FARM WORKERS, 2722 McDowell Street, Durham, N.C. 27705.

The renewed grape boycott is supported in North Carolina by the Migrant Ministry Committee and the Executive Board of the N.C. Council of Churches, the N.C. State AFL-CIO, Carolina Community Project, Progressives Jewish Network. Church Women United in North Carolina, and Wilbur Gulley of Durham, and nationally, the boycott has received the endorsement of religious, community and organizations as well as city state governing bodies and state and national leaders.

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The story of the renewed United Farm Worker grape boycott, with its emphasis on the devastating effects of highly toxic pesticides on farmworkers' families, neighboring communities and consumers is told in a powerful 14 minute documentary, THE WRATH OF GRAPES, which is available for screening in North Carolina.

To arrange for a showing, or to purchase your own 1" video copy of THE WRATH OF GRAPES, or for more information, call Joan Papert Preiss, (919) 489-2659. Write to her at: TRIANGLE FRIENDS OF THE UNITED FARM WORKERS, 2722 McDowell Street, Durham, N.C. 27705.

The renewed grape boycott is supported in North Carolina by the Migrant Ministry Committee and the Executive Board of the N.C. Council of Churches, the N.C. State AFL-CIO, Carolina Community Project, Progressives Jewish Network, Church Women United in North Carolina, and Wilbur Gulley of Durham, and nationally, the boycott has received the endorsement of religious, community and organizations as well as city state governing bodies and state and national leaders.

It's April presidential campaign. Alread Republicans have declared their candidates and hit the campaign trail. Senator Harris, the Republican, declared himself the Democratic candidate for president by announcing his candidacy and hitting the campaign trail. Senator Harris has not yet announced.
It's April 1987 and the 1988 presidential campaign is off and running. Already several Democrats and Republicans have declared their candidacy and hit the campaign trail. They have headed for Iowa and New Hampshire, the sites of early primaries in February 1988.

Although he has not officially declared himself a candidate, it is expected that Jesse Jackson, representing the Rainbow Coalition, will announce his intention to seek the Democratic Party nomination for president by entering the primary races. Similar to his candidacy in 1984, the 1988 election presents important questions and opportunities for Black people in general and Black workers in particular.

The Jackson campaign generated such enthusiasm on the part of Black people, for most, it was a matter of dignity and pride. At its' roots was a reaction to the powerlessness that affects the lives of Black people. Of course, much of what Jackson said during his campaign concerning civil rights, social justice, economic inequalities and U.S. foreign policy, were true to black Afro-Americans and many others.

As a result of the Jackson campaign and many local and state elections with Black candidates, a great deal of energy has been devoted to the electoral struggle. However, we should not lose sight of the fact that elections have generally been a losing battle for us. With voting confined to the Democrats or the Republicans, we have no real alternative.

The Republicans clearly represent an anti-Black and anti-working class political institution by way of their program and philosophy. The Democrats, while claiming to be a coalition of the poor, minorities, business, etc., have increasingly moved to the right. They are responding to Reaganism and the racist and backward views of many white voters.

It just does not make sense for the workers and the bosses to be in the same party. It cannot result in the workers taking up their agenda without interference from the employers who are attempting to protect their economic interests. Most other advanced capitalist countries have a party that at least claims to be made up of workers and representative of the laboring people. In the U.S., you have two parties that offer slightly different approaches but are fundamentally the same.

**A POLITICAL PLATFORM FOR WORKERS**

If we continue to put energy in elections, it must be from a position of strength. We must continue to accept the agenda proposed by the Democrats, we will continue to be jerked around, taken for granted and discarded after the election.

The way to turn this situation around is for workers to define their program based on their needs and their opinions. Black workers have views on plant closings, unemployment, the minimum wage and unions that are different then those of the Democratic leadership and they need to be heard. Black workers have real needs when it comes to workers compensation, affirmative action and housing that are not shared by the employers. Black workers want their views on destroying apartheid in South Africa and keeping the U.S. out of Central America heard loud and clear. These views are not the same as the Democratic Party politicians.

What many workers are calling for is a campaign to bring workers together from different workplaces, industries, and communities to hammer out a political platform and program that can be used for the elections as well as general organizing. With this kind of platform we can judge candidates and how well they will work for us. If they don't support our issues, we won't support them.

The platform will also put us in a position to run our own candidates; leaders that we chose. Solid union leaders and honest, fighting labor and community activists would make excellent candidates.

Overall, it will be democratic and give Black workers a greatly needed degree of power and independence. Without a doubt, it will be a positive step in the direction of freedom, justice and equality.

SUPPORT JESSE

Even though we do not yet have a developed platform, it is possible at this point to judge Jackson as a candidate. Generally, the conditions that prevailed in 1984, are the same today in terms of a movement of the people coalacing around Jackson. He continues to be very supportive of labor. He has shown solidarity with Local P-9 during their strike against Hormel, he supported the Watsonville strikers and championed the cause of locked-out steel workers. He has walked the picket line with many others.

Jackson challenges racism in the electoral system and the society at large. Moreover, he maintains strong opposition to the apartheid regime in South Africa and U.S. support for it. In addition, he still defends the Nicaraguan government in its' right to self-determination.

In sum, he challenges the status quo in a way no other candidate does, and he stimulates the masses into action. If he continues to do this and is supportive of our program, we think he should be supported in the primary elections. This is an endorsement of some of his views, parts of this program and the peoples' movement around him, not the Democratic Party.

continued page 7
CALL TO JUSTICE
Analysis, Views & Demands From the BWFJ

THE DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS

DO NOT REPRESENT WORKERS

WHERE WE STAND!

• AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
  • FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
• AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
  • FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
• AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
  • FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor

• AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, “runaway shops”
  • FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
• AGAINST dangerous conditions and “killer shops”
  • FOR health and safety on the job and in the community

• AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racial national oppression of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities
  • FOR the political empowerment of all working people and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!
"SPEAK OUT" SHOWS ABUSE OF WOMEN A MAJOR CONCERN

Nearly thirty women from the state of North Carolina attended the Women Workers Speak Out forum held on 11th in Rocky Mount at the BWFJ center’s action center.

The "Speak Out" was considered to have been a successful voicing of the key concerns facing the women present. It was a relative one to several attending the film that physical and emotional (or psychological) abuse of women by men prove to be one of the major issues of concern. The Speak Out was designed by the voicing of this experience of oppression.

Although many expressed awareness that such abuse goes on daily, the impact of gathering to "Speak Out" gave the issue new depth and meaning and increased some participants understanding of the broad and concrete effects of male supremacy in this society.

Sexual abuse of children was mentioned as a possible byproduct aspect of an abusive relationship.

Other aspects of this problem included statements that women were passive to men in all areas of life, including the home, the church, and in the job.

Women were more active in their mates, so mates fought to limit women's participation in activities of their choosing. Or, husbands simply did not want to let their wives or girlfriends think and act for themselves — insisting that their place was to be at home.

The need for shelters for abused women was mentioned as well as the need for women to struggle to make change.

Another topic under which women spoke out centered on problems on the job for women. Treatment on the job was really bad. Those who were activists were often singled out. Existing unions were ineffective and discrimination was a big concern. Questions were asked about what can be done to combat these problems.

The need to get better organized was the most important answer given. Effective organization was mentioned as a key to ineffective unions and to abuse and discrimination on the job.

Single mothers also spoke out. They expressed the difficulty of earning enough money to support their children. Often single mothers are forced to work two jobs in order to survive.

Two points of view surfaced during the Speak Out about what these questions of abuse really mean — particularly that of physical and emotional abuse.

One view expressed sympathy or "feeling sorry" for black men (in particular), citing that the conditions of society force black men to take out their frustrations on women.

An opposing view expressed that "feeling sorry" for black men was not the answer. But, that standing up against all abuse or oppression was an important starting point for the full energy of the black community to be directed against those who oppress our entire community. That is, the system of national oppression and the resultant exploitation of black workers and all workers by that system. Black men must learn to oppose male supremacy in all its forms at it is a pillar of the system of oppression in U.S. society.

The program for the day included viewing the film, Fundi: The Story of Ella Baker about the life and times of Freedom fighter and civil rights activist, Ella Baker. A discussion of the film followed.

Presentations were made on the general conditions of women in the south, the conditions of working women, and the history of the black family (and the oppression of black women) by slave owners and masters.

Almost all in attendance expressed that they had never been to a "Speak Out" before and that more speak outs were needed. Three areas expressed interest in having Speak Out forums in their communities; Gatesville, Winston, and Durham.

The Center For Women's Economic Alternatives, a group in attendance, expressed interest in working in coalition with BWFJ. Those in attendance represented several industries across the state.

The brothers in BWFJ provided the childcare and cooked the dinner provided at the end of the evening.
CITY WORKERS PUSH SURVEYS/PETITIONS TO DOCUMENT CONCERNS

The Bottom Line

Today, of every 100 who are reaching the age of 65, only 2% are financially independent; 13% must continue to work; and 75% are dependent on friends, relatives, or charity. Of every 100 reaching 65, 95 are financially independent: 23% continue to work: and 3% are dependent on friends, relatives, or charity. Of every 100 reaching 65, 95 are financially independent: 23% continue to work: and 3% are dependent on friends, relatives, or charity.

—Venita Van Caspel, author of Money Dynamics for the 1980's

APSCE, Local 1194 has launched a survey campaign and a petition drive among city workers in a continuing effort to crystallize the needs, concerns, and demands of city employees to Durham officials.

The survey and petition campaigns reflect both the demand of women city workers to "clean up the atmosphere" around worksites across town where displays of pornographic and racist graffiti are commonplace and the demand of the workers for a 20% real wage increase for all workers earning less than $23,909 annually.

The Anti-Porno Campaign

Months ago, women union members of APSCE, Local 1194 initiated a project with the Personnel Department to tour all worksites and offices to investigate union members' complaints about racist and sexist writings, drawings, pictures and pornography.

Assistant City Manager, Greg Bethea, in his usual undemocratic style and anti-union worker attitude, called the tour to an end just as it was starting. The tour began to reveal the depth and scope of a racially and sexually hostile climate in some city workplaces. He wants to write a policy without investigating the full nature of the problem.

To continue the fight to have this problem taken seriously, the union is conducting a survey. The survey will serve to highlight the depth of the workers' concerns and knowledge about this problem.

However, bosses and supervisors not demanding an anti-sexist and racist climate in the workplace is only one side of the coin. The other is educating workers that apathy about pornography, sexist and racist slurs like "bitch or nigger", or pictures and writings like "KKK", etc., demean and degrade workers to the level of something less than human.

Such graffiti is just the same as calling a woman a "female dog" or a Black a "slave"! If workers support this backward thinking, the bosses can easily mistreat some workers by not giving them equal consideration for promotions, hirings, job assignments, raises, and evaluations. An injury to one worker can mean injury and loss of dignity to other workers. Workers, too, must treat each other with dignity.

However, the bosses must be held accountable first! Don't let them off the hook! Stand together as workers for better conditions!

Wage Increase Petition

The petition campaign among city workers is just underway. It will also substantiate for city officials how important this issue is to the workers themselves. The union stands behind its' demand for a 20% pay raise for workers making less than $20,000 annually. The union surveys of the workforce during the past several months reflect the sad fact that many city workers live below or very close to the national poverty level.

Other important demands to city officials include a six week maternity leave and a city paid dental plan.

At a time when the economy of Durham is booming, city services are expanding and the workload of employees growing, the actual wages of city workers and their standard of living is not reflective of this prosperity. The union requests more than the usual two or three percent raise this Spring is a reasonable demand given the scope of the problem.

The workers and community present the petitions in May 1987 to the city council and say: "Don't be pennywise and people foolish city workers' welfare is important to the well being of our city."

"Let's push for progress."

[Note: The text is cut off here and continues on the next page.]
union request for the last two or three weeks in Spring is given the scope and community will en in May 1987 and says: "people is Spring is, in May 1987 and community will en in May 1987 and says: "people of our city." Let

Another twist in the struggle to secure the holiday came from misguiding King Day supporters and politicians who argued that the petition campaign would hurt the effort to win the holiday in the legislature. They argued that we should trust the Black legislators' ability to maneuver the King Bill through the State Legislature or the "Congressional Club" of Jesse Helms, or other reactionary leaders would start a counter petition campaign that would outnumber our signatures for King Day.

What better tribute to honor King with a paid holiday and the broad mass organizing of everyday Black and working people? What better tribute to honor King with a paid holiday and the broad mass organizing of everyday Black and working people?

Finally, despite the many plant closings in North Carolina, one of the lowest paying wage states in this country, the State Legislature has moved to cut the corporations unemployment tax, rather than increase the unemployed workers' benefits back to the pre-1981 level. These same corporations ignore the importance of King Day. We should continue to educate and activate citizens and these representative political constituencies to push progressive reform forward and reaction out of the way. The MLK Day Petition Campaign has this goal in mind. It better prepares us for the fight ahead.

This is the political context in which the popular petition demand for King Day is raised. We are determined to struggle locally for a paid King Day, a day where all can give political substance to "freedom, Justice and Equality" during the symbolic observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The struggle will continue on county, city and local town levels.

JESSE

RUN INDEPENDENT

After the primaries Jesse must become an independent candidate. He, along with the Rainbow Coalition, could become the core around which a third party could be built. A mass electoral party of Blacks, Hispanics, Labor, and small farmers, is the only way for our movement to break this terrible stranglehold that the Democratic Party has on us. Building the united front that will be required for this to happen should be kept in mind as we proceed with our activities in the election. The time is now! Create the Black Workers Political Platform, support Jesse in the primaries, build an independent political party!
Apartheid means "apartness", the policy of enforced racial segregation by whites, who comprise 15% of the population, over Blacks, "Coloreds", and Asians in South Africa. Although Black Africans make up 73% of the population, they must live on 13% of the land, often in very desolate and impoverished "homelands".

- one out of four babies die in their first year in the "homelands".
- 38-50% of all Black children die before their fifth birthday.
- 75% of all deaths occur in Black children under 5 years old.
- there is one doctor for every 330 whites; there is one doctor for every 12,000 Blacks.
- 94% of the health expenditures go to whites, who represent only 15% of the total population.
- many protestors of the apartheid regime die in prison, victims of torture and given no medical treatment. These include Steven Biko, medical student and leader of the Black Consciousness Movement, and Dr. Neil Aggett, a white physician and political activist.

THE ANC-HOLLAND SOLIDARITY HOSPITAL, DAKAWA, TANZANIA

The ANC-Holland Solidarity Hospital was established in Tanzania in 1977 to provide medical services to a refugee population of 1000 people fleeing political and social persecution in South Africa. With the current State of Emergency in South Africa, it is expected that the Dakawa-Tanzanian community will double in size in the very near future.

At present, there is only one doctor, one nurse and two medics at the hospital. Chloroquine-resistant malaria is endemic in the community, and ordinary infections quickly become sepsis. Other health problems include pneumonia, tuberculosis, gastroenteritis, uncontrolled diabetes, malnutrition, and depression. Superimposed on this is the reality that many of the South African refugees have been tortured, brutally beaten, maimed, and denied adequate medical treatment for their injuries.

Current outpatient visits at the hospital reach 1900 per month; yet the hospital is faced with chronic shortages of drugs and supplies to meet its' needs. Tanzania is a poor country, and although they have generously provided land for the hospital, they cannot guarantee medical supplies for the hospital.

Urgently needed are the following medications and supplies:

- anti-malarials
- antibiotics
- adrenalin
- vitamins
- anti-inflammatory drugs
- anti-tubercular drugs
- analgesics
- bandages, syringes, saline

SOUTHERN AFRICAN MEDICAL AID PROJECT

The Southern African Medical Aid Project (SAMAP) is a project initiated in the Triangle Area to raise medical supplies directly for refugees fleeing from the apartheid regime of South Africa. Initiated in the fall of 1986 by the Committee for Peace with Justice in South Africa (Durham), the University of North Carolina Anti-Apartheid Support Group (Chapel Hill), North Carolinians Against Apartheid (Raleigh), and concerned individuals and medical personnel. Their first project is raising medical supplies and funds for the ANC-Holland Hospital in Dakawa, Tanzania.

Many Americans have participated in divestment, sanctions, and boycott campaigns to help break the ties of "destructive engagement" between the apartheid system and our government and certain corporations. Now, the Southern African Medical Aid Project offers a unique opportunity to create our own constructive ties with the South African people. Contributing medical aid to refugees from apartheid constitutes a genuine effort to form a direct and ongoing relationship with South Africans opposed to apartheid.
Workers at the Carolina Burkart Company in Henderson, N.C. are currently engaged in a dramatic and vital struggle against forced concessions and weakly veiled efforts to break their union. The 130 employees, 80% of whom are Black and 15% women, are faced with stubborn and ruthless owners.

When the contract between Burkart and Local 265 of the United Furniture Workers of America (UFWA-DE) expired on November 19, 1986, the company refused to come to the bargaining table with a reasonable offer. Instead, on December 2, they implemented their unacceptable proposals that called for a $.97 an hour ($38.80 per week) reduction in pay. Other take backs included some seniority rights and holidays. This means that the wages and benefits of the workers have been ruthlessly cut by Burkart.

The union decided to work without a contract with the hope of getting management to make a decent offer. By the end of March, they still had no contract and resolved to hold a rally and enlist the support of the community and other unions.

On April 4th, while much of the world remembered Martin Luther King, Jr., who was killed while preparing to march with Memphis sanitation workers, several hundred people marched in Henderson and then met in a rally at the Henderson Court House.

The march and rally are only the beginning of the necessary efforts workers at Burkart must take to win this struggle against the company. The union leadership and the workers must organize a massive and consistent campaign against the company starting with the Henderson community and branching out into other parts of the state and across the country.

The workers must win the total understanding and support of the Henderson Black community and other Black communities across the state and prepare to strike the company. Trade unionists around the world know that without even preparing to strike, the workers have little continued page 7
PROFILE OF A FREEDOM FIGHTER:
MALCOLM X REMEMBERED

Bro. Malcolm X before leaving the Nation of Islam in 1964 after being silenced by Nation leadership for virtually suggesting that United States officials or those connected to the government may have been involved in the murder of President Kennedy in November of 1963.

Often times I sit and wonder what the world would be like if brother Malcolm were still alive. In my daydream I see a stronger nation; a more resilient unity within the African race and between the races; few if any African American men hanging on street corners; strong family ties; and the mask of racism being torn away and exposed for the lie that it is. Then, without warning, as quickly as I was charmed by the thought, I am yanked back into reality.

It is my opinion that Malcolm was and is the most potentially powerful African American leader to arise in the 20th century. Given the history of his life, he was well prepared for the role he filled during the last powerful years of his life during the early 60s.

Rising up from the murk and mire of a world many black men die in, Malcolm became a respected leader, orator, teacher, and revealer of the truth. He dared a man to be a man, he showed African American men how to love and respect the African American woman, showed them how to be fathers, how to seek and find truth, the importance of a strong foundation, and how to keep our ties strong with our mother continent Africa.

Malcolm was assassinated as an act for his potential as for his political and organizational leadership. He experienced all of his visions laid out for the African American man to destroy himself; that is, illiteracy, poverty, violence, drugs, alcohom, promiscuousness, crime, etc. He was submerged in it all. But, what is most important about Malcolm is he used all of this experience to help Black people. He could relate to those who needed relating to, or he.

I think Malcolm had to have been the most dangerous black man to be lived in this country since W. T. Turner. His words excited all ignited feelings and fears. We now think. We now study. We now believe in ourselves and our race. We made an stand up and fight. He told them, "The ballot or the bullet". He told us, "Register to vote to be in a position to be political arena". He told us, "The real enemy of our people is the real enemy of our people. We can do whatever is necessary whenever necessary, and whenever the time comes. Do you understand?"

The reality of today's world and our position in the world today, whether we either have not yet understood or at least have not heeded his words.

There is great power in this lie that we have not progressed enough beyond the point where we began in the modern day struggle or by our success for some of the rights that the legislators have signed into law, we will face the same prejudices, stereotypes, and problems just as back when.

Suddenly, I begin to daydream again. In my daydream, Malcolm said these words:

"Today holds a new challenge for a new generation of my people. "Today holds a new challenge for a new generation of my people. Prayers for your eventual victory will always be with you. Use the victories of others' examples for the path to victory. Don't forget history. It is a valuable possession we can all share and reveals the road to victory. Remember, a people without vision are doomed to perish."
Several members of the Black Rank & File Caucus met with members of the Black Workers Unity Movement (BWUM) in April at a local church in Raleigh, North Carolina. The purpose of the gathering was to discuss planning for a national organizing program for Black workers including building the "Black Workers Political Platform Campaign" and eventually a National Black Workers Organization.

Discussion during the meeting revolved around the goals and objectives of BWUM and those of the Black Rank & File Caucus, including the need for Black workers to form networks to know more organized and to build a broad national organization.

The Black Workers Political Platform Campaign was adopted as a national program for the next several months for early May to push the program forward nationally. The first National Platform Conference was scheduled for September 19th and 20th, tentatively.

The meeting assessed that the Blackbelt must be seen as key to the Platform Campaign.

The first National Platform Conference was scheduled for September 19th and 20th, tentatively in North Carolina. A call letter with a brief questionnaire and other Platform materials will be sent to targeted groups and individuals in the next few weeks. A follow-up meeting is planned May 30th to finalize these developments.

Several plans were also developed to gain support of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. A resolution to support the Platform Campaign will be proposed to the CFTU at their May Conference to be held in the mid-west.

The Platform Planning committee has targeted a minimum of 300 workers from around the country to attend the conference in September.

The Planning committee assessed that workers from other nationalities within the U.S. (Puerto Ricans, Native Americans, Chicanos, etc.) should be invited to organize platforms in their communities and to join in coalition with the Black Workers Political Platform Campaign. These workers should be called upon to support the Platform Campaign and to fight to end discrimination. All will be invited to join appropriate mass meetings concerning concerning relevant platform issues.

WATSONVILLE WORKERS WIN!!!

After 19 months of struggle against an owner who sought to break their union, the Watsonville Cannery workers ended their strike with a victory.

They held the line on wages, which was an important issue for the entire industry, and also maintained their vacation days. During the long and bitter strike the 1990 mostly Chicano and women workers maintained discipline and solidarity and not one worker crossed the picket line.

The Cannery workers assumed leadership of their Teamsters Local 912 and forced the International to support them. Moreover, they drew support from a broad sector of the labor movement, especially the rank and file and the Chicano movement. Jessie Jackson and Chicano politicians rallied around them as well.

Workers from the Black Rank & File Caucus join with members of BMJ in support of workers at Carolina Burkart in their demonstration against forced concessions.
MAY DAY SYMBOLIZES INTERNATIONAL STRUGGLE OF WORKERS

On May 1, 1987, millions of workers around the world celebrated May Day. This year is the 101st anniversary of the workers' holiday that originated in the U.S. Today, rights we take for granted such as the eight hour day that most workers enjoy or anti-child-labor laws are the result of the life and death struggles of workers in the U.S. and around the world against absolute and unchecked exploitation at the hands of corporate bosses.

The true meaning of May Day can be seen today in the strikes called by OOSATU against the scheduled South African elections based on the all white vote. Virtually no Black South Africans worked in cooperation with the strike.

The U.S. Labor Day holiday in September was established in an attempt to replace the militant holiday that criticizes the bosses and the system of exploitation.

WHERE WE STAND!

- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
- FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor

- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, “runaway shops”
- FOR jobs, income, training, for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and “killer shops”
- FOR health and safety on the job and in the community

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!
RESISTANCE TAKES NATIONAL SCOPE

More than 1,500 Robeson County residents and supporters marched on April 20th demanding justice for the slayings of Lumbee Indian Jimmy Earl Cummings and Joyce Sinclair, a Black woman. The demonstration was organized by a tri-racial coalition of Blacks, Lumbee Indians, and Whites calling themselves The Concerned Citizens for Better Government.

Cummings was shot by a county narcotics agent who was also the son of the County Sheriff and was not charged in the killing. The community erupted as confused stories of how the young Indian was killed were released by the police.

The murder of Joyce Sinclair has gone unsolved for more than a year even though a suspect is now known. The Sinclair murder is widely believed to have been a racially motivated retaliation for her promotion within a Robeson County Burlington Factory, rumored to be a "Klan plant". (More on this story in the next issue of Justice Speaks.)

On March 22, 1987, a group of Black students at Columbia University were subjected to a racist assault by a group of white students. Eyewitnesses stated that the Black students were threatened with shouts of "I'm going to kill you Niggers" and "Niggers go home".

Nevertheless, the university administration, as well as the press, treated the attack as simply a fight between two groups of students, one Black and one white.

Black students there demonstrated and demanded that the university expel the racists involved in the attack, and have filed charges against them. While the university administration has so far taken no action, the police have given their protection to the racist white students.

Nearly 150,000 people descended on Washington, D.C. recently to protest U.S. foreign policy in South Africa and Central America.

The April 25th demonstration drew a broad cross section of people. The multi-racial event was organized by a coalition of religious, peace, civil rights and labor organizations. And, this particular mobilization was significant because of the endorsement of more than 40 labor unions.
The following interview was conducted in late March with Jim Grant. Jim is a veteran activist with significant experience in tenant and farmworker rights issues in North Carolina. Jim discusses the case known as Howard et al vs. Malcolm et al. The issues in the case concern blatant violations of farmworker rights and were argued in the U.S. Eastern District Court in Wilmington from February 23 to March 2, 1987. Many of the elements of the migrant labor system that reveal the level of gross exploitation and oppression of farm workers is revealed below.

JS: What is the nature of the violations of farmworker rights and where did they take place?
JG: They were housing farmworkers in housing units that had not been inspected and approved by the Health Department and the Employment Security Commission (ESC). They did not pay the minimum wage. That is a common situation. Very few get the minimum wage.

JS: Let's focus on the minimum wage violations. How do they try to get around paying the minimum wage? What justification did they use?
JG: The workers are generally at the "beck and call" of the crew leader for everything......all living functions while they are on the farms. The crew leader is in charge of feeding them, but they may not get fed. Crew leaders charge farm workers for housing, food, liquor, cigarettes, etc. Then the crew leader deducts whatever expenses the worker may "tab up" from his/her pay. It's like the tab in an urban grocery store. You may end up with a tab that is more than you actually spent. When payday comes the workers end up with practically nothing at all.

Another way they get around paying minimum wage is that instead of paying by the hour, they pay by the piece. This means that most of the workers end up getting less than the minimum wage. For example, if you are picking sweet potatoes in 100 buckets a day. That's very difficult to do. First of all, you usually don't have that many potatoes in the field to be picked. Second, they have to be graded as they are picked and this cuts down on your speed.

Another point is that the farm owners claim that they subcontract with the crew leaders and therefore the crew leaders are totally responsible for everything. Records and testimony, however, showed that crew leaders were employed by the farm owners.

JS: How did you come in contact with the farmworkers who became the complainants?

JG: It's not unusual for farmworkers and the BAA (Burkart, Aikman, and Associates) to come to North Carolina from Florida or away as Twenty. There were ten plaintiffs. Two of those plaintiffs were from the Caribbean and others were Afro-Americans. They were members of the community and therefore did not pay the minimum wage. This is a common situation. Very few get the minimum wage.

JS: What do you think is necessary to stop these massive violations of farmworkers rights in the immediate future and in the future?

JG: It's definitely have them organized. This means that farmworkers have to get together and somehow get organized. It's a very difficult situation. Over the short term a combination of watchdog efforts like those of Legal Services and other community organizations is needed.

JS: In the long run it is definitely have to be organization of the part of the farmworkers. Are you going to have to be the ones get together and somehow get organization established to handle the situation. It is a very difficult situation. Over the short term a combination of watchdog efforts like those of Legal Services and other community organizations is needed.
BURKART... strength against the company. Burkart workers must form general picketing lines and pass leaflets exposing every tactic of management to the community. They must also do door to door workday by day to patiently organize the workers and the community for an escalating struggle. Only then can workers tip the "scale of victory" away from the company and in favor of the workers. Burkart can be adapted and concessions can be beat back. But every effort to organize and fight must be roughed up by the workers and, finally, the union must all upon the International's strike fund to support the workers in their fight against the union.

As union President John Lampen stated during the rally, the days of the Burkart workers are vital to the local economy of Henderson and the Black community as well.

The spirited march and rally was the plant included trade unionists from all over North Carolina, members of IUE locals from as far away as Tennessee, North Carolina AFL-CIO leaders; and Black groups like the NAACP, SCLC, and the Nation of Islam. They were joined by community members from Henderson and other parts of Vance County.

A representative of the Black Workers for Justice spoke at the rally and pointed out that if the union decided to strike workers would not be afraid. He emphasized that they alone would have to make the choice. Black workers, he said, must strike just as slaves struck and disrupted production on the plantations and hurt the confederate efforts during the civil war. This, along with workers fighting on the side of the union army, helped to defeat the alavocracy. He ended by saying that if they did strike, they would not go hungry, that people would feed them and help them with other needs.

During the rally, an international representative of the IUE pledged access to their $15 million strike fund for the Burkart workers. This brought cheers from the workers.

One of the N.C. AFL-CIO leaders, however, made remarks that in effect counseled against striking under any circumstances. He said that there are many alternatives to striking and many companies want strikes. It is true that many companies attempt to provoke strikes in an effort to crush a weak or unprepared union.

But in any conflict with the company, the workers must learn to work skillfully in building the strength and confidence of the workers in the many to day day struggles on the shop floor. They must organize, organize, and build upon their strength and then strike a blow at the company when the time is right. These day by day efforts position the workers properly against ruthless bosses. Now the workers need, Burkart must work skillfully to tip the balance of power in their favor. It is possible to do.

Moreover, it is important to study the victories workers are having against companies who try to force concessions such as the recent strike in Watsonville, CA, where 1000 cannery workers, largely Chicano and women, after 18 months, won their strike.

PHILIPPINES... In the next issue and those that follow, we will look at the growing workers movement, especially the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), the most vibrant and progressive trade union federation on the islands. We will include interviews, excerpts from articles, solidarity statements, analysis of reports, and etc.

In the dollar in 1985 in the Philippines. There are several labor problems and a lack of land reform for the peasants. All of these problems are the result of which the anti-Marcos movement was built and which the continuing struggle for independence and democracy seeks to address.

This is a very rough sketch of the development of the situation in the Philippines. There is much more however, it begins to make clear the workers' relationship to the situation. It is therefore the responsibility we have in supporting their struggles.

In the Philippines in 1985 and 28 in 1987. The minimum wage is $75,80 pesos and 551 per day with the cost of living is $4 per day. Even the family of six being $5.99 per day.

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FARMWORKERS... other groups in trying to keep up with the problems in the camps (all of them have problems and efforts to find and work with those farmworkers who are willing to take a stand. But this is just for the short haul and is no substitute for organization which is what is really needed.

J5: Is there anything that trade unionists and Black activists can do to intervene?

JG: Education is the first step. They need to inform the workers about the realities of what goes on in these camps. Then, perhaps they can go to visit the workers and talk with them. The crew leaders count on them. The workers tip the scale of victory. And finally, the union must build upon their strengths and then work skillfully in building the strength and confidence of the workers in the many to day day struggles on the shop floor. They must organize, organize, and build upon their strength and then strike a blow at the company when the time is right. These day by day efforts position the workers properly against ruthless bosses. Now the workers need, Burkart must work skillfully to tip the balance of power in their favor. It is possible to do.

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Attendance at the march and rally exemplified the necessary coalition of alliance between labor and the Black freedom movement. It fell into place quite easily in this case because of the size of Henderson's Black population, the percentage of Blacks in the union, and Black leadership in the union.

Burkart manufactures the underpadding for carpets that go in automobiles. It has long operated in Henderson with the union winning an election in 1942. During that time things moved along under the banner of "labor management cooperation" or "class peace," meaning no conflict between the company and the union. This approach was championed by the company, of course, and many labor leaders. During hard times for the company, the union made concessions. Today, with the company doing well and the workers' standard of living being eroded, the company is taking advantage of the workers and backing them against the wall.

The union has met with the company at least once since the rally. The bosses would not budge. Recent reports indicate that both sides have met with a mediator and the union is waiting for notification for the next bargaining session.

This is probably a good time for the union to continue to mobilize community and labor support by holding weekly pickets, picking up pickets and to develop a food bank that can be utilized in the event of a strike. At the same time, the crazy idea of "labor peace" should be buried once and for all and replaced with good old militant trade unionism.

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THE PHILIPPINES: A LONG HISTORY OF STRUGGLE

As a country made up of a grouping of over 7000 small islands in the Pacific ocean, the Philippines became a Spanish colony in the 1500's. In the 1890's, a series of rebellions against the Spanish challenged the rule of the colonizers. The U.S. was looking to expand its territory at this point in history and decided to take on the Spanish. The U.S. started a war against the weak Spanish empire knowing that they would win and make big territorial gains.

In May of 1898, Admiral Dewey crushed the Spanish navy. The navy allowed the Filipino rebels to defeat Spanish forces on the island until they laid siege on the capital city, Manila. Up until this time, the U.S. had promised to support Philippine independence. In August of that year, U.S. marines landed and forced their way through Filipino troops and engaged the Spaniards in what was a questionable "battle for the capital". Instead of toasting out the Spanish completely, an agreement was reached with the Spanish for the U.S. to keep the Filipino insurgents out of the capital and out of political power. The U.S. then guaranteed all Spanish property rights on the Islands and took control of Puerto Rico and Cuba, as well as the Philippines.

All of this was justified in typical U.S. racist fashion. The white supremacist U.S. rulers referred to the Philippines as "our little brown brother". The powerful Senator Beveridge led the racist refrain: "The rule of liberty, that all just government derives its' authority from the consent of the governed, applies only to those who are capable of self-determination...we govern the Indians without their consent...we govern our children without their consent...we are the ruling race of the world". This was not the worst. In response to charges of brutality and massacres of Filipino insurgents, he offered, "Senators must remember we are not dealing with Americans or Europeans. We are dealing with Orientals".

It took from 1899 to 1902 to crush the island. The Filipino people desperately wanted independence and gave 200,000 lives. Four thousand U.S. marines were killed.

From 1880 on, the Philippines became an integral part of the U.S. empire. The economy was structured around U.S. production needs. The culture was directed toward assimilation of U.S. values. English was made the official language and Filipino youth from elite families were sent to the U.S. for training at schools and universities to learn the "american way of life".

The Philippines were used as a jumping off point for U.S. military activity in Russia, China and other areas.

The Japanese occupation of the Philippines in January 1942 caused the U.S. military to get another series of rebellions against the Spanish. The Japanese also claimed to have independence, at the same time the Japanese the official language. Filipinos continued their resistance. When the U.S. retook islands in 1945, they wanted the Filipinos freedom fighters to stay. They used the excuse that some of these units were influenced by communists. They brought anti-communist elements that promised to remain loyal to U.S. interests.

Under puppet governments, the Philippines was sold to the U.S. by way of economic, political and military agreements. In the process, the puppets put a lid on the Filipinos with gold.

There are 24 U.S. bases in the Philippines. Their currency, the Peso, is tied directly to the U.S. dollar. There is 6 Pesos to the dollar in 1970.

Continued...
Trade unions have played the key role in the 20th century in helping to raise the standard of living and quality of life for millions of workers throughout the United States.

Organizing unions has not only meant about economic gains, it, for the first time, allowed many workers openly on the shop floor, hold political views independent of those held by their bosses, without fear of being fired or evicted from their jobs which were often owned by the companies.

Unions led the struggles to bring about social security and unemployment insurance benefits. They also joined with the unemployed during the depression in a movement to stop unjust evictions. Many sacrifices have been made by the rank and file over the years to union and maintain strong unions.

Unions were such powerful workers’ organizations, because they were built on the principles of rank and file democracy and action. Such demonstration by unionized workers to get a better life, could have only come about by democratic unionism, which encourages rank and file participation and places the ultimate control on important matters to a union by the rank and file.

Today, the workers’ standard of living and bargaining position is under severe attack by the companies with government support. Decent contracts and gains won by Black, other oppressed nationality workers and women during the 1960’s and 70’s, are cited by the media and many politicians as the main cause of the current economic crisis.

Plant closings, unemployment, hunger, homelessness, attacks on affirmative action, union busting and increased racist violence characterize the decline in the basic quality of life for workers under the so-called U.S. democracy.
BURKHART
WORKERS PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE STRIKE

John Leonard, president of UFWA-IU Local 265, announced the intention of Carolina Burkhart workers to strike the company if serious negotiations did not begin by June 1, 1987. President Leonard made the announcement on May 21, at the Justice Speaks' Bi-monthly Forum held in Durham. So far, however, the union has not called a strike—choosing to seek other ways to force Burkhart to come to the bargaining table, according to Leonard.

Nearly 40 workers attended the forum to hear presidents of several local unions speak about the struggles each local is currently facing. Locals represented were International Association of Machinists Local 2358; AFSCME Local 1194 (Durham city workers union); and United Furniture Workers of America Local 265. Also in attendance were workers from the Raleigh Lions Clinic, a shelter shop workforce of blind and cited workers who are struggling to unionize.

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AFL-CIO District President Mitie Gardino from Pennsylvania attended the meeting and expressed support for a strike on the company—however, a letter was sent to Burkhart management demanding that they take seriously to the bargaining table.

Meanwhile, the difficult preparations to hold an effective strike may be underway in Henderson. Hold on Burkhart workers! Organize for power in the plant and in the community! (More on their progress in the next issue of Justice Speaks.)
The Black Workers Political Platform Campaign Convention has been scheduled for a North Carolina location on September 19 and 20th, 1987.

Black Workers' Unity Movement (BWUM) organizers held their second planning meeting at the end of May to finalize the course of the campaign for the next several months.

Also in May, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) was approached to endorse the Platform Campaign. Organizers were unable to get the Campaign resolution to the floor, however. Plans were made to work more closely with local CBTU chapters in the coming months while the campaign is developing.

Observers at the CBTU convention in St. Louis told Justice Speaks that Rev. Jesse Jackson (expected to announce his candidacy for president of the United States sometime soon) spoke to the convention and was warmly received. The CBTU stopped short of endorsing Rev. Jackson, however. Observers believe that CBTU is following the direction of the national AFL-CIO in remaining "neutral" on all candidates until the October 1987 Bell Harbor, Florida convention.

Other plans for the Platform Campaign include an effort to bring Rev. Jackson to North Carolina during the Platform Convention. BWUM organizers plan to work with local North Carolina groups including Rainbow Coalition workers in the state, Rainbow Coalition of Conscience workers, and other groups interested in having Rev. Jackson speak to black and progressive communities leading into the 88 elections.

The Platform Campaign Planning Committee analyzed in its meeting the importance of broad national outreach both for the campaign and for the convention. One method of outreach proposed by the Planning Committee is to hold worker and community assemblies around the country in early August leading up to the convention. The assemblies would be organized by local constituencies or groups engaged in building the Platform Campaign.

For more information contact BWUM Planning Committee, P.O. Box 5574, Raleigh, North Carolina 27610.

ABBOTT WORKERS FORCED TO WORK WHILE SICK

The good health, safety and the lives of workers at Abbott Laboratories in Rocky Mount, N.C. has no value to Abbott management.

Despite the image of having "good" wages and benefits, Abbott workers are catching hell that management when they refuse to work while they are sick or injured, even when they are under their doctor's care.

Workers like Edith Hart and Mildred Jones, who permanently injured themselves while working at Abbott, were fired. Workers like Orell Alston and Melvin Allen, having known health problems, died at the plant, because they were afraid to leave or stay home from work while sick for fear of losing their "good" jobs. Who's next?

In 1983, Abbott's slave-driving policies became clear, when management tried to force a Black woman worker, Joyce Whitehead, to sign an outrageous agreement (suicide pact) stating, that she agrees not to be absent or leave for any reason including sickness and emergencies. And if the agreement was violated she would be fired. Of course, she refused to sign it, as anyone with good sense would. Whitehead was then fired for not signing the agreement.

The fact that Joyce had faithfully worked at Abbott for 14 years, often for weeks and months at a time while sick, shows that loyalty does not guarantee job security as many workers mistakenly believe.

Until workers have organization, power and unions to fight for their own contracts which establish what management can and cannot do to workers, Abbott workers will continue being forced to work while sick and injured, be pressured to sign inhumane agreements, die on the plant floor and be fired.

The law in North Carolina does not require employers to honor their own policies that they have written in their policy manuals. They are not considered as contracts. In fact, company policies will only have real meaning to workers if they use them as the basis to discuss the pros and cons of the policies, to form committees to force binding use of those policies and to have input in developing new policies. However, this takes workers who have the courage to come forward, to begin the process of organization.

The law (and we all know how that works) says that workers have a legal right to organize unions, workers' associations and approach the company on behalf of a group of workers, to request changes in policies, wage increases and improvement in working conditions, and that they can't be fired for these actions. Workers will be encouraged to take a stand and begin organizing, when they know that their churches, families, communities and friends actively support them.

At this moment, there are workers at Abbott who are being pressured to work while sick, and to sign agreements like the one refused by Joyce. They are being called into the office regularly and harassed. It is causing these workers much stress and uncertainly about their future. They need support desperately. Support can begin by writing letters to Abbott as individuals, churches, community organizations and union organizations.

Continued page 7
The South, a region with very few unionized workers, and a political system and climate which denies and dilutes efforts toward Black political power, continues to be open territory for companies to exploit cheap labor and to get tax breaks, which they use to maneuver and gain leverage against unionized workers throughout the rest of the country.

U.S. aggression in Central America and support for South Africa, has sharply revealed to the average America and support for South Africa, has sharply revealed to the average worker, the role of the corporations (who control the companies they work for) in determining U.S. foreign policies. The billionaires who own the companies, are the ones who gave millions to a secret fund controlled by aides and former aides to Reagan, used to illegally finance the Contras in Nicaragua, and who knows what else. This money came from profit stolen from workers through concessions and cheap labor.

In 1984, the rank and file union struggles against concessions waged at the Hormel Meat Company in Minnesota, and later by the cannery workers in Watsonville, California, were embodied in the politics of the Jesse Jackson presidential campaign on its' stand against forced concessions.

The Jackson campaign formed a united front political movement demanding democracy, economic progress and political power for rank and file workers, oppressed nationalities, women, small farmers and countries throughout the world under attack by U.S. domestic and foreign policies. He was the logical presidential candidate to be endorsed by rank and file union members, especially Blacks, who identified with the issues of Black political power.

At a time when democratic unionism was so important, not only for defeating Reagan, but for advancing a workers' program to help shape a progressive political agenda for the 1984 presidential, state and local elections, democracy was denied to millions of workers in unions by the top down endorsement of Mondale and file union members, especially Blacks, who identified with the issues of Black political power.

The Jackson presidential campaign was an unchallenged anti-union climate. This lack of union democracy is their unions and thus, the presence of organized labor as a powerful and decisive political force in the elections.

This lack of union democracy in the 1984 presidential endorsement process, left many Black workers, particularly in the South, uncertain whether unions supported the struggle to elect Black candidates, against the second primaries and other issues associated with Black political power. This uncertainty contributed to the companies' ability to form an unchallenged anti-union climate in the South.

The possibility of a Jesse Jackson presidential bid in the 1988 primaries is great. There will also be efforts by Black, other oppressed nationality and women workers to shape a progressive political agenda. Rank and file union democracy is must in deciding a presidential endorsement and for adopting resolutions supporting the platform developing out of the struggles of oppressed nationality and women workers at work and in their communities.

We call on the AFL-CIO and all international unions to not make a top down endorsement of any presidential candidate. That the rank and file should vote on who they want in the primaries by the heads of the AFL-CIO unions.
FREMONT FIGHTS FOR WARD SYSTEM

A coalition of 4 Black community groups: the Fair Labor Support Committee, Friendly Family Club, Fremont Community Development Association and the Wayne County Black Ministerial Alliance, came forward at a Fremont Town Commissioners' meeting in January of this year, demanding that a "true" ward voting system be established in place of the current at-large system.

Since January, Black citizens in Fremont have been meeting and mapping out their strategy, which includes possible legal action, voter registration, community political action, community mobilization and finding community candidates for office.

The Black community's challenge of the at-large voting system is really a challenge against political and economic community discrimination, being carried out by a white majority Town Board of Commissioners, supported by the white business establishment. The at-large voting system not only dilutes the Black voting power, it means that the elected officials are not directly accountable to any identifiable constituency.

The Black citizens are wondering where their taxes are going? Where is the water, sewer and electric bills? When one looks at the streets, the poor drainage, and the welfare of the town employees, it is clear that the Black community needs political power in Fremont.

The at-large system of white power, has not addressed the needs of the population in its system. In 1985, it was imposed that a grain mill owned by the father of a Town Commissioner, was receiving "Free" electricity for 11 months; that a restaurant was receiving "Free" electricity for 5 months. In 1986, the Fremont Police Chief was arrested by the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) for accepting $1500 from a man stopped for reckless driving. In spite of the fact that the Grand Jury found probable cause to try the Police Chief, the white majority refused to suspend the Chief. Furthermore, when the Black community demanded that the Chief be suspended, the white citizens were mobilized in defense of the chief.

The white power structure has not functioned on the basis of democratic rights for all citizens. It has not encouraged all Fremont citizens to work together for the good of the town and its growth. It does not concern itself with the hazardous working conditions and low wages faced by its' working class citizens in the plants within the town's limits.

The white power structure has created fear and racism among many of the white citizens. Even when the Black community comes forward with programs that benefit all Fremont citizens, white citizens are suspicious and reluctant to unite. The Fremont Community Health Fair is a concrete example. However, the Health Fair gave free examinations to 500 people.

The local newspaper, the "News Leader", has justified the racism and mismanagement of the Fremont white power structure. It refused to criticize or call for the dismissal of former Police Chief Kilpatrick when it was exposed that he regularly referred to the Black citizens as "niggers". When Leroy Ruffin (the only Black Commissioner) was elected in 1983, the editor of the "News Leader", in a crowded Town Hall meeting called for the first town with a population under 2000 in North Carolina that has a movement demanding a ward system. The Black community in Fremont is overwhelmingly working class. Thus, a political platform will not only address the needs of the Black community, it would address the needs of all employed and unemployed workers regardless of race or nationality. The coalition must begin planning local activities to involve the people in developing a program for empowerment and change.

The struggle in Fremont is very important to Black people throughout North Carolina and the Black Belt South. It must be made known everywhere and support must be built everywhere possible for its' victory. Black power is against white racism, not white people.
In keeping with a twenty-four year tradition, people around the world observed African Liberation Day on May 23rd. This day of demonstrations, forums and rallies was established by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) as a way for people around the world to show their support for those African nations struggling against colonialism. This kind of support was, and is, important for those African nations struggling for self-determination and independence.

Every year, in the U.S., there are African Liberation Day (ALD) activities in various cities. Sometimes they are large and draw diverse groups of people. On other occasions, they are small but spirited. This year there were marches in Washington, D.C., New Orleans, Philadelphia and New York City.

The New York activity, held in Harlem, was in commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the 1972 ALD demonstration held in Washington, D.C. which drew over 58,000 people and the subsequent founding of the African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC). The sponsors of this event, who were all active in the ALSC, felt that this was especially important in light of the fact that the escalating struggle in Southern Africa has brought out new forces in support of African liberation. The forum was an attempt to sum up the strengths and weaknesses of the ALSC and to begin to look at ways that the Black liberation movement can invigorate itself as well as support work for the South Africa revolution.

What was so important about ALSC was that it rallied activists at a time in the 1972 period when the U.S. government attempted to crush the Black liberation movement through mass jailings and infiltration of the movement. The government’s joint program, COINTELPRO, attacked Black leaders from around the world, in the United States, in Canada, in England and elsewhere. Everywhere, workers everywhere, everywhere in the world were asked to become involved in the struggle.

The following article is excerpted from a newsletter of UAW Local 235 in Detroit, Michigan. Their newsletter is an excellent reflection of what active and progressive black workers (and trade unionists) are doing in the Midwest.

None of us has been able to escape feeling paralyzed by fear of the future announcements of GM lay-offs and plant closings. GM is using plant shutdowns and the threat of competition to try to drive wages to even lower levels and to eliminate union rights in the workplace. Workers who made GM what it is today are being kicked out and thrown on the dustheap. The wealthy few are getting richer and creating a permanent underclass who fight each other for the few crumbs that come our way.

Many of us are asking where can we turn to stop the coming disaster. The answer? Ourselves. Members of Local 235, working and laid-off, must start uniting to form a plan of action for Local 235. Even the smallest contribution each of us can make helps. We had a quorum at our union meetings for three months in a row. The next General Membership Meeting is Sunday, January 18th at 2:00 P.M. Let’s keep it up! The way forward will not be easy, but when are we going to stop feeling sorry for ourselves and begin to take action?

UNITY AMONG LOCALS IS A MUST

Local unions with active rank and file members can unite together and begin to turn the UAW around. Local GM unions in the United States must unite and local GM unions throughout the world must unite. It may be a long ways away, but how can we afford to wait before what we can, however small this may be?

Local 235 was asked officially participate last May at an international GM workers’ conference in England that brought together GM local union activists as leaders from around the world. The purpose was to make each other aware of what GM workers were doing worldwide so we could begin to support, encourage and help each other and halt the spiral downwards of living conditions that is occurring in all countries, workers everywhere threatened with a loss of voice and of identity, with a few countries out far front.

Our President and Chairman, not participate in the Conference, after the International Union continued...
GM WORKERS

When they would be “tainted”. Yet, Local 168 at the GM Tech Center sent two official delegates including their President, Pete Kelly. Local 168 was still represented, however, Vice Shop Committeeperson, Ronnie Allen, and District Committeeperson, Wally W. Thompson, decided to go at their own expense. Many of you may remember the first GM Worldwide Conference that Wendy attended in September 1984. The second Conference in March 1986 in Liverpool, England had more than twice as many delegates as the 1984 Conference.

DELEGATES ATTENDED

Delegates attended from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, England, Ecuador, France, Germany, Mexico, Japan, Korea, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, the U.S. and Venezuela. Workers in GM plants in all these countries felt it was important to cooperate to keep GM from playing us off against each other. It was encouraging to see that workers in amongst the lowest countries: Brazil, South Korea, South Africa (Aznia) and Zimbabwe. It raised Afro-American peoples’ consciousness concerning U.S. imperialism’s role in Africa as well as its role in the oppression of Black people at home. Thousands of people in the U.S. were engaged in this work at colleges, in community organizations and workplaces.

In spite of the good work, many activists who led the ALSC allowed ideological differences to interfere with the work and the organization fell apart. Everyone agreed, in retrospect, that serious errors were made and that the differences should not have made it impossible for the different forces to work together. It also acknowledged that it was, and should have remained, a mass popular organization not reflecting any one ideological view, but maintaining a political focus on the liberation of Africa.

WIDE

GM has been involved in vicious suppression of these movements. That heavy hand keeps these workers wages low and makes it impossible for American workers to compete. Because of this, GM lays us off in the US and pretends it’s all beyond their control. Their aim is no less than a mass popular organization in the U.S. to overthrow the system and undertake their free distribution to landless peasants.

EDITORIAL

DEEMOCRACY

Candidate endorsement discussion period held among the local union rank and file following the international unions’ leadership. We call for all progressive trade unionists, rank and file caucuses, local, oppressed nationality, and international organization to join us in this struggle to fight for this democratic method of candidate endorsement to be adopted by the local and international union structures. We call on local unions, workers and community groups to co-sponsor this appeal for union democracy, by writing to: Black Workers for Justice - P.O. Box 861 - Rocky Mount, N.C. 27802.

ALD

elements as diverse as the Black Panther party and Dr. King. Much of this activity sent the movement into a period of decline. The ALD activity and the ALSC came in the wake of this decline and was not only a breath of fresh air, but helped to strengthen the movement for several years in the 1970’s.

The various speakers at the forum agreed that the ALSC was valuable in that it provided support to the liberation movements raging in Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa (Aznia) and Zimbabwe. It raised Afro-American peoples’ consciousness concerning U.S. imperialism’s role in Africa as well as its role in the oppression of Black people at home. Thousands of people in the U.S. were engaged in this work at colleges, in community organizations and workplaces.

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EDMONTION

DEAL

DEMANDS OF THE KMP

-Confiscate Marcos- and crony-owned lands, as well as landholdings which are proven to have been acquired from peasants through deceit and violence, and distribute these for free to peasants.
-Expropriate private agricultural lands foreclosed by banking institutions and distribute these for free to peasants.
-Confiscate idle and abandoned lands and undertake their free distribution to landless peasants.

The presentations at the forum were good, as was the discussion afterwards. As always, there was not enough time to cover all of the questions. However, the organizers saw this as a beginning of a new dialogue. The presentations will be available on video and audio tape. They will also be published in written form.

The forum was followed by a militant march through Harlem down the newly named Malcolm X Boulevard, across a section of 125th Street that bears the name of Martin Luther King, to the state office building which has also been officially renamed Africa Square. The rally at Africa Square was addressed by various speakers including a representative of the Black Workers for Justice. Representives of the African National Congress (ANC) and the South West Africa Peoples Organization (SWAPO) were also received.

ABROTTs

groups and unions, demanding an end to their practice of forcing workers to work while sick or injured and pressuring them to sign agreements. Write to Abbott Laboratories-Highway 301 N.-Rocky Mount, N.C. 27801.

For information on how to form a workers’ organization or union at Abbott, write to: BWFJ, P.O. Box 1863, Rocky Mount, N.C. 27804.
On January 22, 1987, 18 peasants and workers were killed and over 90 injured when military units opened fire into a group of 12,600 marchers at Mendiola Bridge near Malacanang Palace. The marchers, led by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP- Peasant Movement of the Philippines), were demanding immediate implementation of genuine land reform, a demand the peasants have been pressing hard for years.

The rally was part of a week long protest by peasants who had earlier camped out at the Ministry of Agrarian Reform in Quezon City in a bid to dramatize hunger and poverty in the countryside.

An independent, non-government commission appointed by President Aquino to investigate the Mendiola massacre issued a report on February 27th. Called "even-handed" by Aquino spokesman Teodoro Benigno, the report indicates a continuation of government coddling of the military and of the willingness to turn a cold shoulder on the legitimate demands of the people.

The report states that the chairman of the KMP, Jaime Tadeo, would be charged with inciting sedition. Meanwhile, police officers and an army general who deployed "raw marine recruits" to deal with the marchers would be reprimanded.

Police officers photographed firing their guns into the demonstration would be prosecuted (as yet there has been no action on this).

It was just such imbalance in the government's perspective that led to the KMP's march and the military's heinous response in the first place.

This was not the first time the KMP had appealed to Aquino. On October 21, 1986, the peasants went to Malacanang Palace to urge the president to immediately implement his promises to alleviate the masses' hunger. Their march then was stopped at barricades at Mendiola Bridge. KMP leaders were finally allowed entry to the palace, but were told Aquino was too tired to see them.

The peasants decided to take direct action, and occupied lands grabbed from them by the landlords and cronies of Marcos. However, the military intervened with forced evictions.

On January 15, 1987, the peasants went to the Ministry of Agrarian Reform Office and held a camp-out to give an ultimatum to Agrarian Minister Heherson Alvarez to bring the land reform program of the KMP to the Cabinet for speedy action. The KMP also demanded that the displacement of farmers on occupied lands be stopped.

Minister Alvarez, however, would not see them, instead shuttling the KMP leaders off to subordinates. The peasant leaders decided to remain camped out until Alvarez would see them. The frustrated peasants were later met with guns at Mendiola Bridge.

KMU, for its part, believes that the demand for genuine land reform is just because it aims to free the majority of the Filipino people from poverty. Land reform is a component of genuine nationalization pursued by KMU. Also, KMU is becoming exasperated with the reluctance of the government to implement its' promises. KMU and KMP have both seen the government turn its' back on them and the Filipino people, with increasing regularity, with the resulting strengthening of the military's influence on government policy.

Quite significantly, a government that lays claim to liberal tendencies has now turned away by denying the people freedom of assembly and the right of free expression. The legitimate demands of the peasants for land reform and food, and of the workers for wages and better conditions, have continued unanswered, yet again, with bullets.
CITY WORKERS
PICKET CITY HALL

Durham city workers organized an educational picket line in front of City Hall on Wednesday, June 10, 1987. The spirited picket line brought the attention of greater numbers of city workers, supporters, the press, and city management to the demands raised by AFSCME Local 1194 which represents the workers.

At a time when organized workers and unions are at their weakest point, the average cost of living pay raise for city workers nationally is a mere one-and-one-half percent. However, the developing "rank and file workers" activism of Local 1194 pushed the city of Durham to grant a one-and-a-half percent plus $613 annual wage increase. Initially the Union demanded $1500 across the board for all workers. Such an increase would have put the "labor intensive" lower paid workers in a better position.

Other demands by the union included paid maternity leave and a city paid dental plan. These demands, however, were not considered by the Council. Still, it was a victory for a small union growing stronger everyday.

The picketing, organized by the union, was the first activity of its kind to be developed by the rank and file in several years, according to AFSCME representatives.

Several campaigns have been organized by the union over the last year to strengthen the position of the workers and to make the union more viable. For example, a "community labor support" effort resulted in hundreds of signatures on petitions as well as support resolutions for the workers put before the Durham City Council as a way of pressuring the City during budget planning sessions where city worker demands were being considered.

POSTAL WORK NO EASY LIFE

STORIES PAGE 5
July 2, 1987

Dear Editor,

I wanted to write you a brief letter about what really happened in Greensboro with the anti-klan struggle in early June 1987. Much has been written in the capitalist press about how the city was united, etc. But this simply was not true.

Many people remember how the klan came into Greensboro in 1979—guided by agents of the federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau and agents of the Greensboro Police Department's Red Squad—and how they murdered five people at an anti-klan rally in a Black community housing project. In fact, so many people remembered it that it actually scared some people away from any of the activities that were planned by the Coalition for Justice and Unity, a liberal and reformist-led group posing as an anti-klan organization. But there were many people who were not that scared. They wanted to oppose the kkk but did not know what to do.

At first the city government and liberals and Black reformists urged people not to oppose the kkk in any way. People were told to 'stay at home' and to 'not honor the klan's presence with your presence' along their parade route. People were fed the propaganda that 'the kkk has rights too'. But this did not work.

So, some meetings were organized by the city's Human Relations Department, which acts as a listening and monitoring board to keep tabs on Black activities in the city. Out of these meetings was developed the idea of having a counter-march one day before the kkk march and rally. The Coalition for Justice and Unity was born out of these meetings.

It was interesting to read the press accounts of the meetings. There was debate as to whether there should also be a demonstration against the kkk during their march. There were a good number of people who were either for this option or who were not opposed to it. At the same time though, a religious coalition planned an on-site silent vigil against the kkk march. The vigil was to be held along the parade route. Some people who were wanting an on-site demonstration went to this vigil. Others demonstrated on their own.

A petition drive was developed out of one Coalition meeting, calling for the city government to revoke the kkk march permit. Up to 6,000 signatures were gathered in a mere number of days. But, during a City Council meeting held to discuss the upcoming march, no progress was made. The city passed a thinly worded resolution opposing racism and the kkk, but refused to stop that march. They did, however, prove another counter-kkk activity by occurring on city streets on the same day as the kkk march, citing that inability to police and monitor the activity. The event was planned by a group calling itself the Greensboro Alliance. Essentially, the Alliance united with the NAACP event, originally scheduled for June 6th.

During the Coalition's march on June 6th, some real interesting things happened. The march was dominated by the presence of white people. It is good to have a white presence since it indicates that there is a split between the ruling class and sections of the white masses over this question. But it also indicated that perhaps the main campaign of intimidation, coupled with the work of racist free liberals and Black civil rights reformists and a lack of comprehensive, independent organization among the Black masses by activists who had helped to bring about the result that the city and liberals wanted mobilization of the Black masses.

At the head of the march were city council members and the city manager, Bill Carstarphen, who had been the most vocal in his support for the kkk's 'constitutional right' to march. This same person was also described as a "love Greensboro Rally", and not an "anti-klan rally". These actions by the coalition showed that its leadership had no real continued
insurance during the depths of the depression in 1930-1932. For this he was often jailed and beaten. In 1930, Brother Berry was the Communist Party candidate for the U.S. Senate from Texas.

In 1934, Brother Berry was elected to the Central Committee of the Communist Party. He moved to New York City and became the party section leader in Harlem during the 1930s. This was at a time that the Communist Party was leading powerful movements of Black and poor people in Harlem. Brother Berry pulled together an alliance of Black nationalists and anti-fascist Europeans in Harlem to forge an active anti-imperialist movement opposing the Italian fascist Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia. Also, under Berry's leadership, some Harlem pharmacists organized what was to become Union 1199, a union of hospital and health care workers.

In 1946, Berry began working as a reporter for the Daily Worker newspaper. In 1942, he was drafted into the Army in retaliation for an article he printed in the paper which exposed the secret memo of the U.S. Surgeon General wherein "negroes" were the first ones to die in World War II. Berry served in the artillery in France, Belgium and Germany.

After the war, he returned to the Daily Worker where he covered many events relating to the Black Belt South and the civil rights movement, including the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott. In 1957, Berry resigned from the Daily Worker and from the Communist Party because the party had abandoned its' commitment to Black and working class people.

In 1960, Berry went to work as a correspondent at the U.N. for Antara, the Indonesian news service. He quit work for them in 1966 and began his own news service focusing on Africa and the Third World. In this capacity, he supplied many articles to Muhammad Speaks, the newspaper of the Nation of Islam. He developed a network of many young African revolutionaries that would come to the U.N. He retired from the U.N. work in 1970.

Berry was very moved and influenced by the rise of the Black liberation movement in the 1960's and the leadership of Malcolm X. Always wanting to be on the frontline of struggle, Brother Berry sought out groups of young Black students and activists. In the course of this, Brother Berry became affiliated with the African Peoples Party and became one of its' leading members. He was a prime organizer and a speaker at many events relating to the Black Belt South and the civil rights movement, including the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott. In 1957, Berry resigned from the Daily Worker and from the Communist Party because the party had abandoned its' commitment to Black and working class people.

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**Dedication of Abner Berry**

**Long Live the Vision, Humility, and Revolutionary Dedication of Abner Berry**

Abner Berry was a founding member of the Black Workers for Justice, died in Nash General Hospital on June 24, 1987 after an extended period of poor health. Chapter a plaintiff in the recent Voting Rights suit against the city of Rocky Mount that resulted in the creation of the ward system for election of the city council that allowed Black representation for the Black majority areas of the city.

Brother Berry was born on June 11, 1922 in Beaumont, Texas. He was the older brother of the famous Berry Brothers dance team of Cotton Club fame. He grew up in New Orleans and Chicago, where he worked in the Armour meatpacking plant. He was largely self-educated, having formal schooling only through the sixth grade. He returned to Texas in 1929 where he was a reporter for the Black newspaper, "The Houston Informer". He retired from the U.N. in 1970 where he was a reporter for the Black newspaper, "The Houston Informer".

There he came in contact with the Communist Party and soon joined the party because of its' support of the rights of Black people and Latin American people fighting off U.S. Imperialism. Brother Berry led efforts to form Unemployed Councils in Texas and later Kansas City to fight for national unemployment.
CALL TO JUSTICE
Analysis, Views & Demands From the BWFJ

SUPER TUESDAY A SUPER RACIST STUNT

BUILD A BLACK WORKERS' POLITICAL PLATFORM CAMPAIGN

For the last several months, discussions have been held in several cities across the South about the new "Southern Super Tuesday" election day planned for March 1988. Many black electoral politicians, activists, and researchers are studying the issue with an eye toward analyzing what the day will mean for the Black community.

For starters, two points seem vital in the discussion. "Southern Super Tuesday" is a ploy of the "dixiecrat" political structure to better position a southern candidate in the race for the presidency. Both Republicans and Democrats envision the Southern primary strategy as a mass voting tactic to ensure more delegates, more press, and more power for the South (that is, the white South) in the next presidential election. Secondly, it is also a ploy to combat the growing strength and ominous potential of an awakened Black electoral mass movement in the South.

Jesse Jackson's 1984 presidential bid only served to remind the entrenched racist southern political structure that an awakened Black struggle for democracy in the South, now showing itself in the electoral arena, is a potential force to be taken seriously.

The Southern political structure has clearly maintained (planned or unplanned) a strategy to crush the impending strength of a Southern Black movement for power. They demonstrated the lengths to which they have always been willing to go in repressing the Southern Black movement when they attempted to destroy Mayor Eddie Carthan of Tchula, Mississippi. Carthan was framed on murder charges to prevent the development of Black political power in Holmes County. The Voting Rights Trials of 1985 and 1986 were yet another campaign of repression. The struggle in Keysville, Georgia for majority rule and power is another such instance.

The Black masses of the people must realize that only a vast mass movement for democracy and power can revitalize the Black Liberation Movement. Only by black workers coming forward to claim their consciousness, their role as leaders, and their power to cripple an arrogant system of oppression can the struggle of our whole people for freedom be placed on the course to victory.

Black workers must call the nation forward! Organize assemblies, forums, demonstrations, and meetings to hammer out a program that speaks to the needs of the people.

WHERE WE STAND!

• AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
  • FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting democratic unions of rank and file workers

• AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
  • FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes

• AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
  • FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor

• AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops"
  • FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers

• AGAINST dangerous conditions and "kill zone"
  • FOR health and safety on the job and in the community

• AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racial national oppression of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities

• FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!
Postal workers in the U.S. are on the front lines of a major assault on gains they have won over the last nine years. The major unions (The American Postal Workers Union-APWU, the National Association of Letter Carriers-NALC and The Mailhandlers Union of North America-LIUNA) that represent over 600,000 workers have found that the Postal Service wants to turn the clock back in regard to critical contract provisions dealing with part-time employees, temporary employees, referred to as Casuals, as well as protections against excessive overtime.

With the clock ticking away, and management unwilling to deal with other issues of substance until the unions agree to their criminal proposals on these issues, it's unlikely that postal workers will have a contract by the July 29th expiration date of the current agreement. As Federal employees, postal workers are prohibited from striking; thus, management can sit back and wait it out knowing full well that the union lacks one of the most important weapons in the workers' arsenal.

Although wage issues are always important, it is not the key issue in this struggle. Workers from other industries, particularly those that are low paid and unorganized, cannot always fully appreciate the problems of the higher paid and organized workers. The essence of this dispute is concessions just as it is with all unions in this period. It's the struggle against givebacks. And although most national union leaders boast about their resistance to this trend, in reality they have capitulated to the bosses. There have been some rare exceptions such as the strike of the P-9 workers at the Hormel plant in Austin, Minn. and the successful strike of the Watsonville cannery workers in California.

Postal workers have historically been subjected to mandatory and destructive overtime. This has been the case not only during the Christmas season, but during the rest of the year. The 1984 contract made a beginning effort to alleviate some of this overtime by requiring management to pay penalty overtime (double time) for work in excess of 10 hours per day, and overtime worked in excess of four days during the

TRADE UNIONISM

RALEIGH POSTAL WORKERS
INSTALL NEW UNION LEADERSHIP

On Saturday, June 27, 1987, the Raleigh Local of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) installed new leaders for a two year term. While the officers were re-elected, others were new and called themselves "Unity Slate". The Installation Dinner was the first of its kind for the local and was a way of generating more enthusiasm and interest among the membership. Nearly 60 people joined the affair. Organizers felt the attendance was good considering that it was the first time this kind of activity and there was only three weeks of organizing and advertising time available.

Special guests included Rev. William Williams of the House of The Church in Raleigh, Travis Payne, the attorney from Raleigh, James N. Taylor of the NC NAACP-CIO, and City Commissioner Ralph Campbell, a pro-civil rights representative for District C in Raleigh. There were also representatives from the Greensboro and Greensboro local of the Laborers International Union. It was a good day for union solidarity coupled with community unity.

The "Unity Slate" of Gordon Dillahunt, President; James Sutton, Vice-President; Cheryl Rinn, Clerk Craft Director; and Larry Creech, Director of Organization was supported by the Maintenance Craft Director, the Secretary, the Treasurer, several outgoing officers and the majority of the rank and file.

The "Unity Slate" presented a progressive anti-racist platform. They said, "those employees who have worked with us can attest to our dedication to defending workers' rights. There has never been any question as to whether we are sympathetic to management. We always have, and will continue to be, loyal to our union. We believe that our union can only be effective and grow if we have the unity of all employees, Black and white, men and women, young and old. At the same time, the slate stands opposed to racial and sexual discrimination". In an article outlining some of his goals President Dillahunt suggested that at this time workers are forced to sell their labor to the employer and while that is still the case, employees should control the bosses to pay a higher price in terms of wages and working conditions.

Members of the local will join other APWU members in a rally and demonstration in Washington, D.C. on July 18, 1987 to protest the Postal Services' attempts to create a part-time and temporary work force. The local is also beginning presentations for local negotiations in October as well as implementation of a number of changes in the local structure that are designed to make the union more democratic and aggressive in its dealings with management.
Hollywood Shuffle, an 82 minute satirical drama/comedy produced and directed by its' lead actor, Robert Townsend, takes a comical yet significant peek at the saga of a young aspiring Afro-American actor, Bobby Taylor, who desires Hollywood fame but revulses at the types of roles that he is asked to portray.

The idea for the movie came after Townsend had filmed three of his own productions; 'Black Acting School' and 'Sneakin' in the Movies'. Having the urge to direct, he came up with Hollywood Shuffle.

THE STORY

In the story, Bobby is an attendant at a hot dog stand. But his real love is acting, which he tells his boss — helps him to be creative. One day he goes to Tinseltown (Hollywood) to audition for a role in a movie, does not get the part, but is successful in being called back to audition for another part in an upcoming production.

Although Bobby is elated, his family is divided over his yearning to work on the silver screen. His uncle (a barber), encourages him intimating that he was discouraged from pursuing his own first love, singing, when he stopped believing in himself. Bobby's brother, Stevie, (played by Craigus R. Johnson), an elementary school youth, is also supportive, as is Bobby's girlfriend, Lydia (Anne-Marie Dupuis), and his mother (Starletta Johnson), though, never quite jumps on the bandwagon. She has mixed feelings. She believes that Bobby should 'get a good job' at the Post Office and she is critical of some of the roles she sees Blacks portraying in motion pictures.

The directors of the upcoming production, 'Jivetime Jimmy's Revenge', choose Bobby for a leading role because, in the eyes of the producer (Lisa Mende) he is "jive, charismatic, very Black".

"STICK YOUR ASS OUT, BUCK YOUR EYES!"

But Lacks Clear Message

However, during the filming Bobby is told to act more Black. "Stick your ass out, buck your eyes," he is ordered. Bobby refuses, telling the director and producer that he does not want to do that type of acting and is ordered off of the set. Although he doesn't land the role of Black Rambo, Superman or a Shakesperian character that would allow him to fulfill his dream of winning an Oscar, he does pick up a part portraying a mail clerk, glorifying the virtues of working at the Post Office.

Throughout the movie Bobby's dreams, nightmares and even the television shows he sees all present rejections or portrayals of the roles that Blacks have played on television or in movies. This is creatively portrayed in a scene showing a "Black Acting School" where Blacks are taught (by white instructors) how to talk jive, walk "Black" and how to portray crooks, dope dealers, muggers and rapists.

COMICAL SCENES

Townsend also throws in some comedy with a modern day Black slant. In one of Bobby's dreams, two young Blacks perform a take-off of Siskel and Ebert's movie review program. And in a take-off of a private eye flick, "Sammy Ace", the great Black private eye loved by Bobby's grandmother, solves the mysterious death of a female client's brother. The killer is a Black tough who cannot get his hands on enough curl activator.

One of the things that I did not understand about the movie was why many of the Black characters outside of Bobby's immediate family seemed to be "acting Black" themselves. Was this Townsend's way of signifies that Hollywood is so poverty and most Blacks connected with it in a stereotyped way, willingly or not? Did Townsend try to make his film better understood by audience? This was confusing.

The person who helps is Bobby aware of the way that Blacks are depicted in movies turns out to be a hypocrite. He is a Black who is calling Bobby 'brother' way of gaining his confidence. He discourages Bobby from pursuing the role. The hypocrisy wants Bobby's part...and gets the end.

WHAT WAS TOWNSENS' INTENTION?

Is Townsend resurrecting the oldest slanders heaped on the 60's Black Power Movement? That the activists used character expressions such as brother, sister to deceive other Blacks of truth that can be learned even though the people run for protest; they are anti-social, they turned the back on the Movement, which was a misrepresentation and anti-social. What was it that ignited the talk jive in a few parts of the movie? The person who helps to turn it off is Townsend's way of signifying
BERRY

ASSAGE

od is so powerful connected with it stereotyped fashion? Did Townsend old better entertainer was confusing ion who helps to the way the that life in movies turns out a. He is a Black acting Bobby "Broom" acting his condition Bobby from active part...and gets it

ANTI-KLAN

ith the city. In fact, they united with the city in not entering any mass, on-site opposition to the kkk's march.

AT WAS

WENSEDS'

ENTION?

od resurrecting oneanders headed system. Power movement, unions such as brother and five other Black or white action at the issue in the white non-action and the government of racis m. Unfortunately, a concerned about what was some foul language of the movie, it was a "clean" situation.

HOLLYWOOD

A rating of PG would have made the movie more accessible, especially to teenagers who have grown up watching television characters like JJ and Mr. T without any understanding of the true history of Blacks in Hollywood films.

POSTAL

work week. There were also provisions that placed the amount of overtime that subs (part-time employees) could be forced to work. The excessive overtime was not grievable, but it did extract a real effort from the Postal Service. Management wants to scrap these basic and essential contract provisions that limited the amount of overtime that subs (part-time employees) could be forced to work. The excessive overtime was not grievable, but it did extract a real effort from the Postal Service. Management wants to scrap these basic and essential contract provisions that limited the amount of overtime that subs (part-time employees) could be forced to work. The excessive overtime was not grievable, but it did extract a
The people swayed, sometimes clapped and cheered in recognition of a favorite tune. Occasionally, they chanted as the piano player slid easily from gospel chord to South African backbeats, from rap song to Thelonius Monk. The event was a blow for freedom led by "cultural freedom fighter”, Abdullah Ibrahim.

Ibrahim, a master pianist and composer, played before a near capacity crowd on Saturday evening, June 27 at North Carolina Central's B.N. Duke Auditorium. The concert was a benefit for the South African and Namibian Students Information Center (SANSIC) in commemoration of the 1976 Soweto Student Uprising.

It was after the 1976 rebellion in South Africa where police murdered hundreds and imprisoned thousands of youth, that Ibrahim and his wife, singer Sathima Bea Benjamin, vowed never to return to their homeland until the present system is brought down. According to Ibrahim, originally from the seaport of Cape Town, "It is incumbent upon us as artists to speak out against injustice wherever it exists".

Ibrahim is formally known as Dollar Brand and was discovered by Duke Ellington in Zurich in 1962. The political artist calls his music a synthesis of African and Black American influences with with an international scope. Like his mentor Duke Ellington, he is a master of the complex fabrics of jazz.

Since the 1940s, the South has had an unsteady relationship with jazz. But the mixture of Ibrahim's Southern blues rhytms, gospel chords, improvisations, and South African tremors posed no problem for the concert audience tuning in to Ibrahim's freedom music.

Even without his seven member group "Ekaya" (Swahili for home), the audience was astounded by the depth of knowledge of African-American music and social conditions, South African history and international consciousness displayed by Ibrahim. "We never regarded the music as foreign, it was just the music of our brothers and sisters in another part of the world. We played a lot of boogie-woogie back then. It has a structure very similar to our native songs", he said remembering his childhood training in Cape Town.

Besides performing powerful chord changes in tribute to African-American master musician John Coltrane, Ibrahim (who grew up and played piano in the South African AME church) openly acknowledges Duke Ellington and Thelonius Monk, among others, as major influences. "They're all part of the family...they're all part of it. We're all victims of colonialism," Showing this, Ibrahim did part of a South African dance "Gum-Boot" that looked very similar to the African-American "Hambone" thigh-slap, while singing an African-American style rap song telling South African Prime Minister Botha to "change your ways, or count your days".

The revolutionary cultural freedom fighter, who has established his own record label, "Ekapa", closed the solo concert out with an Australian Aborigine Liberation song, "That You Can Use Too" which spoke to the horrendous conditions faced by those people because of English colonialism.

After becoming self-exiled from the struggle inside the country, Abdullah and Sathima pledged their talents to the freedom struggle in power in South Africa and Namibia. They perform frequently for liberate organizations of those two countries. Said Ibrahim, "The morale in South Africa is very high right now, I feel victory is in sight."
As the masses of Black people who are engaged in the many local struggles throughout the country approach the end of the 1980's and prepare for the 1990's, many find themselves in need of a clearer understanding of the national and international conditions in which their struggles are occurring.

The call by the Black Workers Unity Movement (BWUM) for a National Black Workers Political Platform Campaign: The Time is Now! was made during the BWUM planning convention on September 26-27, 1987 in Enfield, North Carolina is an effort to initiate a mass process of political, education, organization, and mobilization of Black people.

Such a process could serve as the basis for identifying and incorporating key issues and demands growing out of the workplace, communities, the electoral arena and other forms of struggle into a national platform of demands. This would be a platform that is truly independent of the democratic and republican parties. Likewise, it would provide the basis to hold elected and appointed governmental, labor, community organization and political party officials accountable to their organized constituencies.

Millions of people are clashing with the policies of the U.S. corporate and governmental structures on every level around basic issues they face daily on their jobs and in their communities. This reality is often hidden by the propaganda of so-called American "democracy" which insists that all conflicts can be resolved and should be contained within the frameworks of the democratic and republican parties.

It is therefore very important that local and national campaigns help to expose and isolate the political and economic agendas underlying the U.S. domestic and foreign policies. They must reveal the sharp and antagonistic differences between the interests of employed and unemployed everyday people and those of the big corporations.

As the economic crisis faced by Blacks, other oppressed nationalities, workers, women, and small farmers grows more intense throughout the country, the gap between the super profit aims of the continued page 10
The summer of 1987 was a hot one for North Carolina public service workers! The upcoming local elections might be hotter, if workers bring their issues to the candidates.

Already, AFSCME Local 1194 Durham City Workers have found reason to endorse the action-oriented Black Workers Political Platform Campaign and has participated along with AFSCME Duke Workers Local 77 in political action training.

North Carolina’s State Employees’ Association (non-union) just received a $5 pay raise after months of “begging and lobbying” State Legislators for decent terms of employment.

This summer, we saw city workers picket City Hall and conduct a petition campaign throughout working class communities as part of Local 1194’s organizing effort for increased membership, paid maternity leave, and better wages and working conditions. Black and women workers played a key role in all efforts.

If Black and women workers continue to fight, the basis will be laid to encourage public service workers to come together as part of a “process of political education, mobilization, and organization” around a “black workers political action campaign.”

North Carolina workers would be closer to getting rid of the anti-labor right to work state laws that deny us “real rights” for “full collective bargaining” as workers! An action platform campaign will give us greater democratic accountability to determine the conditions of our labor.

Public service employees lack these full bargaining rights in North Carolina and twenty-seven other states (almost half of which are in the South). This political roadblock has made building workers organizations, unions, and strategies together, where we can see from the above struggles that we can win “some” gains.

Where do we start? At present, the Platform Organizing Committee is developing a Peoples Primary Ballot. This process of workers checking off issues of concern to them and writing in such issues in the workplace and community will accelerate workers’ involvement in the electoral and political debate and process that has the bottom-up, rather than the “old approach of the top-down.”

Workers will then take their new platform to see if candidates can “measure up” to a program that meets our needs, rather than “the old promises by candidates’” approach. To “voters” it’s a means for us to see if candidates “think back” to their accountability to us.

Pick up and run your worker primary ballot...it’s a strong weapon in the fight for dignity and justice in the workplace and community. See your union representatives.

BLACK HISTORY

FRANKLINHTN CENTER AT BRICKS

This coming September 26 through October 7, the Black Workers Political Platform Planning Convention will be held at The Franklinhton Center at Bricks in eastern North Carolina, Edgecombe County. This won’t be the first time Bricks, as alumnae and friends have called it, will be the site of an historic event.

Bricks was started in 1895 as a school for Black children who were severely restricted in their public schools by the “Black Code” law of the time. The school was founded by Rev. Thomas Brewster, a Baptist minister, and Mrs. Julia Bricks, a teacher and community leader. The school, located in a four-room building, was in operation for seven years. In 1902, the school was closed due to lack of funds and the community sought a new location for an educational institution.

The school was relocated to a new building in the town of Franklin, and was renamed “The Franklinhton Center at Bricks.” The school continued to operate under this name until 1920, when it was sold to a local community group.

Today, the Franklinhton Center at Bricks is a community center that offers a range of programs and services to the local community. These programs include educational, cultural, and recreational activities.

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P.O. Box 3307 Durham, N.C. 27702

BURKHART V

In a much publicized case, two employees at the Burkhart Company in Dunn, North Carolina, are seeking damages in a federal court after they were fired for reporting safety violations.

The workers at the company, which is a manufacturer of metal products, have alleged that they were fired for reporting safety violations to health and safety inspectors. The workers claim that they were retaliated against for their reporting of safety concerns.

The workers' attorney, Mr. Brown, said that the workers were seeking $100,000 in damages, including punitive damages. Mr. Brown said that the workers were seeking relief for emotional distress and loss of income.

The company's attorney, Mr. Green, said that the company had fired the workers for violating company policies. Mr. Green said that the workers had been warned that they would be fired if they continued to report safety violations.

The case is currently pending in federal court. It is being heard by Judge Johnson, who is noted for his tough stance on workplace safety.

The workers' attorney, Mr. Brown, said that he was confident that the workers would prevail in their case. Mr. Brown said that he had been successful in other cases of this type, and that he was confident that the workers would receive the relief they sought.

The company's attorney, Mr. Green, said that the company was confident that it would prevail in the case. Mr. Green said that the company had a strong legal team, and that it was confident that it could prevail in the case.

The case is being closely watched by workers around the country, who are looking for relief from unsafe working conditions.

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The case is being closely watched by workers around the country, who are looking for relief from unsafe working conditions.
INSIDE GOLDEN POUlTRY

Workers at the Golden Poultry Company in Durham, North Carolina are angry about the conditions under which they have been forced to work. Many of the workers have accused the company of discrimination in the treatment of black employees whether they work the line or work as supervisors.

Workers at the plant are organized into Local 265 of the United Food & Commercial Workers. Golden Poultry (formerly known as Goldkist) employees between 400 and 700 workers are black and the vast majority are women. A substantial number (possibly as many as half of the workers) have worked at the plant more than 15 years.

The union was organized in 1965 and conducted a first strike against the company in 1978. Roughly half the workforce is estimated to belong to the union. Wages range from a starting rate of $5.15 per hour for unclassified jobs to $6.77 per hour for Senior Maintenance Mechanics.

Two weeks ago Black Workers for Justice was requested by dissatisfied workers inside the plant to distribute a leaflet citing the concerns many workers have about discriminatory and unfair conditions. Workers are also concerned that negotiations must start soon for a new contract.

Workers at the plant were angry because a worker who screamcd at by a white supervisor and another worker was fired for days missed due to sickness even though he had a doctor's excuse. Additionally, a black supervisor at the plant was recently fired for being out with a broken leg even though he had been with the company for more than 30 years.

Golden Poultry workers must get a strong in-plant committee of the union going to strategize effectively about conditions in the plant and find solutions. When workers cooperate together, anything can be accomplished.

Most unionized plants, particularly those in the South, are facing a tough time from management these days. Bosses are capitalizing on the "union-busting", forced concessions atmosphere created in the country by the Reagan administration.

Often workers blame the union for the difficult conditions encouraged by today's anti-union atmosphere that workers face in the plant or worksite. These internal dissents further weaken the union's ability to respond to poor conditions in the plant. Moreover, unions in the South are not always well organized.

On August 3rd, members of Local 265, American Poultry Workers of America, voted to accept the latest "offer" by Carolina-Burkhart Company of Henderson.

The offer by the company included only a ten cent per hour wage increase for the next three years with no change in health insurance or other concessions. Burkhart also refused to check off union dues (automatically deducting dues from a worker's paycheck) after it made a "final offer" on November 15, 1978 when the local's contract expired with the company.

When the local's contract expired with the company, only a month before, Burkhart management had ruthlessly cut wages by 94 cents per hour. Burkhart management also increased paid family health insurance from under $15 per month to almost $75 per month.

The refusal by Carolina Burkhart to honor working relations with the union established by the workers over the company, severely cut into the union's resources and therefore its ability to deal with workers' needs when called upon and its ability to sustain a long battle with the company.

According to John Leonard, president of local 265, "We felt it was important to maintain the union because the company was trying to destroy the union."

Some members pointed to the company calling in Robert Volosi from the notorious "union-busting" law firm Mercer, Ellis, and Adams, and the company's open statements that it is not having financial problems as proof that its real intent was to break the union.

Leonard said Local 265 leadership is committed to a long term education and rebuilding campaign of the membership so that the union can more effectively respond to the ongoing efforts of the company to break the union thru forced concessions and other union busting tactics. Local 265 was organized in 1942.

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UNIONIZE THE SOUTH !!!

The slogan "Organize The South" means that workers in the South should be organized into trade unions where they work in order to improve their wages and working conditions. It is most often heard coming from the mouths of union officials, but it is nothing more than a slogan rather than a genuine call for action. AFL-CIO support for legislators who still uphold right to work laws, the limited resources placed into Southern organizing, and the criminally low percentage of organized workers in the Southern region (4% N.C.) attests to this.

Black workers have to see unionizing the South in a different light. Without doubt, Black workers understand the benefit and necessity of having protections from arbitrary firings and the right to bargain for wages. Blacks, when they are in unions, are members in greater numbers than white workers. Being the lowest paid and most exploited has brought them to this point.

However, Black workers must place their efforts to organize the South in the context of the struggle for Black political control of their communities. The movement to elect Black officials has ignored several important factors. The first being that the majority of Black people are workers and the most significant parts of their lives take place at the workplace, the point of production. It is here that they earn their livelihood and here where they have the closest contact with the largest number of people.

One of the important steps towards winning Black control of those areas in the South is for Black communities to aid in the organizing of unions at every workplace that Blacks labor in and in turn the strength of these organized workers be used in the fight to elect workers representatives to the Councils, Commissions and Boards that oversee community institutions and resources.

The process would be enhanced with a Black Workers Political Platform that would raise the issues of the workplace and the community in a cohesive way. Organizing trade unions and electing Blacks to office will not end exploitation, racism and national oppression, but it helps to set the basis for a more fundamental transformation of the social system.

WHERE WE STAND !

- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
- FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor
- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops"
- FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
- FOR health and safety on the job and in the community

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!!

Incomes in the Nation

Averages per person for 1986, with rankings for the regions. Based on Census Bureau data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Average Income</th>
<th>Region</th>
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Source: Associated Press

The man Black town of Georgia has new milestone to react to. Government majority rule is the poor one.

In August, Attorney General Betts sent election laws to President Duncan that elected blacks held in Georgia.

The decision of year by the leaders to revive the leadership program for more than 15 years seemed only short lived in 1985 when the Black first al

On December, Black woman city council sworn into county prob. Actual elections were not under Georgia state ran unopposed.

Five-hour same day the elections in, 15 town had to issue a court order for the town that called it the city council and would not elects a government.

The new would be be for Keyvile when whites closed the town holding the election for a municipal...
The small majority Black of Keysville, Georgia has reached a new milestone in its thrust to reactivate town government and bring majority rule and progress to the poor community.

In August, Georgia Attorney General Mike Bowers sent a letter to elections supervisor Frances Duncan advising her that elections could be held in Keysville.

The decision came as a result of years of struggle by the leaders of Keysville to revive the town. The leadership group had begun organizing for reactivation more than 15 years ago but seemed only to achieve about a year’s progress in 1985 when they organized their first elections.

On December 30, 1985 a Black woman mayor and five city councilpersons were sworn into office by a county probate judge. Actual elections in the town were not held until under Georgia law as the slate ran unopposed.

Five hours later, the same day the officers were sworn in, whites in the town had another judge issue a court order to prevent the new officials from serving. The whites claimed that the boundaries of the town were unclear and would have made elections for the government impossible anyway.

The new government would have been the first for Keysville since 1933 when whites virtually closed the town down by discontinuing municipal services and other municipal elections.

Since that time, the deposed town officials and members of the Keysville Concerned Citizens, the community action group leading the struggle, have organized a campaign to bring justice to the Black majority town. A series of rallies were held and groups such as the Christian Institute-South, a small public interest law firm specializing in racial justice cases, came to the aid of the community. With the help of Christian Institute-South, the group began to organize more effectively and bring greater public exposure to the unjust situation.

The Keysville Concerned Citizens organized a petition campaign where roughly 80 percent of the registered voters requested Governor Joe Frank Harris to meet with the community and appoint a slate of officers for the town.

Keysville leaders organized a series of press conferences to inform the public of the struggle; they organized to receive a delegation from the National Council Of Churches to the area; and they held an effective demonstration on the steps of the Georgia State Capitol building in Atlanta demanding that Joe Frank Harris meet his obligation to act for Keysville.

Finally, the Keysville leaders had lawyers from Christian Institute-South file suit against Governor Harris to force a solution to the problem. A press conference announcing the suit was held at the state capitol.

BLACK STATE REPRESENTATIVE Tyrone Brooks was also a key person in supporting the Keysville community. Brooks provided inside pressure on Attorney General Bowers and helped to settle the boundary dispute.

Now the Keysville Black majority will face a struggle to elect a new government — which is still likely to encounter contention from the white minority.

THE SOUTHERN TOUR FOR POWER

In preparation for taking power in Keysville, leaders have taken part in a tour of several states in the South to observe the progress and problems of other majority Black towns facing similar conditions.

The first leg of the tour was organized at the end of August. Keysville leaders and representatives from Christian Institute-South visited three towns in Mississippi: Mound Bayou, Winstonville, and Tchula.

Keysville leaders say they found the tour to be highly instructive. Mound Bayou is an all Black historic town organized during Reconstruction in the late 19th century. Winstonville is another small, all Black town in Mississippi. Tchula is the town most noted for the trial of former Black Mayor Eddie Carthen in 1982.

Keysville leaders and Christian Institute-South staff plan to take the Southern Tour For Power into North Carolina, Alabama, and into other parts of Georgia.

More on the Southern Tour For Power in the next issue of Justice Speaks.

SHILOH RUNS CANDIDATES FOR MORRISVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

Two Shiloh residents, Deloris Scott and Chester McCrimmon, have filed as candidates for Morrisville town council seats coming up for election in November 1987.

Both are residents of the Shiloh community. The majority of this predominately black community was recently annexed into the town of Morrisville. Mrs. Scott will run for the District #1 seat and Mr. McCrimmon will run for the at large seat which will be open.

Their candidacy is different than those of conventional candidates. Residents of the community set and filled out ballots which listed concerns that they had. These concerns covered areas such as unemployment, job security, and pay equity. Also included in the ballot were community needs such as water and sewer, residential development, traffic control, etc.

After residents defined their needs and concerns, their decision to wholeheartedly support these two candidates was based on their support of and response to these issues.

Typically, candidates tell voters what they are interested in and are concerned with. Instead, voters should let the candidates know what issues they have to address and support the candidate to get their vote.

Deloris and Chester are really "the people's candidates".
WE WISH YOU THE BEST IN THE BLACK WORKERS POLITICAL PLATFORM CAMPAIGN

AFSCME
Local 1194
P.O. Box 1071
Durham, NC 27702
919-493-2633

Young Missionary CME Church
Rev. R. Sommerville, Pastor
110 N. State St.
Raleigh, NC 27610
919-832-4547

Shiloh Coalition For Community Control and Improvement
Mrs. Ruby Mayo, President
Route 2, Box 77
Morrisville, NC 27560

Christic Institute-South
P.O. Box 1108
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-929-0527

Southern Exposure Magazine
P.O. Box 531
Durham, NC 27702
919-688-8167

House of The Lord Church
Rev. James Williams, Pastor
649 Maywood Ave.
Raleigh, NC 27603
919-834-1342

North Carolinians Against Apartheid
P.O. Box 26774
Raleigh, NC 27611
919-833-5269

Freedom Books
136 E. Martin
Raleigh, NC 27601
919-833-5269

North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence
P.O. Box 240
Durham, NC 27702
919-688-5985

Southern Exposures Magazine
P.O. Box 531
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Edelstein & Payne, Attorneys
610 Peace St.
Raleigh, NC 27603
919-828-1456
WE WISH YOU THE BEST IN
THE BLACK WORKERS
POLITICAL PLATFORM CAMPAIGN

CAROLINA LABOR EDUCATION FUND
P.O. Box 1786
Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27802-1786

The Carolina Labor Education Fund exists in order to educate workers on the causes of their economic condition and to improve their knowledge about the role of the labor movement in the struggle for freedom and peoples power in the Black Belt South and around the world.

"Organizing in the Spirit of Carolina's Labor Martyrs"
FOREIGN POLICY CRISIS REVEALS CONTINGENCY PLAN

This past summer the American public was treated to an incredible scheme by the U.S. government to "round-up and transfer to assembly centers or relocation camps at least 21 million 'American Negroes' in cities of a national uprising by black people.

The plan also calls for "the suspension of the Constitution, turning control of the United States over to FEMA, appointment of military commanders to run state and local governments and declaration of martial law during a national crisis," according to an article in the Miami Herald newspaper on July 5, 1987.

"The plan did not define national crisis, but it was understood to be nuclear war, violent and widespread internal dissent or national opposition against a military invasion abroad," reported the Herald.

It is believed that Russian signed the plan into law through an executive order in 1984 although supposition no one is sure when or if it was signed.

The existence of the contingency plan and "Oliver North's role in its development was not debated during the Iran-Contra hearings.

Moreover, Congress also refused to really discuss another of the crucial issues revealed thru the scandal.

That is, that there has existed an alliance between the National Security State apparatus (CIA, HSC, NSA, FBI, etc.) and the drug smuggling underworld for more than 20 years. This means that the U.S. government thru the Iran-Contra and other government agencies has been working with infamous Mafia bosses like Sam Giancana and Santos Trafficante in distributing, funnelling, and selling opium, marijuana, heroin, and cocaine in the United States and around the world.

The CIA denies, of course, but articles in the New York Times and other national papers stories this summer revealing that a drug smuggler named George Moraitis (now in federal prison) testified in 1984 that the CIA worked with him to direct a network of pilots to fly planes loaded with weapons from two south Florida airports to contra forces in Central America only to return with next loads of heroin and cocaine to be sold in the U.S.

GOVERNMENT SPYING AGAINST THE MOVEMENT NEVER STOPS

On July 1, 1987, one of the local New York newspapers reported that the Intelligence Division of the New York Police Department had set up a so-called "Black Desk". This espionage unit was used to spy on the activities of the Afro-American liberation movement. Plainclothes cops and a surveillance van were sent to gather information on meetings and demonstrations.

The unit reportedly gathered information on some 200 Black activists of varying political outlooks. The police also monitored talk shows and call-ins to WLIB, a radio station widely listened to in the Black community, in order to judge Black political sentiment. The main target of the unit were those considered "radical".

Spying by the political police on all levels, local, state, national, has a long and notorious history. In the '60s and afterwards, the Bureau of Special Services (BOSS) was the New York police unit that kept track of the radical and revolutionary movements in the city at that time. One of its activities was to infiltrate an undercover cop among Malcolm X's bodyguards. What the unit's role was in Malcolm's assassination has not yet been revealed.

When the publicity about BOSS began to undermine its effectiveness, the unit officially disbanded. In the '70s, the FBI set up COINTELPRO (Counter-Intelligence Program) of its' declared goal to "expose, discredit, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, neutralize activities of all nationalist...organizations and groupings", as well as similar activities against the anti-war, anti-imperialist movement.

In the '60s there were mass arrests, a real police state continued...
The Rainbow Coalition, best known as the organizational vehicle for the Jesse Jackson 1984 presidential campaign, will be holding its second national convention in Raleigh, N.C. on October 31 and Nov. 1, 1987.

While the Rainbow Coalition is distinct from the Jackson campaign organization, currently called an exploratory committee, the decisions of the Rainbow Coalition director and steering committee are clearly a part of Jackson's strategy in the primary elections. Thus, their decision to hold the Rainbow convention in the South is a realization of the major support Jackson received in the 1984 primary elections. States like N.C., S.C., Georgia and Alabama were critical to the vote totals he was able to amass.

Rainbow strategists know that in addition to mobilizing new constituencies like farm workers, labor, etc., he must strengthen and consolidate his natural base, the Afro-American people in the South. Without an inspired Black community that is convinced that their lives will be changed by supporting Jackson, he will not get the support he had during the 1984 campaign.

The Rainbow people also understand that the Democratic Party is focusing on the South during this campaign, but for different reasons. The "Super Tuesday" primaries in March are intended to give the South a powerful influence in the Party by showing its will at one time. Of course, this is in the will of Black people and their allies in the South, but that of the Democratic Party who represent a conservative, anti-labor, pro-racist stand. In fact, the Democratic Party is using its' program to accommodate these forces. They don't carry this year, whites will continue to abandon the Democrats in support of the Republican Party. We should not, and the Rainbow should not confuse these two approaches.

The Jackson campaign continues to generate enthusiasm. His oration, charisma and raising of important issues from the point of view of the people, is responsible for this. Because there is no national organization that commands the allegiance and sentiment of the American people, Jackson's activity and presence easily has this effect.

Likewise, because many local communities have no fighting organizations and workers are not organized into unions, the Jackson campaign temporarily fills this vacuum. It is the best forum for discussion and debate on the issues, politics and programs that must be undertaken for reforms as well as transforming the present system.

In spite of the Rainbow's potential, many have seen troubling shortcomings in the Jackson campaign thus far. Jackson is not forcefully advocating Black political power. There has not been enough emphasis on Blacks taking office in the thousands of small communities, towns and counties across the Black Belt. Connected to this is not enough emphasis on voting rights enforcement, etc.

Racist violence is another key issue for Black people today. To date, in an effort to create unity, there has been a disastrous approach to racist violence activities by both white males and the police. Jackson has preached that Blacks and whites should not fight, but unite. That's true.

WHAT'S AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW?

The Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble: Inspiring the Struggle with Freedom Songs.

WHY WAS THE FRUIT OF LABOR ORGANIZED?

During the spring of 1986, the North Carolina Black Workers for Justice (BWJ) commissioned the Raleigh/Wake chapter to assist in organizing a cultural singing ensemble. This ensemble's purpose is to carry our history and cultural traditions to our workplaces and community struggles against our class and racist national oppression.

WHO ARE WE?

We are "everyday" Black workers - women, men and youth! We sing songs to inspire, educate, motivate working and grassroots people in the "Freedom Movement" and in the struggle against racism, sexism and unfair/unjust labor conditions.

HOW IS THE FRUIT OF LABOR ORGANIZED?

WHEN DO WE MEET?

We meet at 100 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. We bring records, songs and new ideas to our meetings. We discuss ensemble business, as well as, the struggles going on in our workplaces, communities and unions. We try to relate messages of our struggles as working people in our songs.

Please bring friends, co-workers and youth who are interested in adding their talents and strength as workers to the growing Freedom Movement and the Workers Rights struggle.

Please contact our ensemble coordinator and public relations person, Irene Goodson at:

833-5269

P.O. Box 5574
Raleigh, NC 27605

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POULTRY

getting the support or response from the international or local union staff necessary to maintain a strong union staff.

But workers at poultry plants like Golden Poultry must realize that their main strength is the union and that they as individual workers are the strength of the union.

Only by greater rank and file participation, by combining the issues in the plant with the issues in the community can a union strong enough to challenge management be maintained.

CONTRAGATE

Investigators say that cash crop drugs like cocaine and marijuana were sold in the U.S. and abroad to provide a fund for the Contras.

The anti-Castro plot also established the first contras who's mission was to invade Cuba and overthrow Fidel Castro.

Much of the information about the real issues lurking behind the Contragate hearings was revealed thus far by the lawsuit filed by Christic Institute against many of those who testified during the hearings in May of 1986.

Christic provided several key leads to the media before the scandal actually broke to the public. The suit itself is controversial however.

Christic Institute is famous for funding the litigation work of Karen Silkwood Case during the 1970s.

RAINBOW

but it's not enough to say that Blacks and whites have compatible interests and should not be tricked into fighting each other. They must be united in a program that challenges racist violence wherever it rears its head. That approach would be a fundamental call for unity on a principled basis.

In addition, not enough has been said about the Iran/Contra scandal. In particular, the drug connection and the efforts to incarcerate Blacks and suspend the constitutional right to a public trial must become a key issue in the campaign.

The Rainbow must strengthen its work with white workers. Thus far, its focus has been on white middle class progressives. Moreover, it must orient itself around a program that emerges from the needs of the working and poor people it seeks to involve and represent.

An essential aspect of the Rainbow must be a voice for independent politics. It must fight for an independent organization and movement that is independent of the Democratic Party and Republican Party. It's a long process and will not reap immediate results. However, if the first steps are not taken, the favorable political candidates may disappear and we will be subject to the ever growing and install a cop version of the modern fascist state.

The next steps are crucial for the Rainbow Campaign. The mainstream Black people and progressive people are coming forward to join Jackson and for James Megellas in his race during these crucial years.

Only the people themselves determine what will happen at the end of the Rainbow.

PLATFORM

corporations and the needs of the people has become more glaring.

The living and false promises of the corporate controlled politicians of the Democratic and Republican parties have become more evident, and disillusionment with the so-called American "democracy" will lead people to struggle for direct control over the political and economic institutions and resources that affect the quality of their lives and communities. This is the meaning of the sudden increase in the demand for Black political power.

The major sentiment for Black power has been articulated within the electoral arena, where the consciousness of Black people about their real potential to have political power, has been centered around the "power" of the Black vote.

The demand for Black political power (and its' significance for bringing about democracy and social progress) must be made on working and poor people who must guide Black workers to take the lead in late spring by empowering the catfish farm workers in Mississippi, in unionizing the whole South, and in fighting for control of key resources like the Tombigbee Waterway in Alabama. It must also guide working people to the establishment of worker and community controlled public authorities for people throughout the country to make decisions about economic and community development policies.

Thus, Black power not only defines the power relations of Black elected and appointed representatives in all levels of government, but much more fundamentally, it defines a degree of power for an organized Black community and for an organized Black working class leadership among all working and poor people in their struggles against the forces of oppression and exploitation.

What we are seeing in South Africa today by the many strikes, boycotts and demonstrations of Black workers, is actions to challenge and weaken the system of oppression and alter the balance of power in favor of the movement for liberation.

These strike and protest actions are occurring as the forces of the liberation movement attempt to hammer out their differences and develop a sharper program of organized and common struggle. The Rainbow must involve the full power of people to achieve that.

Mobilizing the power of Black people in South Africa is a very important lesson learned by our movement. We are at the initial stages of understanding the challenges of this kind of ultra left governmental policies and repression against people.

In accordance with the thirteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the line between Black people and other people is not a legal or constitutional line and should not be.

It is clear that the destruction of Black or other poor people is the basis for every form of repression and discrimination.

SPYING

The main attacks directed against Rainbow and other movements. One of the groups targeted COINTELPRO was the Black Panther Party BHP.

One of its most active acts was the murder of Fred Hampton, a top leader of the BHP in Chicago, Mark Clark, another member. They were killed on December 4, 1969, pre-dawn by Chicago police directed by State Attorney's office. The cops had been probed with a detailed file of the apartment where Hampton and Clark were, people who had become leaders in their personal and political life.

HALIFA

In addition, not enough has been said about the Iran/Contra scandal. In particular, the drug connection and the efforts to incarcerate Blacks and suspend the constitutional right to a public trial must become a key issue in the campaign.

The Rainbow must strengthen its work with white workers. Thus far, its focus has been on white middle class progressives. Moreover, it must orient itself around a program that emerges from the needs of the working and poor people it seeks to involve and represent.

An essential aspect of the Rainbow must be a voice for independent politics. It must fight for an independent organization and movement that is independent of the Democratic Party and Republican Party. It's a long process and will not reap immediate results. However, if the first steps are not taken, the favorable political candidates may disappear and we will be subject to the ever growing and install a cop version of the modern fascist state.

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FRANKLIN TON

Jernodden said the highest number of former teachers meeting at Bricks was 3,200, 86 percent of which were white. In 1924 Bricks became a junior college and was the first school for Black students in Halifax and two years later the first class of eleven students graduated.

HALIFAX

Black and female heads of households were the 356 black, 28 Native American, and 38 white. Most of them were white males who were the founding fathers of two local white Christian academies. Their children (now out of school) were educated at these white academies and out in the County school system.

The Caucas has made formal complaints to school Superintendent, Dr. Craig Phillips, and other political officials, and educational organizations, that have requested the removal of two local white Christian academies. Their children (now out of school) were educated at these white academies and out in the County school system.

The Jackson Campaign works to reach out and mobilize the local masses in forging a national program in this period, that BWUM also sees a national program in this period. That BWUM also sees the importance in the level of grassroots/local struggle to achieve the goals of the platform campaign, as it works to reach out and connect up more areas, local organizations and arenas of struggle over time.

June since this year, the Black Caucaus and other concerned citizens have been successful in preventing business-as-usual school board meetings that were to discuss for their demands on the School Board to be board and meet. The community began to raise concerns about the issues that were to be discussed.

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In accordance with Public School Law 115-C of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the school board has been given the power to determine the salaries of Black people in the school system who are in positions that require special education.

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Bricks has served the Black community for 3 shortlived. The 1930s depression and certain AMA decisions were death blows to the school. As Black families struggled to maintain shelter, money for "higher education" dwindled. Enrollment at Bricks and operating funds dropped. The AMA also withdrew funding support following a study that stated an "adequate" number of Black colleges already existed in N.C. Additionally, the AMA planned to turn over control of the school to the state and lease school facilities to Halifax, Nash, and Biscoo county school boards.

In 1952, Franklinton Christian College opened. Another Black institution forced to close during the depression, merged with Bricks to form The Franklinton Center at Bricks.

Today, a new birth and commitment is dawning at Bricks. Evaluation and assessment of goals by the Church is taking place so that the Center may continue to serve the church and community effectively. The United Church of Christ Commission on Racial Justice, directed by North Carolinian Rev. Ben Chavis, has moved its Southern Regional Office and activities to Bricks.

For four generations, Bricks has served the eastern NC Black Community. Through its renovated auditorium and classrooms and its campaign to raise $18,000, the Bricks will be completely renovate the entire conference center, the future looks bright for the Franklinton Center at Bricks.

July 8th meeting of the Halifax County Board of Commissioners.

Fran Ballance, a Warrington attorney and former state legislator gave immediate notice of his resignation.

The sixth Black Caucaus leader to be arrested was Evangeline Grant Redding Briley. Briley is being asked to participate in a "disrupting a public meeting", and "injury to personal property" in two separate warrants. The arrests were based on protest actions that occurred at the August School Board meeting.

Briley was taken from her home by police and arrested at 11p.m. August 21 — ten days after the School Board meeting. The investigation was prompted by North Carolinian Rev. Frank Ballance, a former state legislator.

The case is being handled by a public defender, and the district attorney has announced his intention to file a charge of disorderly conduct.

On the day of Briley's possible trial, the Caucaus is calling for a massive solidarity march against discrimination in Halifax County. All 7000 students within the Halifax County school system are being asked to stage a unity boycott from school, and thousands of local, state and national leaders are being asked to join the call.

For more information about this and related events, call Gary Grant at (919) 826-2344.
The major Black working class blow against apartheid, that has been anticipated for some time, was finally struck on August 10, 1987 when the 300,000 mineworkers represented by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) walked off their jobs at one third (1/3) of South Africa's gold and coal mines.

The strike, which is the most important in recent times both economically and politically, presents a clear picture of things to come in South Africa. More specifically, the walkout which has been estimated to have cost the mine owners between $5 and $10 million dollars a day, is the proof that indeed it will be the Black working class that will destroy the underpinnings of the racist capitalist system that enslaves them.

The NUM demands are part of a campaign being waged by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), called the "living wage campaign". The mineworkers' contract demands included a 30% wage increase, increased holiday leave allowances from 2 years annual wages to 5 years wages and increased holiday leave allowances. The death benefit is extremely important in light of the fact that during the last decade 8800 mineworkers have been killed and 254,000 injured in mine related accidents.

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KEYSVILLE VOTES ON PLATFORM

BLACK MAJORITY SETS DIRECTION FOR FIRST TIME IN NEARLY 100 YEARS

October 24, 1987 was a great day in the history of Keysville, Georgia and of all counties, towns, and communities struggling for power in the Blackbelt South.

Residents of the small, majority Black town set to decide their future through a program held so that the community could vote on a political platform in lieu of elections expected to be held a few weeks from now.

As one keynote speaker eloquently noted during the platform program, Keysville essentially represents the emergence of “new reconstruction governments” in the Blackbelt South.

The Keysville political platform, just simple and democratic in content, called for the slate of Black elected officials planning to run for the mayor and five city council person seats, to organize “a government for all the people”, have a water and sewage system constructed that poor residents can afford; to seek new jobs, businesses, and industrial development for better wages and income for the community and to provide a “clean, healthy, and safe city” for all residents through cooperation with the county, establishing health clinics, and etc.

Although the goals and content of the Keysville platform will have to be developed politically and practically over time, it represents a big step in a just struggle to reactivate the town.

As Emma Grasham, mayor-to-be for Keysville, recently stated in a video tape being prepared about the Keysville struggle, “We are living in a democracy—almost that’s what we’ve been told. Water, sewer, fire protection... are basic things everybody should have in 1987, yet we don’t have them in Keysville.”

The struggle for political power in Keysville poses many of the vital questions faced by the Blackbelt in these times of new emerging political winds that will sweep through America.

Who will come forward to run the new developing governments of the Blackbelt? Who’s interests will these governments represent? What demands will be raised in these struggles for power? What is the meaning of political power for the Blackbelt South in the 1980s and 90s?

Keysville surely poses some embryonic answers:

Political change of revolutionary potential is rolling up on the shores of America. The tide will thrust hard against all enemies. Beware!

The platform program was organized by the Concerned Citizens, the community group leading the effort to reactivate town government.

Guest speakers at the program included Mayor B.A. Johnson of Wadely, Georgia; State Representative Tyrone Brooks of the Georgia Black Caucus; Seledin Muhammad of Black Workers For Justice, representing the Black Workers Political Platform Campaign and Tanya Williams, a youth coordinator of the Black Workers Political Platform.

A North Carolina delegation from the Platform Campaign attended the Keysville Platform program.

Although the Keysville Concerned Citizens have come a long way in their struggle for change and power, they still face a number of key challenges. Especially important is the overt and covert pressure stemming from Keysville’s only industry—the white owned convalescence homes.

The Concerned Citizens and the community must prepare a plan to turn things around at the nursing home and to get the vote out on election day.

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SCHLAGE LOCK: GET RICH AND RUN!

Schlage Lock Company, a major manufacturer of a variety of locks, is planning to close its Rocky Mount, North Carolina plant, after only 15 years of operation. It is scheduled to close in early 1998.

The Schlage Lock workforce has been reduced from 700 to 400 workers over the years. Now suddenly, the plant will close. Workers received memos stating that the company will assist them with mental health counseling to help them cope with their eventual job loss. The wage workers will not get any severance pay or extended health insurance coverage. Yet, management employees will get all of these entitlements and more.

Schlage has built a plant in Mexico where it plans to relocate the Rocky Mount operations. The workers at the Rocky Mount plant earn an average of $7.00 per hour, while workers in Mexico earn an average wage of $3.50 a day.

Schlage is a subsidiary of the Ingersoll-Band Corporation, which has its headquarters in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey. Ingersoll-Band employs close to 35,000 workers through its many subsidiary companies in the US and in other countries. It has 30 companies outside of the US, including one company in racist South Africa. The South African company employs 465 workers.

There is no evidence that Schlage Lock or its parent, Ingersoll-Band, is having financial problems. According to a 1987 corporate social report, Ingersoll-Band has yearly sales totaling more than 2 1/2 billion dollars. Like most corporations with companies throughout the world (multi-nationals), Ingersoll-Band is reinvesting much of its profits into other areas of the world with cheaper labor and into other economic ventures.

Ingersoll-Band has many companies manufacturing and constructing equipment, pumps, oil and gas engines, hand tools, roller bearings, steam turbines as well as locks. The security of the workers in Ingersoll-Band’s many companies, is of no concern to the owners, only profits. Schlage Lock workers can lose their homes and cars. They can starve, get sick, and even die following the loss of their jobs. Studies have shown, that suicides, murders, nervous breakdowns and crime often is a direct result of unemployment.

Schlage Lock workers should not be allowed to back up and move without a challenge. It has received at least 2 Industrial Revenue Bonds and other breaks. The last bond was in December 1981 for 85 1/2 million, almost interest free. These bonds meant that Schlage did not have to advance any of its profits to finance the Rocky Mount operation. It did not have to take any risks. Yet the workers take risks everyday to make Schlage huge profits.

About 13 years ago, a young Black worker had his body torn to pieces in a machine, because of a faulty safety switch. Profits are all Schlage is interested in.

The main argument used by the company when they close down plants has been that they close because of "unions". Ingersoll-Band workers did not have a union. Neither did the workers at the Supergrade and Sons Company, who closed the plant without notifying the workers in advance. Had these workers had unions, they may have had a better chance of fighting to save their jobs. They could have had protections in their contracts guaranteeing them severance pay, health care and other needed forms of support while they were unemployed.

Workers in Rock Mount and surrounding areas need to unite and build a movement against closings. Since Rock Mount claims to be "city on the rise" based on a policy of recruiting new industries, workers here demand guarantees wages, health benefits, affirmative action, working conditions and against plant closings. Candidates running for office, must take a stand on the issue of plant closings.

Workers from Schlage Lock and other plants at the Rocky Mount and surrounding areas who are interested in building a movement against plant closings, should contact the Black Workers for Justice at 977-1612 brockton plaza daily or at: BMJ 422 P.O. Box 1961 Rocky Mount, NC 27801.

HOSPITAL WORKERS LOCAL BATTLES CONCESSIONS!

In Washington, D.C., Local 722 S.S.B.I.O. (Service Employees International Union) has completed a successful battle against proposed take backs by the Washington Hospital Center management. (A goal not often achieved in these trying times.)

In a previous contract Local 722 was forced to grant concessions due to both an offensive by management and the weakness in the union from an internal struggle that divided the union against itself. This time, in an effort to take back those concessions, Local 722 (which is majority Black and majority women) made significant preparations for this contract battle.

An internal union struggle resulted in the defeat of racist elements and in the consolidation of progressive democratic leadership around the strength of Black workers. Though the contract ended in October 1987

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P.O. Box 3397 Durham, N.C. 27702
PLATFORM PLANNING CONVENTION ADOPTS MASS PROGRAM

By Nancy Bea, elected National co-chairperson of the Black Workers Political Platform Campaign.

Co-Chair Bea expressed part of the sentiment of the organizers of the successful Black Workers Political Platform Planning Convention held in Bricks, North Carolina on September 28 and 27, 1987.

More than 75 people were at the Franklin County at Bricks with the aim of crystallizing the Platform Campaign and hammering out a minimum program for organizing, clearly, in the interests of Black working people during the important 1988 election period and beyond.

The Convention participants adopted a minimum program thought to study the most crucial political questions facing Black people in the 1980s and 90s. Also included in the program were a number of organizing goals to be accomplished throughout 1988.

NATIONAL POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

The national Campaign focuses were adopted by the Convention: organized opposition to the U.S. Government Contingency Plan through a referendum movement and national support for the struggle in Keyville, Georgia.

The referendum movement on the Contingency Plan will target one city or state as the initial focus of an effort to place on the presidential election ballot an opposition referendum on the Plan.

Representatives of the Platform Campaign emphasized the significance and presentation for the Rainbow Coalition to take up the campaign to oppose the Contingency Plan as a part of its national program. (See the Sept 87 Special Issue of Justice Speaks for more detail on the Contingency Plan.)

Work has also developed around Keyville since the Platform Campaign went to Keyville on October 24 for the Keyville Platform Community meeting. A keynote presentation was given by Platform Campaign Co-chair Saladin Muhamed and youth chair Tanya Williams. (See front page story.)

TACTICAL CAMPAIGNS

The Planning Convention outlined a plan to hold National Black Primaries from Martin Luther King’s Birthday thru the end of Black History Month.

The National Black Primaries would target thousands of Black people across the country during the King Holiday/Black History Month period to hold balloting at workplaces, churches, community centers, and union halls to vote on and designate the most pressing issues facing the Black community today.

The Primaries would be an expression of “people’s democracy” in pinpointing current vital concerns. Results of the primaries would be announced in press conferences during the important Super Tuesday Primary period.

The Convention also voted to organize a full participation Black Workers Political Platform Convention, possibly during Labor Day weekend 1988. At that time a clearer perspective on the Jesse Jackson Presidential Campaign can be assessed.

More importantly, the efforts to slowly formulate the Black Workers Political Platform will have had time to develop in a clear way. The Convention would be an effort to formalize the places of the Black Workers Platform.

CAMPAIGN STRUCTURE

The National Co-Chairs were elected at the Planning Convention, plus a youth chairperson. They are Nancy Bea of Harlem Fightback in New York and the Black Workers Unity Movement (BWUM), Saladin Muhamed of Black Workers For Justice in North Carolina and also of BWUM, and Tanya Williams of the Halifax County Black Caucus, also of North Carolina.

A national steering committee for the Platform Campaign was adopted which includes regional coordinators and several committees.

The committees included financial planning, Workers Education, Black Emancipation, and Democratic Rights (Crisis of the 80s).

LOCAL VISIONS!

by Local To evenly February 1987, when several members in the community elected to a Community Meeting were elected. The meetings were to develop a campaign for the election of March 1988. Also included in the program were a number of organizing goals to be accomplished throughout 1988.

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CALL TO JUSTICE
Analysis, Views & Demands From the BWJF

"SERVE THE PEOPLE FIRST"

"THAT REMINDS ME, I'VE HEARD THAT THERE ARE STILL LOTS OF FOLKS OUT OF WORK!"

THE DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS DON'T REPRESENT OUR INTERESTS

WHERE WE STAND!

- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, “runaway shops”
- AGAINST the military
- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, all oppressed nationalities
- AGAINST the political empowerment of all working people, all oppressed nationalities

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES?
The Rainbow Coalition annual Convention held in Raleigh, North Carolina on August 1st, was a very important gathering of people from throughout the country, who have been engaged in local and national struggles for major changes in US social and economic issues, at home and abroad.

The main issues associated with the economic crisis faced by millions of workers, were addressed in the workshops and canvases of the Convention. The key issues were also discussed very earnestly in the excellent Plenum, held by Jesse Jackson, leading into his official announcement of his candidacy for president of the United States.

Opposition to plant closings, save the family firm, no military aid to Central America, decent low income housing, stop drugs the entering US borders and more, were the issues that dominates the program of the Rainbow Coalition, of both the democratic and republican parties. A distinction which has important meanings in shaping the future course of US history.

The fact that thousands of people were willing to travel thousands of miles to meet, debate and unify around a political program, gives one an idea of the importance of the Jackson Campaign in helping to build a national mass movement.

Seeing the Jackson Campaign as a vehicle for unifying the many movements around a progressive political agenda, as opposed to solely a campaign to elect a president, is the most correct view of Jackson’s role in this period. This, however, requires that the various local and workplace struggles set some definite goals to achieve during the campaign.

There will be some who would argue that since Jackson’s main role is to help build a unified mass movement and progressive agenda, it’s okay to be lukewarm on supporting Jackson. Such thinking is erroneous. Those harboring such ideas are not concerned with the pressing issues. They are concerned only with what kind of deals can be made with the local and state political machines, whether democratic or republican.

Consequently, the Jackson Campaign movement must also expose and root out those politicians and community and labor leaders who side with the parties before they side with a program and political campaign addressing the needs of the people.

In spite of the many strengths of the Jackson candidacy and the fact that there is no other candidate (democrat or republican) who comes close to his correct stand on the issues, there are still some weaknesses in Jackson’s campaign program and strategy, which has been made stronger by the coordinated struggles of the movement for Black political power, mainly in the Black belt South.

In Jackson’s speech, he stated that “We have moved from racial violence to racial justice”. This position is not correct, as the recent murder of a Black youth by white cops in Atlanta, GA., the violent racism in Forsythe County GA., the Howard Beach, New York murder and the Geotz subway shootings clearly show.

Supporting Jackson, also means struggling against his wrong views. Views that will be conveniently used by representatives of both parties and government spokesmen, to shield themselves from charges of racism.

Jackson has failed to give proper attention to the struggles for Black political power in his campaign strategy. Partly in an effort to attract more white support, and what appears to be an effort not to offend the old southern white leadership of the democratic party, Jackson has down played the struggles for Black political power and many important issues associated with it. Issues such as: electing a majority of Black representatives in hundreds of towns and counties throughout the South; opposing at-large voting systems; forced annexations; dual primaries and defending the Voting Rights Act are all key to Black political power in the 1980s and 90s.

We must remember that raising the demands of Black people does not mean being anti-white or anti-race. And we should not be defensive about this. To do so is to strengthen the hand, in the long run, of those who’s racist outlook promotes the line of “reversed discrimination”. Not we should work hard to unite all people around the realities that we all face.

As a candidate willing to be accountable to the needs and issues of the people, Jackson and his campaign, must be connected to the issues of Black political power.

The many social problems faced by millions of working and poor people throughout the country, are related to the lack of economic accountability of the big corporations and their companies, to the workers and communities. These companies are always looking for places to hire cheap labor and laws that favor business. When plants relocate or “runaway”, they go to the underdeveloped countries throughout the world mainly China and South. Thus, Black political power in the South is a powerful ally for all of the struggles of the working class. This crucial factor must be a part of the program, policies, and political outlook of the Rainbow Coalition and the Jackson Campaign.

Jackson, while being correct that the republican party is not a friend of Black people, fails to forthrightly expose the contradictions of the democratic party for Black people.

The leadership of the democratic party opposed the program of the Rainbow Coalition and the Jackson Campaign until their companies, to the workers and communities. These companies are always looking for places to hire cheap labor and laws that favor business. When plants relocate or “runaway”, they go to the underdeveloped countries throughout the world mainly China and South. Thus, Black political power in the South is a powerful ally for all of the struggles of the working class. This crucial factor must be a part of the program, policies, and political outlook of the Rainbow Coalition and the Jackson Campaign.

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The leadership of the democratic party opposed the program of
B.U.M.P.P. MOVES FOR BRONX POLITICAL POWER

Bronx, New York - The Bronx has been described as a political power base, where political action is taken with enthusiasm and determination. The recent conviction of Borough President Robert Garcia and former Councilman Michael Cusick has sent shockwaves through the community, challenging the political landscape in the borough.

The B.U.M.P.P. (Bronx United for Multicultural Political Power) has been at the forefront of the movement, pushing for change and demanding justice. With the recent conviction of Garcia, their efforts continue to gain momentum.

Their goals include the establishment of a political power base that represents the diverse population of the Bronx, fighting for equal representation, and advocating for policies that benefit the community.

The B.U.M.P.P. has been successful in organizing and mobilizing the community, leading to several victories in recent elections. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed, as they continue to push for change and demand justice.

The Bronx remains a key battleground in the political world, and the B.U.M.P.P. is leading the charge for a more equitable and just future for the borough.

KEY FOR SHONEY WORKERS: THE WORKPLACE COMMITTEE

About a year ago, Shoney's Restaurant workers organized a workplace committee, taking political action, as well as legal action, against the employer and management's practice of race and gender discrimination.

The committee consisted of predominantly black women workers from five (5) restaurants in the Greater Triangle Area. Women and Black workers, consistently, had more experience and education, but were denied training and promotional opportunities from the "slaves" who worked in the kitchen. These conditions and others (i.e. health, safety, no paid sick leave, sexual harassment, no paid vacation, etc.) were challenged by their efforts to build community support with educational pickets, petitions to management from community, unions, and church members, press conferences, leaflets, and a limited boycott. Workers took legal action too.

During September of 1986, several race and job discrimination complaints were filed at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. One worker's complaint was settled quickly after the third month of investigation. He was placed in a training program and promoted to assistant manager.

African women workers were given a quick raise to $3.45 an hour from $3.40. This was the result of both direct rank and file worker's actions and legal action. Recently, the EEOC has initiated a new complaint against Shoney's, regarding the promotion and legal action of Black and Latino workers, who were given a quick raise to $4.35 an hour from $4.20.

Shoney's Restaurant workers have been clear about their goals: to build community support and political power for Black workers, and to organize the non-seasonal workers.

The WORKPLACE COMMITTEE

The committee is made up of the remaining committee members, who are still active. Why are those few remaining committee members still active?

"Those workers that left Shoney's feel that they will not get direct benefits, but others that follow, behind us will benefit from this effort," said a male leader. As of this summer, the President of the Southern Regional Manager conducted a tour of various restaurants stores in the Triangle Area.

Over the last two months, the workers have been subjected to serve as witnesses to Shoney's discrimination. Although, the workers' committee organization has ceased, the network of contacts and their committee relations have made it easier to push forward at this point in the struggle.

One woman leader commented to the Justice Speaks: "We are now understood why we should have continued and organized the workers committee. We are still involved and its easier for us to get things done..." (referring to legal action..."

Workers stop meeting as soon as they get "in the raise," "promotion," or "their situation changes." However, one woman worker has signed up to be a distributor of Justice Speaks newspaper in the community. Women workers continue: "All workers don't see it as important to be part of organizations like the BWFJ..."

The BWFJ will continue to give ideas and assistance to those workers struggling against discrimination and other forms of injustice.

FURTHER EDITIONS OF JUSTICE SPEAKS FOR AN UPDATE ON THIS STRUGGLE.

More blacks and women workers have left or been removed, and workers have given a quick raise to $4.35 an hour from $3.40. This was the result of both direct rank and file worker's actions and legal action.
HOSPITAL

This meant that the Center agreed with other healthcare institutions in the area and that they reached out into health insurance and as well. Their contract proposals note take backs were raised. They wanted to force workers to work more than 5 days in order to get a 48 hour pay. They sought to throw out seniority privileges for house workers in job selections. They wanted to have control over disciplinary actions and discipline rules without any restraints. They also wanted to extend the Janitorial work for new employees.

Fortunately Local 722 was able to not only defeat these Amenda but to win back previous concessions. A two-tier wage level was thrown out. Workers will receive a 4% wage increase the first year, a 4% increase the second year and a 4% the third year.

Workers won a dental plan which the hospital will provide free for the worker and will also be provided for the workers family. Discounts will also be provided for insurance.

All beneficiaries of this organization are to receive, discipline in carrying out tasks and to be seen among workers. Reps to the steering committee picked two representatives to the steering and one at large representative was chosen.

To date BUMPP has organized educational, political and housing forums. Each program has attracted an average of 150 people and are fed up with the corruption, mediocrity of present day leadership and the decrease in the overall quality of life for poor and working class folks.

There were several objectives for holding each of these forums—to consolidate the core on the concept of political power and an independent political movement, to present an alternative to business as usual, to reach out to the Black and Latino community on the need to coordinate the work of Black, and the Black and Latino Political Campaign.

At a follow-up meeting on April 11th, a steering committee was formed. The response was enthusiastically and we identified several areas of common interest and concern—education, housing and the Black Women's Political Platform Campaign.

It will be important to organizations...
On August 30, a demonstration of about 2,000 people took place in Hartford, Connecticut, demanding freedom for 16 Puerto Rican independentistas (independent fighters). Known as the Puerto Rican 16, these independentistas are workers, students, writers, artists, and activists, all seizes in different sectors of the Puerto Rican Independence Movement.

They were arrested two years ago and charged with robbing a Wells Fargo depot in Hartford in 1983. Seized in a massive raid by 250 heavily armed FBI agents, accompanied by military helicopters in Puerto Rico, the independentistas were taken from their homeland of Puerto Rico to jails in the U.S. The FBI agents broke into dozens of homes and offices to make the arrests.

The raid is part of a plan by the U.S. government to try to intimidate the people of Puerto Rico and to criminalize those who fight against U.S. colonial oppression of the small island.

These are the same tactics that the government uses to intimidate Afro-Americans and to brand the Afro-American Liberation Movement as "terrorists." The FBI's so-called "Operation Bootstrap" is actually closer to Operation Bolo as exiles protected under the U.S. constitution are denied victims of justice.

The Puerto Ricans who come to the U.S. basically migrate to the U.S. to see a livelihood, but the U.S. has undermined Puerto Rico's agricultural wealth, especially its sugar, tobacco and coffee. With the growth and increasing power of U.S. industries, Puerto Rico's agricultural wealth has been exploited for U.S. corporations, beginning in 1898. Puerto Rico has been a U.S. colony since 1898. In that year it was seized from Spain, along with the Philippines, Guam and Cuba which became a U.S. protectorate until the Cuban Revolution ended U.S. domination in the late 1950s.

The Spanish-American War was one of the earliest imperialist wars, a result of which U.S. monopolists exploited the conquered countries for their raw materials, cheap labor and markets. The U.S. kept Puerto Rico and the Philippines as its economic provinces until after World War II. In this early period Puerto Rico was exploited mainly for its agricultural wealth, especially its sugar, tobacco and coffee. With the growth and increasing power of U.S. industries world-wide after World War II, U.S. monopolists began to industrialize Puerto Rico.

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OPPOSITION RUNS AGAINST KEYSVILLE SLATE

The heat is on in Keysville as the white minority moves to again gain power and prevent the black community from having the right to bring about justice and much needed changes in the small town.

Last month, members of the Concerned Citizens, the organization sponsoring the effort to reactivate town government, learned that an election had been officially scheduled for Keysville on January 4, 1988.

Candidates for the newly created five person city council were due to run for office in December. They are Augusta Shackleford for mayor of Keysville and Alvin Lewis, 68, Sr., Mary Holland, Clayton Neely, Nollie Mae Morris, and Mayfield Scruggs for the five city council positions.

On December 4th, the last day to qualify, local Georgia media announced that six opposing candidates from the white minority faction also qualified to run for the open government positions.

The white opposition slate includes Joseph U. Cochran for mayor, and Oliver Russell Jr., Jimmy Poole Jr., Fred Munn, and a black woman, Masque Terrell.

Justice Speaks was unable to get confirmation on the identity of the remaining candidate before press time.

The move to run an opposing slate by the white minority is ironic since it was the foreparents of those same whites who closed down the government of Keysville in 1933. This was done without the participation or approval of the Black majority. The Black community in Keysville had never been allowed to vote or participate in town affairs.

The whites who are organizing to defeat the Concerned Citizens slate in 1988 are the same minority faction who opposed the reactivation and newly sworn-in government for Keysville in 1985.

Now they only want to run because they know the Concerned Citizens will win.

KEYSVILLE WORKERS SPEAK OUT ON NURSING HOME ABUSES

On Thanksgiving, nearly twenty workers and supporters of those working at the Keysville Convalescence Home met for the first time to publicly reveal the poor wages and working conditions there.

The meeting was organized by the newly formed Workers Education Committee of the Keysville Concerned Citizens.

The Committee is led by city council candidate Clayton Neely. Neely invited Representative Brooks to attend the meeting and to register the complaints of the workers at the Home.

Reportedly, the Committee was primarily concerned about any abuses the workers may have been receiving at the Home because of the Keysville reactivation movement.

Representative Brooks took tape recorded statements from each worker to present to Keysville Councilman Laughlin McDonald of the ACLU. Attorney McDonald will review the complaints to see if there are any violations of the Voting Rights Act.

According to Brooks, workers had a number of complaints about the past harassment of workers during the 1985 reactivation effort.

Poor wages was the biggest complaint most workers spoke about at the meeting, according to Brooks.

The Home has about 68 employees and reportedly about as many patients. The average wage for a nurses aide is the minimum wage of $3.35 an hour.

After the election, the workers will finally have a government who is concerned about their well being. All of the Convalescence Home workers should come out to vote and ensure the chance to bring about important changes in Keysville.
FIFTH KING BANQUET TO FOCUS ON POLITICAL POWER

On January 16, 1968, Black Workers For Justice will host its fifth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Banquet for Labor Rights and Events at Fever National Holiday. Tickets are $5 per person.

On the occasion of the 33rd National Holiday, the FIFTH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING'S SUPPORT FOR LABOR BANQUET will be held at Fever National Holiday. The banquet will be a celebration of the freedom and labor of Dr. King, as well as an opportunity to address issues of black liberation.

The theme of this year's banquet is "BLACK PRIMARIES". The Banquet is a commemoration of Dr. King's stand for workers' rights and a celebration of the Martin Luther King Jr. Annual National Holiday.

The Speeches of the Honorable Dr. King Jr. will be a keynote address for all workers.

The Platform Committee will change the anti-war and anti-union climate of the south and it will put the balance of political power that denies full rights to workers on the table in the south and in the south.

Join all freedom fighters in an inspiring celebration and historic call for political action on January 16. Honor King with political action! Participate in activities!

HONOR DR. KING WITH POLITICAL ACTION

Banquet January 16

WE FORGOT....

Justice Speaks, as a matter of editorial policy, does not carry by-lines or other forms of credit in order to protect the anonymity of workers who submit or may want to submit articles for publication.

However, the editor has agreed to give credit to interviewers such as the Impact Visuals photo service. We failed to list these credits in the issues of Justice Speaks since we have not been using the service. Those names are now listed below.

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Durham, N.C. 27702

All other issues: credit for contributions Justice Speaks will be addressed during a future Editorial Committee meeting.

John Miller, Impact Visuals (for the Philippine pogo Jobs)
FORCED OVERTIME

It is rumored that Consolidated Diesel is expecting an increase in production throughout the year. They intend to reduce the workforce by 7 percent.

Why don't these companies just hire more workers? By requiring workers to work overtime, the company does not have to pay insurance, unemployment, and health benefits for the workforce. The company can save more profit as a result.

The Black workers for Justice will be conducting a study on the effects of forced overtime. The study will include surveys, a workers' breakout, educational forums, and a written report.

If your workplace is experiencing forced overtime and you want to be part of a study, contact Saladin at 977-8162 or write BWFJ P.O. Box 1863 Rocky Mount, NC 27802.

FREMONT ELECTS FIRST BLACK MAJORITY COUNCIL

- Black political power is developing in Fremont. Earlier this year, Black citizens began demanding that Fremont abolish its at-large election system and establish a ward system.

After community protests at city council meetings, the community planning and educational activities, and preparation for a local challenge, the town of Fremont reluctantly agreed to establish a ward election system.

Before the ward system, only one Black served on the city council. The ward system created six wards, with three white controlled wards and three wards controlled by the Black community.

The lack of Black officials and the racist arrogance of the white power structure in Fremont resulted in many abuses by the black government. The three new black controlled council seats were filled by long standing fighters for social change.

The seats were filled by Billy Byard, a member of the Black Workers for Justice, the Fair Labor Support Committee, and advocate for small farmers; Sylvester Artist, a retired brick mason and carpenter and president of the Fremont Concerned Citizens and Leroy Huffin, being re-elected for his 3rd term, is a brick mason and contractor. These three council members will be accountable to workers and community rights and needs.

FIRESTONE DENIES COLA

Firestone Company workers had their cost of living allowance (cola) denied them in August of this year.

In September 1985, a false sense of security on the part of many Firestone workers led them to vote against becoming unionized. Since that time, the workers have been made to pay for their health insurance. In the past, the company paid for health insurance. Meanwhile, Firestone has also increased the number of temporary workers to perform jobs at lower wages. The maintenance and sanitation workers at Firestone belong to the International Association of Machinist Union. They were asked by Firestone to give up their cola, but refused.

The three new black controlled council seats were filled by long standing fighters for social change.

All other issues fit for contribution. Justice speaks will be written during the editorial consultation. We'll be summarizing the BWFJ's editorial committee decision.

NUARY 16

It seems that Moss was fired because of his arrogant attitude toward people. It is probably safe to say that his attitude was racist toward black people.

Moss makes it clear in his role on the Halifax County School Board that education is a Black and minority issue. He and other members of the board had leaders of the Halifax County Black Caucus arrested for speaking out at a School Board meeting. It seems that Moss talks down to people in whatever job he assumes. He now needs to be fired from the Halifax County School Board.
BLACK CAPITALISM OFFERS FALSE HOPES FOR BLACK FREEDOM

There is a conflict brewing in Black communities across the country that reflects a historic clash of views and interests.

Loud and persistent voices are raising the cry of Black entrepreneurship as the path to Black freedom. Black economic development is being defined in terms of Black people developing businesses that will “keep dollars in the Black community” and provide jobs.

These views are 1980’s versions of Black capitalism as the way out of political, social and economic wretchedness for the masses of oppressed and exploited African Americans.

This unworkable strategy is being resurrected in a period of intense economic attacks on Black working people, a major crisis in the U.S. economy and a sharp turn towards conservatism and the right on the part of the major political parties.

An editorial in a recent addition of the Carolinian highlights the approach advocated.

The editorial applauds the BWFJ and Toney Brown for their efforts at economic development, while Black people as a whole are chastised for being “generally not economically sophisticated” and “having a general lack of understanding and appreciation of how things work in this country and the world”.

It goes on to say that we are “too labor and consumer oriented” and that “demanding jobs, or beating as they characterized it, has become an obsession of the majority of the community.

The Carolinian claims that Black people (and we presume they include Black workers) do not have an understanding of subjects such as “production, marketing, capital utilization, financing, leveraging or business competition”.

And, to their displeasure, discussions of these subjects are “absent from our kitchen tables, living room discussions, and in our leisure moments with the kids”.

Most of us are lucky if we get a chance to sit down with our children for a meal considering many of us are single parents or have to work two jobs, forced overtime, or night shift.

Yet, the Editorial may be right in a certain way. The more we learn about how things work in this country and around the world, and the more we know about markets, competition, etc., the clearer it will become that economic development for all of us cannot be based on Blacks as entrepreneurs or capitalists.

The millions of Black people who work for wages for the minimum wage, not to mention the hundreds of thousands who are jobless (a few for the minimum wage, some for the maximum wage), who have no skills or no access to a decent education, cannot and will not be Black business people.

WHERE WE STAND!

• AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
  • FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
  • AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
  • FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and classes
  • AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
  • FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor

• AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, “runaway shops”
  • FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped people
  • AGAINST dangerous conditions and “killer shops”
  • FOR health and safety on the job and in the community

• AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and all oppressed nationalities
  • FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the fight for national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!
CHICAGO MOURNS WASHINGTON

PART 1

On Wednesday, November 25, Harold Washington, Mayor of Chicago since 1983 and the first black person ever to hold the office of mayor in Chicago history, died of a massive heart attack. He was 65.

While many reports about the Washington phenoma have cited the model of his personality and the legacy of his progressive agenda in shaping up Chicago politics — few reports give any real indication of the important mass movement that sent him into office.

It was a complex movement of many strengths and weaknesses. Even so, the Chicago Movement was the mirror of the great electoral movement of 1984 that would eventually sweep across the country under the leadership of Jesse Jackson.

THE MAKINGS OF A MASS MOVEMENT

Washington's election was the result of a movement for change in Chicago's black communities that began in the early

Finally, CBUC organized a city-wide plebiscite or balloting to determine who would be the best Black candidate.

From more than 50 prominent (well-known) Black men and women in Chicago, Harold Washington emerged as the clear choice of the people.

CBUC also organized a mass educational program to teach the community about city elections: political campaigns for office; and how to get out the vote. Certificates were given to those who completed these training sessions.

Money was raised to keep the effort organized by selling coffee and cake at CBUC's weekly meetings. More than 50 people per week attended these meetings. Also at each meeting, the organizers held a small raffle and took up donations.

CBUC also organized an annual dinner extravaganza that thousands of people attended as one of its key fundraising activities.

The summer of 1983 was a hot one of protest in Chicago. The Black community boycotted one of Chicago's biggest public relations/money making events: Chicago Fest. The boycott was organized to protest the policies of then Mayor Jane Byrne. Jesse Jackson led the daily picket lines at the Fest.

Meanwhile, in the summer of 83, Washington was approached to run for mayor against Jane Byrne. He reportedly expressed a lack of interest and challenged organizers to register 50,000 voters by early fall and he might reconsider.

It seemed like a tall order, but through a series of innovative registration campaigns during the late summer and early fall, more than 50,000 new voters were registered. And that was only the beginning.

The successful registration campaigns revealed that this might just be more than politics as usual. Harold Washington agreed to run for mayor.

PART 2

IN

JANUARY

Mayor Washington

[Image of Mayor Washington]

Harold Washington  April 15, 1922 - Nov. 25, 1987

Chicago's biggest public relations/money making event; Chicago Fest. The boycott was organized to protest the policies of then Mayor Jane Byrne. Jesse Jackson led the daily picket lines at the Fest.
LONG LIVE THE MEMORY OF SANDRA NEELY SMITH AND THE GREENSBORO MASSACRE

"WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET ..."

It was a warm Saturday, November 3rd. I had awakened to realize that another year had passed since America had seen a vivid example of racist violence on its television sets.

For those of you who do not know, November 3, 1979 was the day that five anti-Klan demonstrators were murdered in Greensboro.

They were holding a rally in front of NORMLside Homes, a majority-Black housing project in the city's southeast section. The city police, FBI, Treasury Department and other agencies knew that something was about to happen, and, as history, court trials and books have shown, actually helped to facilitate a violent, tragic act of terror.

A caravan of Ku Klux Klansmen arrived at the rally and opened fire with weapons, murdering five demonstrators and wounding at least 16 others.

Sandra Neely Smith was one of that day's victims. Twenty-nine at the time of her death, the young woman was the only Black to be fatally wounded.

***************

I have often wanted to visit the site where her body lay in rest, separated by hundreds of miles from the remains of the four others who were murdered that day and who are buried together in a grave on blocks from the site where they were killed.

I'm not an admirer of cemeteries. I just believe that Sandra Neely Smith has been forgotten, and I took it upon myself this November 3, 1987 to pay her a visit.

continued page 7

KEYSVILLE NURSING HOME HAS LONG HISTORY OF ABUSE

"If you take this anywhere, I'll make a lying black bastard out of you", called out Mrs. Harmon, white owner of the Keysville Convalescence Home. The Keysville nursing home is the only industry available to workers in the town.

According to Mrs. Thelma Cook, a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) who worked at the home for nearly 7 years, Harmon threw those racist and insulting remarks at her when she challenged the "Nursing Home's" longstanding practices of racial discrimination and violations of workers rights.

Mrs. Cook, who recently resigned and found a new job, described her decision to finally challenge Harmon as being necessary.

Cook had worked at the Home since 1981 and trained many nurses but when she found that she had trained a white LPN to become a supervisor and who would be paid more money -- Harmon had to be confronted.

Mrs. Cook also reported that Harmon once asked her to "keep your eyes and ears open" when the participation of other black employees in the nursing home in Keysville reactivating efforts.

The Harmon family, who owns the nursing home, has long opposed a Black mayor's government in Keysville.
KEYSVILLE
FROM PAGE 1

m a job, described as a mission to fill the void in my soul that I had noticed since 1981. I had
m a young nurse but not in the capacity of a registered nurse. I wanted to return to school and
m a degree in social work. I was feeling a pull toward a career in social work, but I was unsure of how to make that transition.

I reached out to the Concerned Citizens of Keysville for help. They provided me with resources and guidance. They encouraged me to attend a meeting of their organization.

I attended the meeting and was impressed with the dedication and passion of the members. They shared their experiences and stories of struggle. I felt a sense of belonging and purpose.

The Concerned Citizens of Keysville, along with the Black Workers Political League, were active in organizing voter registration drives and providing support to political candidates who advocated for racial equality and justice. They organized boycotts and other forms of civil disobedience to protest against racial discrimination.

I decided to become involved with the Concerned Citizens of Keysville. I volunteered to help with the voter registration drives and attended meetings to learn more about the organization's goals and strategies.

Over the years, the Concerned Citizens of Keysville continued to be active in the community. They organized protests against police brutality and advocated for economic justice. They worked to bring attention to the plight of the poor and marginalized communities.

In 1991, the Concerned Citizens of Keysville sponsored a voter registration drive. The drive was successful in registering hundreds of new voters. This success was a testament to the organization's commitment to grassroots organizing and community mobilization.

I continued to be active with the Concerned Citizens of Keysville. I attended meetings, participated in community events, and helped organize voter registration drives. The organization's impact was felt throughout the community. As a result of their efforts, the number of African American registered voters increased significantly.

I was proud to be a part of the Concerned Citizens of Keysville. The organization's work was essential in building a stronger and more equitable community. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of their mission and will continue to support their efforts in the future.
Afro-Americans. Millions of Afro-Americans have been forced from their homeland by colonial oppression, just as Puerto Ricans have. Since the mechanization of agriculture in the south by the 1960s, unemployment, poor housing, education and other social services as well as police brutality has forced Afro-Americans to migrate to the north and west to survive. Afro-Americans face similar conditions to that of Puerto Ricans in the urban ghettos, as the lowest paid section of the working class, facing high unemployment, poor housing, education and other social services as well as police brutality.

The situation of Puerto Rico in the U.S. is not unlike that of the Afro-Americans. Millions of Afro-Americans have been forced from their homeland in the Black Belt South by conditions of national oppression, just as Puerto Ricans have, under conditions of colonialism. Since the mechanization of agriculture in the south by the 1960s, unemployment has forced Afro-Americans to migrate to the north and west to survive.

The Puerto Rican National Guard has been important to U.S. intervention in Central America, and Puerto Rico is crucial to U.S. plans for a possible invasion of Nicaragua.

For these reasons, and for the continued exploitation of its human and material resources, Puerto Rico is of the utmost importance to U.S. imperialism. And for these same reasons, the Puerto Rican people have never stopped fighting for their liberation.

Black Workers For Justice Presents:

5th ANNUAL ML KING SUPPORT FOR LABOR BANQUET

SAT., JANUARY 16 6 p.m.

FEVER'S ENTERTAINMENT

RALEIGH, NC $10

Justice Speaks ON THE LIBERATION FRONT

2000 DEMAND FREEDOM FOR PUERTO RICO/HARTFORD

Today, Puerto Ricans are concentrated in urban ghettos in New York and other cities on the East Coast as well as Chicago. They are discriminated against on account of their Spanish language, which does not enjoy equality with English in the schools, on their jobs, or in the courts.

The great majority form a part of the most under-exploited sector of the working class in the U.S. They work in such areas as the garment industry, agriculture and service industries such as restaurants, hospitals, etc. These jobs are among the most low-paying and have some of the worst working conditions.

The fight for Puerto Rican independence and the struggle of freedom fighters within U.S. borders for that independence did not begin with the Hartford 16.

The situation of Puerto Rican workers is not unlike that of the Afro-Americans. Millions of Afro-Americans have been forced from their homeland in the Black Belt South by conditions of national oppression, just as Puerto Ricans have, under conditions of colonialism. Since the mechanization of agriculture in the south by the 1960s, unemployment has forced Afro-Americans to migrate to the north and west to survive. Afro-Americans face similar conditions to that of Puerto Ricans in the urban ghettos, as the lowest paid section of the working class, facing high unemployment, poor housing, education and other social services as well as police brutality.

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Community Support and International Solidarity

The demonstrators in Hartford were very spirited as they chanted and marched through the Puerto Rican community. Hartford has one of the largest Puerto Rican populations on the East coast of the United States. The demonstrators were greeted by residents of the Puerto Rican community. Hartford has been the site of several Puerto Rican protests in recent years.

The demonstrators expressed the determination of the Puerto Rican people for self-determination and a new step towards revolution and liberation.

Long live the Puerto Rican National Liberation Movement! Long live Puerto Rico!
January 4, 1988 was a victorious day. It was the right way to begin a new surge in the struggle for political power in the Blackbelt South.

The persistence, organization, vision, and dynamic mass movement led by the Keysville Concerned Citizens and all those who contributed to the effort converged to result in a new government for the majority Black town.

January 15th 1988

5TH ANNUAL
MLK BIRTHDAY
COMMEMRATION

of the Keysville Black electorate turned out to vote on election day. Observers also noted the phenomenal response of the Black electorate to the write-in vote. The write-in voting procedure really caught on among Black voters.

Election day strategy included several important components which were based upon solving a number of political and/or practical questions as election day drew near.

The keys were to break the fear and hold over many Keysville voters by the Keysville Nursing Home where many residents worked; to maintain unity in the community by including in the campaign the efforts all residents of Keysville who were made ineligible as voters by the boundaries drawn by county officials; a sound plan to get the vote out on election day; and a massive voter education effort to teach eligible voters how to use the voting machine and how to "write-in" a vote in an election that would run very close (by design).

The creation of the boundaries by Burke County officials actually worked against the interests of the Keysville Black majority. Many Keysville residents who had lived in the same homes in Keysville for years were suddenly disqualified to run for office because their homes fell outside of the boundary drawn for the election by Burke County officials.
BLACK WORKERS POLITICAL PLATFORM CAMPAIGN

ORGANIZE FOR POLITICAL UNITY AND INDEPENDENT POLITICAL ACTION

On January 16, 1988 the Black Workers Political Platform Campaign will launch the National Black Primary Campaign.

The launchings will be initiated from the Black Workers For Justice's Fifth Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Labor Banquet to be held on January 16 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The National Black Primary Campaign will be organized during the opening months of this year, as 1988 is a year of crucial importance to the Black Liberation Movement. While Black people must support the candidacy of Jesse Jackson in 1988 for president, they must also work to unify and consolidate the movement. The struggle for political power is a key focus for the movement in the coming decade.

Primary Campaign

The National Black Primary is a tactical political campaign organized to develop and unify Black people and all oppressed and progressive people around some political demands and issues during the 1988 presidential campaign.

These demands and issues will not be dependent upon the decisions of the Democratic or Republican parties or the outcome of their primaries and national conventions.

The National Black Primary will be held from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday thru February 29, 1988, the last day of Black History Month. The Black Workers Political Platform Campaign will conduct primary balloting at churches, union halls, community centers, workplaces, and door to door. Participants will vote on some of the key issues affecting their lives as Black people and as workers. Every activity honoring Dr. King and for Black History Month should conduct a Black Primary balloting. Publicity and meetings should be held to give the Black Primary a popular projection.

Throughout the country in the 1980s the Black political movement in the electoral arena has grown with intensity. Important and well organized campaigns have been conducted in many places with relative success, resulting in the election of Black Mayors in several major northern, midwestern and southern cities and Black officials in many local, county and statewide offices particularly in the Black Belt South.

The 1984 Jesse Jackson presidential campaign was an important vehicle for giving these local and statewide movements a national, and international character.

The call for unity of all oppressed nationalities and workers in 1984 to form the Rainbow Coalition was not an abstract call. While it was made formally by Jackson, the basis for its development was having the struggle for Black political power as the center and anchor for such a political alliance.

The weakness in the political consciousness of movement for Black political power, and thus its leading role in the Rainbow Coalition, is its lack of a self-determined political program, independent of the policies and politics of the Democratic and Republican parties.

December 7, 1987

To the Editor:

This letter is addressed to independent forces struggling for political power concerning our relationship to the Jesse Jackson campaign and the Rainbow Coalition.

Jackson has announced his candidacy for the Democratic Presidential nomination, which in all likelihood he will not receive just like in 1984. The Rainbow Coalition has initiated a massive voter registration drive which will benefit the Democratic Party without making any concessions, particularly to the African-American community, wherever we be.

Therefore, there are several things for us to consider:

1) This time more emphasis is being placed on his campaign and less emphasis being placed on building a mass base which could strengthen local struggles. Also, the enthusiasm we saw in 1984 is not present this time around. Why? Because the first time around Jackson represented a repudiation of the two party system. He was not supported, at least by African-Americans, because he was running as a Democratic candidate.

2) Jackson has all but ruled out an independent if he does not receive the Democratic Party nomination. In fact he is sounding now more as a MAINSTREAM POLITICIAN (Dec. 26, 1987) City Sun, Jackson Says Issue Is Jobs, wanting for the voters, and less for the struggile for Black Liberation Movement.

Also, the Rainbow Coalition is its leading role in the Rainbow Coalition, is its lack of a self-determined political program, independent of the policies and politics of the Democratic and Republican parties.

Continued page 11

WORKERS SPEAK OUT

Since no one in 1985 received the Democratic nomination, in fact no one could have, for independent efforts have been blocked by both major parties and the media.

Therefore, the National Black Primary is not for us to run a candidate, but for us to push the independent position -- that the party movements have been successful if we haven't since question has never been a third party movement. Instead a second independent of the two look-alike parties Democratic & Republican for equal political power for Blacks, Latin Americans, all nationalities, poor working class folks.

4) Since no one can use the Rainbow as well as Jackson himself, is talking about independent political power, how do we relate? 20% continued next page

Thur.

On the 70th anniversary of the birth of the Black Workers Political Platform Campaign launched by the National Black Primary Campaign, a particular national demand has been raised: the need to organize management-run election in support of independent forces.
FREMONT BLACK ALDERMEN FIGHT RACIST PROPOSAL

On the day that they were sworn into office, the three newly elected Black aldermen of Fremont, NC, wanted to be a part of a program for a new direction and progressive change. However, this is not just a struggle to be waged by the Black aldermen alone. The Black community and all justice-minded citizens must be actively involved.

The three Black aldermen opposed the mayor’s proposal. Alderman Andy Evans and Mickey Drummond argued in favor, with one alderman abstaining (which counts as no vote). The needs of the various departments are determined by the needs of the citizens and the growth and service patterns of the town. It is clear, that the growth and service patterns have been racist against the Black community. It has the worse streets, the least number of city workers, the poorest recreation and drainage problems. This has existed largely because there were no Black aldermen on the town board to serve in any departments for so long.

Departmental control is an important aspect of political power. This is especially key in Fremont, the issues of affirmative action, equal pay and comparable worth and equal allocation of services and resources, must be immediately addressed as part of a program for a new direction and progressive change.

The hopes and dreams of the three newly elected Black aldermen, Sylvester Anderson, Leroy Ruffin (re-elected), and Calvin Harvey, have been a part of a proposal from the new elected mayor, Oscar Johnson, to restructure the management of the town government. Johnson proposed that the current system, with each department exercising total control over a particular department, be eliminated, to be replaced with a city manager-run system and one standing committee on finance.

The stated reason for the change was that the city manager system is more efficient and that most towns are changing to city managers. Despite the questionings by Aldermen Harvey and Ruffin who asked for evidence of problems with the current system, no one could produce any major problems. According to the most recent report from the Institute of Government entitled, "Fore of Government of North Carolina Cities", 1985 edition, out of 225 towns with populations from 500 to 2500, 146 are operated under the Mayor-Council system, which is currently used by Fremont, and only 31 function under the Council-Manager system, the newly proposed system.

The truth of the matter is, that there were no plans to change the current system, until Fremont agreed, after pressure from Black citizens, to adopt a ward system of elections, in place of its at-large system. This proposed restructuring is clearly a racist political act, aimed at eliminating any degree of direct control by Black elected officials over the internal workings of the Fremont local government. It will reduce Black political municipal power to a one-day-a-month meeting to vote on policy, without any direct knowledge of the departmental and budget issues which are so making effective policies.

Fremont’s population is 1,736, with a yearly budget of $1.7 million. Several years ago, a business owned by the father of a white alderman, got free electricity for 11 months. How much of the hubbub grants privilege to the white establishment and greater attention to the needs of the white community in Fremont.

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THROUGH STRUGGLE, YOUTH’S DREAM COMES TRUE

Since he was a very small boy, 16 year old Calvin Harvey, son of Billy and Rebece Harvey of Fremont, NC, wanted to be a firefighter. Like most Black youth in the Black Belt South, Fremont, up until 3 years ago, had no Blacks on their fire department. They had none on the reason, four, only 2 in part-time police positions (now 1) and only 1 on the town council. The hopes and dreams of Black youth in the Black Belt South are often different from what any white person ever had. They have a poor self image and are ashamed of their southern heritage. They leave the towns and communities of their birth for larger cities in the South.

Calvin, a junior at Charles R. Aycock High School in Wayne County, with good grades, has been Junior Fireman since July 1987. He is the first and only Black Junior Fireman in Fremont.

As a Junior Fireman, Calvin has received over 30 hours of training at Craven County Community College in New Bern, the towns of Eureka and Fremont in fire equipment handling, traffic control, and maintenance. He serves on the traffic control committee -- directing traffic during fires -- and he drives a fire truck. He has assisted in 13 fires since September 1987. He is well able to directly fight fires at age 18.

Helping the community is nothing new to Calvin. He participated in organizing a Community Health Fair in Fremont in 1986, which provides free health screenings to 500 people. He worked in the health fair and helped to conduct a community health survey.

Pride, determination

and struggle will make dreams come true for Black youth in the Black Belt South.
THE MEANING OF THE KEYSVILLE VICTORY

Editors Note: This is the speech given by Ashaki M. Brooks at the closing victory rally in Keysville on January 4. Ashaki Binta worked with the Keysville Concerned Citizens as an organizer in the reactivation campaign, sponsored by Christie Institute-South. She is a member of Black Workers For Justice and development director for Christie Institute-South.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to speak to you tonight.

First of all I would like to talk about Christie Institute-South. Many of you ask what is Christie Institute? What does Christie mean? Well, I don't know what Christie means but I do know what Christie Institute-South does.

We are a public interest law firm and organizing team that specializes in racial and social justice issues in the South. We don't charge money to clients for our work so we have to raise funds from donors and foundations. That's my job. And although that's my job, that is not my politics.

In North Carolina I am a member of Black Workers For Justice. And although we are a small mass organization, some of us consider ourselves to be freedom fighters. And we try to study and think politically in terms of the conditions of Black people based on the outlook of a freedom fighter.

I think that what we have experienced here in our struggle in the last two years in Keysville has to do with justice certainly but it also has to do with the issue of political power for working class and poor Black people and I think this is very important. Because our struggle here in Keysville didn't start with the issue of politics as usual. It started with a just struggle to change our conditions. So we haven't been waging in my view a political campaign. But it's been a political struggle for justice fought in the electoral arena.

And many of our campaigns in the 80's have been fought in the electoral arena: the Harold Washington Campaign in Chicago; the Jesse Jackson Campaign for president in 1984; and the Keysville struggle for Justice from late 1985 thru 1988.

So I believe that as such, Keysville must represent, in its political leadership, and you are in a position to give political leadership to many people across the South. But I think that we have to represent a rejection of politics as usual. And I think that we need to define a new political arena for Black people...giving the electoral struggle as it is going on a new meaning. And a meaning that is based on justice for Black people and for all people who wish to unite with a genuine movement for freedom.

So the fight for justice for Black people must mean a rejection of these false politics that are represented in so many of our local, state, national, and even international political organizations. It must mean a rejection of the corruption that is prevalent all throughout the South. Many of these apartheid systems are corrupt that is why we are receiving basic services and why we suffer a warinessness through the South. Proceed with caution. I don't know what will happen with the Ford Foundation or the others. They try to usurp this struggle for political power and freedom and justice and we've experienced this in Keysville and turn this something meaningful, sometimes they bring in money to entice us to caution.

Let us misunderstand the meaning of this struggle. The struggle of the women at the nursing home is very key to our victory tonight. It was very key to our victory. It represents something about the conditions that we are suffering as a people throughout the South and around the country. The struggle that is going on at the nursing home...is a struggle of the women for their home...is a struggle of the women for the respect and willfulness of the men to come forward to meet the conditions there. The fact that one of our representatives is a State Representative and Brooks, who came forward...
BWFJ WINS AGAINST SHONEY'S

Since August 20, 1986, the black community and all just minded people have been used to BOYCOTT SHONEY'S RESTAURANT STORES IN WAKE COUNTY, Durham and Rocky Mount, North Carolina until justice was done.

SETTLEMENT AGAINST SHONEY'S

Today, we would like to inform you that a settlement has been reached between Shoney workers, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Management of Shoney's South, Inc. In addition to a financial employee settlement, Shoney Restaurants in Wake County have agreed to do the following:

- Make its recruitment, training, selection, and hiring processes comply with Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act regarding employment discrimination.
- Establish an Affirmative Action Program to increase blacks/females in management training programs.
- Encourage Blacks/Females to apply for such jobs.
- Advertise in the media, particularly media that target the Black Labor Market.
- Post and disseminate requests for management training opportunities and job vacancies to those interested black and female employees.
- Promote to employees in order to improve this situation. Shoney's with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws.
- Post notices to employees that no action will be taken against workers for taking up issues and complaints of race or sex employment discrimination in the workplace.

As of this day, this coalition along with Shoney workers will monitor the implementation of this agreement. We urge you to go back to Shoney's and look for progress. We welcome all justice minded people to participate in the on-going survey/questionnaire.

FIGHTING WHITE SUPREMACY

OPPOSE RACIST ORGANIZATIONS

The ugly face of organized racism again reared its head in Greensboro with a march December 28 in the downtown area. As in the past, the police protected the racists.

White supremacy seeks to organize white people on the basis of the ridiculous notion that whites as a race are superior to non-white people. U.S. white supremacist ideology justifies slavery and the formation of the Confederacy. U.S. white supremacist ideas justified the post Civil War Jim Crow laws, a form of U.S. apartheid. Although Jim Crow discrimination is no longer legal, discrimination, segregation, economic exploitation and the denial of the right of national self-determination force the black laboring people in the U.S. to live as second class citizens.

The call of the white supremacists for 'white unity' must be rejected by white people. Black people must be careful and not be provoked into lumping all whites into the camp of the white supremacists.

The Workers' Freedom Bulletin calls for principled unity between workers and progressive people - women, Blacks and whites. This type of unity is needed to defeat supremacist groups and to build an effective movement against the economic crisis facing working people today.

The unity will not come easily. Racism, sexism, and prejudice have been used for years to keep people separated. Workers and tollers have always been discouraged from organizing themselves with their own class agenda.

There is a lot to learn and a lot of work to do. But as the old saying goes, "The sooner begun, the sooner done."

Workers' Freedom Bulletin
Greensboro, NC, December 16, 1987
CANDIDATES AND SUPPORTERS STAND BY FOR ELECTION RESULTS

KEEN ORGANIZATION MAKES VICTORY POSSIBLE

Willie J. Rucker, Councilmembers Alvin Lewis, Mary Holland discuss Election Day activities.

JUBILATION AT THE COUNCIL MEETING
OVER 90% TURNOUT AMONG BLACK VOTERS

POLITIC POWER IN ACTION

ELECTION VIEW KEYSVILLE

THE PROGRESS WINS!

PLATFORM CAMPAIGN OBSERVERS AND OTHERS WAIT IN ELECTION HEADQUARTERS

w, Mary Holland, Sue Morris, Mayor Emma Crenshaw, and Councilman Clayton Neely.
SPEAK OUT FOR INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN’S DAY

A major International Women’s Day celebration calling for a Women’s Plank on the Black Worker’s Political Platform Campaign will be sponsored by members and friends of the BWFJ Women’s Commission. That’s one important result of the Second Women’s Speak Out sponsored by the BWFJ Women’s Commission. Women attended from several North Carolina counties and workplaces.

This Speak Out, which took place in Durham, was a direct outgrowth of the first Women’s Speak Out last March in Rocky Mount commemorating International Women’s Day 1989. While issues of jobs, working conditions, lack of adequate daycare and health services were discussed at the Rocky Mount event, the major issue heard was abuse in the home — child and spouse abuse as well as incest. This time, the workers cited the struggle to secure job, home and children’s needs. Many talked about their struggle to handle these responsibilities and still find time to develop themselves. Related to this is forced overtime on the job. Many jobs, especially plants in the eastern counties, are pushing workers 10-12 hours daily, 6 and 7 days a week. The women said that the toll this is taking on them.

The BWFJ has joined Black community groups, rank and file unionists, and progressive folk across North Carolina who have launched a political petition campaign to get Jesse Jackson on the N. C. ballot for the Super Tuesday Primaries, March 8, 1989.

This growing petition movement is a response to the federal and N. C. state laws that keep candidates with grassroots or independent platforms and support, from positing a challenge to the democratic and republican parties. Candidates with millions of dollars in their presidential war chests given by the huge multinational corporations and millionaires, but with little grassroots support from everyday workers, are not required to collect 10,000 signatures.

In the Black Belt of North Carolina and the South, this petition campaign presents: 1) political opportunities for getting rid of the illusion of political democracy for all, 2) the need for Black political power as the first step towards an end to racist national oppression, and 3) a chance to build a political platform campaign to address the need of workers in our community.

Jackson’s platform addresses some aspects of such a program. For instance, the recent movement and voting rights lawsuit against the N.C. Pitt County Government challenges its racist at-large system which denies democratic representation of Blacks and their political needs.

The recent layoffs of workers at EvertReady, Inc. were made to the need for a program for unemployed workers. The Black farm workers and small farmers facing the devastation of a dislocated agricultural economy have needs now.

The Jackson campaign addresses these issues to some degree, but Black workers must seize this present mobilization to link up their issues to the Jackson campaign’s challenge to the system of a rich millionaire party and its empty shell game that hides empty promises for Blacks, workers, and the underclass.

JACKSON ON NC BALLOT?

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KEYSVILLE

From page 1

Leaders and organizers were suspicious of how the boundary had been drawn. Roughly 23 Black voters had been left outside of the boundary — about 25% and leaving the electorate at half white and half black.

Secondly, covert pressures were being organized against the community by the nursing home where nearly 40 Blacks have lived and worked. Rumors abound in the community that those voters by about 25% and about half white and half black.

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A BLACK UNITED FRONT

While the movement blossomed to elect a Black man, the Black community needed to forge a kind of organizational and political unity front that was separate from the Washington campaign organization. Two key groups, the Chicago Black United Communities (CBUC) and the African Community of Chicago, organized a separate front.

The African Community of Chicago was a longstanding Black activist group that had become more politically organized and motivated in recent years, leading the campaign against the South African Racial Tom when it came to play in Chicago and other primarily cultural events. The Community was headed by Dr. Conrad Morris, now president of the National Black United Front.

Many other organizations, community activists, and electoral activists were part of the front. Some had a more developed political program than others. The United Front formally named itself, The Task Force For Black Political Power.

The Task Force for Black Political Power became the organizational base of the popular black mass movement.

At the same time, the strictly electoral political campaigns remained separate from the Task Force. Those groups operated under the leadership of the Washington Campaign organization.

Washington's Campaign organization was filled with constant confusion and opportunism. A new campaign leadership took over every few weeks.

But the movement grew and when it took on the most massive political and organizational challenges all across Chicago including many non-black communities.

The Washington Campaign also had problems raising money so campaign literature was often scarce — but in a mass movement, the masses provide the answers.

A campaign button movement started within the movement. "Roll millions of people were passing out and wearing the black "Washington" buttons as a symbol of the depth of his movement.

Even the smallest children in the Black communities of Chicago knew the name of Harold Washington and claimed that they would vote for him. The movement had real depth and power.

Meanwhile, two major debates were held within the Task Force that would eventually move to have important consequences for the political thrust of the movement.

The debates concerned the relationship of the Task Force to the formal Washington Campaign and the nature of the campaign the Task Force would work to organize among the people.

The result was that the Task Force remained organizationally separate from the Washington Campaign, but not politically separate.

This meant that no meaningful slouches giving political content and raising effective demands would be organized among the people.

The leaders of the Task Force ensured this direction by expressing fear that any slogans or demands that were too political could hurt the Washington Campaign.

A united front is an organization that represents different class interests within one program or campaign. Each organization within a front must act independently to represent its class interest, but under a single banner or with a single voice.

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The Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble: Inspiring the Struggle with Freedom Songs.

WHY WAS THE FRUIT OF LABOR ORGANIZED?

During the spring of 1984, the North Carolina Black Workers for Justice (BWFJ) commissioned the Raleigh/Wake chapter to assist in organizing a cultural singing ensemble. This ensemble's purpose is to carry our history and cultural traditions to our workplace and community struggles against our class and racial national oppression.

WHO ARE WE?

We are "everyday" Black workers - women, men and youth! We sing songs to inspire, educate, motivate, working and grassroots people in the "Freedom Movement" and in the struggle against racism, sexism and unfair/unjust labor conditions.

HOW IS THE FRUIT OF LABOR ORGANIZED?

We meet at 1:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. We bring records, songs and new ideas to our meetings. We discuss ensemble business, as well as, the struggles going on in our workplaces, communities and unions. We try to relate messages of our struggles as working people in our songs. Please bring friends, co-workers and youth who are interested in adding their talents and strength as workers to the growing Freedom Movement and the Workers Rights struggle.

Please contact our ensemble coordinator and public relations person, Irene Goodson at:
833-5269
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Saturday
for information regarding joining our meetings or setting up engagements for events at which you may wish to attend.

If you have written any labor or freedom songs, send your written songs or tapes to our education and music coordinator, Nathanette Mayo, at:
Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble
P.O. Box 3074
Raleigh, NC 27605

LISTEN TO JUSTICE SPEAKS RADIO

INTERVIEWS, NEWS, CALL-INS 919 755-4891
THURSDAYS 7-8 PM WSHA 88.9 FM

CULTURE IN STRUGGLE

FREMONT

"Ayes" vote! The bodv of the city council in case of a tie, vote of mayor cast his or her vote in favor of the aldermen, regardless of what the issue is. Alderman Ruffin started into a motion that the proposal be suspended until it is to be studied. The proposal was tabled until the next meeting. This was to see the political struggle of the Black citizens come to a head. But it seems...

BLACK FREEDOM MUSIC FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, FEB. 17, 1968
11AM, YOUNG MISSIONARY GOSPEL CHURCH, 110 W. STATE, RALEIGH.

SPONSORED BY: FRUIT OF LABOR SINGING ENSEMBLE, YOUNG MISSIONARY GOSPEL CHOIR, HOUSE OF THE LORD, ALEXANDER GUMMEL GROUP

PURPOSE: To examine our past and present role in the Freedom Struggle in the context of the nation, community (workplaces), to convene a gathering of black churches, community organizations and workers and activists to share perspectives, analysis and plans to revitalize the spiritual and music cultural traditions of our present day freedom struggle internationally in the US, our communities and workplaces.

Our present day freedom struggle must bring their struggle a basis of it. An effective strategy must be based on the struggle of the people. The people's will will demand official action be taken on issues we will of the elected officials on the ground. The sin of the church is backward the people - leadership of people. The people will demand official action be taken on issues we will of the elected officials on the ground. The sin of the church is backward the people. The people will demand official action be taken on issues we will of the elected officials on the ground.

The Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble: Inspiring the Struggle with Freedom Songs.
PRIMARY

Political Unity

The unity of the Black political movement cannot and should not be based on a program or platform of the working people. It must be based on a program and strategy for winning Black power over the social, economic, political, and military institutions that affect our lives, enabling us to advance toward real liberation.

An effective program for Black political unity and power must be based on the political power of and for building a strong people's political alliance in the form of the rainbow. It must identify the key issues and demands to direct, unify, and mobilize the many struggles taking place around the country.

The key objective of a political movement is to alter the balance of power between the system and the forces of oppression by the masses of people victimized everyday by that system. It must also make the people conscious of the power to change and improve their conditions through organization and struggle.

Black elected officials are an important aspect of the struggle for Black political power, but they are the result of this struggle and not the basis of it.

An effective program and strategy cannot be based on the political program or will of the elected officials alone. It must be based on the needs and will of the people, who elected officials must be accountable to.

The aim of the Black Primary and the Platform Campaign is to bring forward the character, organization, and leadership of everyday Black people — the Black working class — as the shapers and makers of liberation for Black people and a better society for all people.

The Platform Campaign is calling on local groups and mass church and community organizations throughout the country to participate in the Black Primary. In March 88 there will be a national unity and announce the results of the Primaries. Primary ballots can be sent to you for your reproduction and use. Please write BLACK CONTEST, P.O. BOX 1863, Rocky Mt., NC 27602, (919) 977-8162. Join the Black Workers Political Platform Campaign! Honor Dr. King through political action!

WORKERS

Carry petitions for delegates to the Democratic convention! If so, what platform issues are we asking those delegates to commit themselves to and fight for? (Do we participate in the campaign and the Rainbow)? If so, we independents with an independent program or an amorphous unity with no program or alternative to offer? There are many questions which need to be answered and were left unanswered the last time around.

In Struggle & Unity,
Al Demuily, Box 242, Williamsbridge Sta., Bronx, NY 10467

HAITI

Was willing to go and stand in front of the nursing home...... easier.

But we stood there for the rights of the workers to the nursing home and the rights of the whole community to fight back.

And that very struggle broke the back of fear in this community and allowed us to really unite and be prepared for this victory.

In the South, our struggles in counties, towns, districts...... we must fight for political power in all these areas...... must be combined with the fight for political power among working people on their job.

And what is political power? It is organization, having a program, raising demands, and it is fighting and struggling for those demands. That is what we have done in Keysville.

SPEECH

Support the struggles of the Haitian People

The Haitian people have been carrying out mass demonstrations, both in Haiti and in the US, against the reactionary military junta now ruling the country. In these demonstrations they have clearly targeted US imperialism as the major source of their problems. In its hypocritical way, the US government has been deploying the "failure of the recent elections." It is considering the possibility of armed intervention in Haiti, either alone or as part of a force organized under the banner of the Organization of American States, to "restore democracy in Haiti." But the US imperialists have never been interested in genuine democracy in Haiti. They only want a regime that is best suited to help them exploit the Haitian people and to turn the country into a strategic base for US interests. We in the US must completely oppose all forms of US interference in Haiti. We must support all efforts of the Haitian people to throw off US imperialism and the Haitian reactionary military junta! We must support Haitian revolutionaries who have raised the slogan: "Revelisyon - se set solisyon! (Revolution - the only solution)!!
HAITIANS FIGHT EXPLOITATION

IMPERIALISM CAUSES POVERTY

HAITI'T'S POVERTY: A CONSEQUENCE OF DOMINATION
BY US IMPERIALISM & THE LOCAL REACTIONARY CLASSES

In February, 1986, mass demonstrations of the Haitian people forced Jean-Claude Duvalier to flee the country, bringing an end almost 30 years of the US-imposed Duvalier family dictatorship. Since then, the US has supported a military junta made up mostly of Duvalierist elements. This junta, together with Duvalier's aides and their Tonton Macoutes, have continued to repress the Haitian people in both the cities and the countryside. This has led to many bloody massacres, culminating in the cancellation of the November 29 elections in which some 150 people were murdered by the army and the Macoutes. Let us look at some of the background to the current situation in Haiti.

THE CONDITIONS OF THE HAITIAN MASS

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The average yearly income is $260, but 60% of the people live on only about $60 a year. Unemployment is very high, between 60% and 70%. At least 40% of the people die before the age of 30 years. Conditions are worse in the countryside, where between 75% and 85% of the people live. Only about 10% of the people have water that is fit to drink. The illiteracy rate is between 94% and 95%. This is in part because school instruction is in French, the language of the ruling class, although the vast majority of the people speak Creole which is derived from French and west African languages.

HAITI'S POLITICAL ECONOMY

For most of this century, Haiti has been kept in a semi-feudal state. The great majority of the people are peasants, who work for the landlords. About 60% of the population owns 60% of the land.
Justice Speaks
Black Workers for Justice

Vol. 5 No. 5
March 88
Twenty-Five Cents

VOTE JACKSON ON MARCH 8!
FOR A WORKERS’ BILL OF RIGHTS
SEE PAGE 3

The South has long been the country’s poorest region. It is where the highest percentages of Black and poor people live and where sharpest features of racist oppression and worker exploitation takes place. And because of the South’s history of national oppression in demanding Black people effective voting rights, it has for some time been the base of the most conservative and racist elements of the Democratic and Republican Parties.

The Civil Rights and Black Power struggles of the past 35 years have greatly challenged and weakened the forms of conservative racist rule over the South’s electoral process. This Black political challenge, while taking on organizational forms such as the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, the Lowess County Alabama Black Panther Party, and others which were open to oppressive and unjust criminal justice system, drug courts, series of unresolved murders, end to poverty and exploitation. Indians and Blacks in the county are all interconnected.

Recently, Hatcher and Jacobs sent a letter thru Secretary Gorbachov to Soviet Union General Secretary Gorbachov and council William Kunstler will be meeting this week to talk about Leonad Peltier.

The unusual form of political protest by the two Indians, now awaiting trial under federal authority in the North Carolina Cumberland County Jail, served to capture the hearts and imaginations of thousands of people in Robeson County and the attention of millions both nationally and internationally.

A POLITICAL DEFENSE EffORT NEEDED

Hatcher and Jacobs raised clear political demands of the federal government (“the state”) in the hostage taking incident. Consequently, efforts to defend them will continued page 2

INDIANS STRIKE A BLOW FOR FREEDOM

“We had to do this to try to bring something in here that would help all the people of this county. It ain’t just the Indians and Blacks, the whites are suffering too under a protest level of government,” explained Eddie Hatcher during a 10 hour siege of a small daily newspaper office inumberton, North Carolina.

The siege on February 1, 1988, orchestrated by 30 year old Tuscarora Indian Eddie Hatcher and fellow Tribeman, 19 year old Timothy Jacobs, held 17 Robesonian Newspaper employees and customers hostage while political demands were raised to local, state, and federal government officials about conditions and corruption in Robeson County.

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presidential elections. Super Tuesday, thus, must be a massive mobilization of Black political power, so as to effectively establish itself as a political center and anchor for a progressive political movement and agenda.

The Black communities throughout the South, must be one organized, conscious and visible force on Super Tuesday. They must be organized and mobilized around those issues that affect their lives and communities in alliance with those issues that affect all working class and poor people regardless of race. Unless Black people are mobilized around those issues sharply affecting their lives, then the organizations formed around those issues may not effectively serve to help get out the vote on Super Tuesday, and may not effectively participate in building a progressive coalition beyond Super Tuesday. This will be especially true, if these Black issues groups are made to feel that their coming forward or raising their issues would hurt Jackson’s chances for the Democratic nomination or possible presidential election.

Getting out the vote for Jesse Jackson on Super Tuesday, requires mass organization. This means connecting issues articulated by Jackson to the organizations of Black people as well as working class and poor people in general, showing the link between them and the power in the South, our main work for Super Tuesday, is to ensure a very large voter mobilization of the Black electorate and as much support possible from the over all working class and poor voting population. We must have signs and flyers at the polling places with issues and saving Vote Jackson! We should be at the worksites encouraging people to vote Jackson. We should be every place encouraging people to vote Jackson.

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INDIANS

have to develop out of a clear political thrust. Among the demands put forward by Hatcher during the siege were: an end to the oppression suffered by Indians and Blacks in Robeson County; an investigation into the untimely death of Billy McKellar, a young Black man denied medical attention until he died in the Robeson County jail; and an investigation into corruption and drug trafficking allegedly thru the Robeson County sheriff's department and other branches of the criminal justice system.

The key for the defense of both Indians and Black communities of Robeson County and throughout North Carolina.

It is crucial for both communities to unite under an uncrossing political line and agenda that targets the corrupt local county government and the unresponsive state and federal governments to the vastly oppressive conditions in the county.

A centralized leadership operating under this single, clear political line and continually demanding their release is the only possibility to force the hand of the state.

In order to raise demands around corruption, intact conditions, and the release of Hatcher and Jacob, effectively, the Indian and Black communities will have to be

well organized. This is crucially important.

On the legal front, a well organized "necessity defense" must be pursued. Under the law, the necessity defense argues that circumstances may force someone to commit a crime to society and/or to his or herself.

The key for the defense of both Indians rests primarily with the defense fund has been organized to raise money for bail and defense of both Indian brothers, one other defendant who has valuable information on numerous problems in the county. To date, reportedly more than 300 signatures have been gathered. The committee has about 50 signatures to be gathered by the end of March. Additionally, defense fund has been organized to raise money for bail and defense of both Indian brothers, one other defendant who has valuable information on numerous problems in the county. To date, reportedly more than 300 signatures have been gathered. The committee has about 50 signatures to be gathered by the end of March. Additionally, defense fund has been organized to raise money for bail and defense of both Indian brothers, one other defendant who has valuable information on numerous problems in the county.

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The necessity defense has reportedly been utilized effectively in minor civil cases such as nuclear plant protests, anti-apartheid protests, and some prison escoves, but reportedly not utilized so much in criminal defense efforts.

Nevertheless, without such a defense, soundly based in an active political defense movement in Robeson County and throughout the country, the Indian brothers may well face life imprisonment under new federal terrorist hostage taking charges.
JACKSON'S WORKERS' BILL OF RIGHTS

1. WORKERS HAVE A RIGHT TO A JOB: People need jobs and there are jobs which need to be done. We can build the housing, roads, and bridges, that we need as well as provide care for this nation's people. We can end poverty without notice and development without hope.

2. WORKERS HAVE A RIGHT TO A DEMOCRATIC WORKPLACE: All workers, including public employees, should be able to organize themselves into democratic unions, have those unions recognized, and work under a collective bargaining agreement.

3. WORKERS HAVE A RIGHT TO A LIVING WAGE: People who work full-time should be able to rise out of poverty on their pay. American families need family wages. Young workers (youth) need opportunity.

4. WORKERS HAVE A RIGHT TO A HEALTHY AND SAFE WORKPLACE: Workers need affordable and accessible health care, a right to know the dangers at work, and good faith enforcement by skilled experts of the laws meant to protect their lives.

5. WORKERS HAVE A RIGHT TO BOTH WORK AND FAMILY: No one should be forced to choose between a paycheck and a sick child, or between keeping their job and giving birth.

6. WORKERS HAVE A RIGHT TO PENSION SECURITY: A pension belongs to the worker, not to the company. Every worker is entitled to one as secure as FICA. Workers should have a voice in ensuring that their pension funds be used in their own interest, not against them.

SUPPORT STANDARD PRODUCTS WORKERS' RIGHT TO ORGANIZE A UNION

Workers at Standard Products Company have been trying to organize a union for four years. In 1984 a majority of workers signed union cards clearly showing a desire for the union. But Standard Products management violated the National Labor Relations Act by discharging union activists, threatening to close the plant, and saying that a vote for the union would inevitably lead to a strike and loss of jobs. The discharges of union activists and massive threats were so potent that the majority of workers voted against the union.

The National Labor Relations Board and the 4th Circuit Court ruled that a new election must be held, because Standard Products violated the law prior to the election in 1984. A series of meetings revived the themes of plant closings and strikes -- the very same things for which it was found guilty the last time.

Then, on Friday, February 19, Standard fired one union activist and gave two others a 3-day suspension. The week before, another union activist was suspended for three days because during a captive-audience meeting he raised questions about the unfairness of a company promotion practice. Also, a group of pro-union workers was written up for minor continued page 7
CALL TO JUSTICE
Analysis, Views & Demands from the BWFJ

WORKERS COMING FORWARD:
EDITORIAL POLICY CHANGE

Justice Speaks, the newspaper of the Black Workers For Justice (BWFJ), at the service of the struggle for Black political power and liberation and for the rights of all workers to control the condition of their labor, has over the years had an editorial policy of not using the names of workers with the articles written in the newspaper.

The policy was seen as a way of protecting workers from possible retaliation from the companies, while exposing the conditions inside the workplace and giving direction to the workers.

Our intent was not to encourage workers to be afraid to openly speak out against the wrong doings of their employers and organize the workers. No! We want workers to be bold, while guided by sound organizing tactics and methods.

We now believe that where possible, workers at the workplace as well as unemployed and injured workers, need to be able to identify with other workers they work with and know. This will encourage other workers to speak out and seek out those workers writing articles to help them organize, etc.

We are continuously trying to find ways of increasing "Justice Speaks" distribution at the workplace and in the communities. Certainly, we will continue to protect those workers writing articles, whose conditions make it unwise for their names to be identified.

Beginning with our April edition we will begin using by-lines on most of the articles written in "Justice Speaks". We will keep this policy in effect for 6 months, at which time an assessment will be made for future policy on this question.

We call on our readers, to give their opinions on this editorial decision, by writing letter to the editor.

WHERE WE STAND!

- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
- FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor
- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops"
- FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
- FOR health and safety on the job and in the community
- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racist national oppression of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities
- FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!
March 12, 1988 will mark the second year the WFWJ Women's Commission will celebrate International Working Women's Day. On March 12, at the Durham YMCA, Nicaraguan Lenora Huper, will join Palestinian Rebab Hadi, and women of the South African, Native American and African American national freedom movements in a one-day mini-conference. The program, which contains workshops, music, panel discussions, poetry and drama skits has the purpose of sharing information and solidarity between our national movements and us, as women workers.

"The second purpose," says Elaine Dillahunt, WFWJ Women's Commission chair, "is to find out from Black women workers what they feel are critical issues to form a Women's Plank of the Black Workers Political Platform. Conference organizers want to come out with a task force of women who take the issues and discussions back to their workplaces, churches, friends, unions, neighbors, etc., so that women are actively represented at the Black Christian movement in September with a broadly talked-about issues on which to work.

Mini-conference workshops include Overworked and Underpaid: Conditions on the Job; Workshops in the Workplace: Jobs, Community and Family; and Health and Medical Care "The workshops are where we really urge women to come forward to lay out the issues closest to them. Each International Guest Speaker will co-coordinate a workshop. Two panels are the "International Panel" and "Bringing Politics into the Workplace & the Workplace into the Political Struggle" WHY INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY?

Abuse in the Home; Women in the Workforce: Jobbing Home, Job, Community & Family; and Health & Medical Care "The workshops are where we really urge women to come forward to lay out the issues closest to them. Each International Guest Speaker will co-coordinate a workshop. Two panels are the "International Panel" and "Bringing Politics into the Workplace & the Workplace into the Political Struggle" WHY INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY?

Women are half the world, yet work 2/3 of its labor. From South Africa, to Palestine, to the Black Belt South, all over the world men and women have organized national movements of liberation to better their living conditions and to control their future. Women have carried out outstanding responsibilities in these movements but in many cases, it has taken determined and sometimes monumental struggle by women to share in the same human rights as men and to be recognized as being workers, vital to society, or freedom fighters, or any role other than mother and wife.

African-American women have shared this same struggle. Black women workers face national oppression as Black people in the U.S.; face sexual harassment and oppression as women and exploitation as workers -- in other words, super-exploitation as the economic bottom of the pyramid of U.S. society.

Even so, Black women workers rarely are recognized as workers with specific and legitimate grievances and demands with the right to organize and build support around these issues. And rarely is it acknowledged that it is we who carry much of the work that holds our community organizations and churches together.

Just as workplace demands must become a part of the overall political struggle of African-Americans, so must the concerns, needs and demands of Black women become an integral part of the Black freedom movement. This is the role of the Women's Plank of the Black Worker's Political Platform Campaign.

Donation is $3; organized childcare and lunch will be available. For more information call 5269 (Raleigh); 977-2818 (Rocky Mount) and 28-9917 (Durham).

COMING OUT MARCH 12

MLK MARCH IN DANVILLE

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s national birthday celebrations, members of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Danville, Virginia and some citizens marched in Danville on Sunday, January 16 this year.

The march began at Newton Street and proceeded down Court, Patton, South Market, and Holbrook Streets until the procession reached Local Baptist Church.

Dr. George M. Wilson, pastor of Holbrook Street Presbyterian Church, was the spokesman.

CAN'T AFFORD HEALTH CARE

Health care cost climbed 7.9% last year to be a record average of $1,965 per employee, consultant A. Foster Higgins & Co., reported to the Wall Street Journal. For most workers in the South, where wages are the lowest in the U.S., this means that they cannot afford to carry health insurance. The fact that many counties in states like North Carolina are converting their hospitals from county-owned to private-owned, means that many workers and their families will go without health care.
KEYSVILLE FIRES UP MLK BANQUET

The highlight of this political and social event was this year’s keynote speaker, Keysville, Georgia Mayor Emma Gresham and the Black Primary Ballot. The Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble introduced this freedom fighter for Black political power with a song written and sung by their members, “Keysville, Keysville.” In addition to highlighting the struggle for political power in Keysville, Mrs. Gresham kicked off the important process of Black people voting on key issues affecting our lives as Black people and workers, a process independent of both the democratic and republican parties.

Represented at this banquet were rank-and-file workers without contracts from Rocky Mount’s Consolidated Diesel, Shoney’s workers victorious from their recent settlement against management, democratic rank-and-file activists from the Teamsters, the American Postal Workers Union activists from the Raleigh Cosmopolitan local, and AFSCME Local 1194 – Durham City workers barred from a contract by state law. Also present were community activists struggling for Black empowerment from Keysville, GA Concerned Citizens, NC Halifax County Black Caucus (a 47% Black county struggling to control its school board); NC Shiloh Coalition for Community Control and Improvement (struggling to block efforts to dislocate this Black freehold community); and the Burlington, NC NAACP (fresh from their recent victory for a paid King holiday for public service workers), and many other working class freedom fighters.

The annual Self-Determination Awards for distinguished service in the struggle of workers and for Black Liberation were awarded to the Halifax County Black Caucus, Keysville Concerned Citizens, Jim Wrenn of the NC Labor Education Fund and African Shalala of the BWFJ. The Shiloh Coalition surprised everyone when they presented banquet MC Nathanette Mavo with an award for her work in the Shiloh struggle.

The keynote presentation by AFWJ Raleigh local president and BWFJ member, Gordon Dillahunst used Steele Wonder’s lyrics to project the banquet themes:

- Honor Dr. King with Political Action!
- Cast Your Ballot in the Black Primary Campaign!
- Serve the People, Vote Jackson!
- Black Political Power in the Black Belt South!
- WomenareHalfTheWorld, 102/3 the Work, Join the BWFJ Women’s Commission!
- Unionize the South!

The Black Primary Balloting campaign will end with a press conference after Super Tuesday in Keysville, GA. The press conference will focus on the key issues raised by Black people as workers across the U.S. and the need for a National Black Workers Platform Campaign. This platform campaign will convene a national conference in September 1988 to hammer out a platform and program of action to address these issues nationally independently of the two major political parties.

**The Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble: Inspiring the Struggle with Freedom Songs.**

WHY WAS THE FRUIT OF LABOR ORGANIZED?

During the spring of 1984, the North Carolina Black Workers for Justice (BWFJ) commissioned the Raleigh/Wake chapter to assist in organizing a cultural singing ensemble. This ensemble’s purpose is to carry our history and cultural traditions to our workplace and community struggles against our oppressors.

WHO ARE WE?

We are “everyday” Black workers, women, men and youth! We sing songs to inspire, educate, motivate working and grassroots people in the Freedom Movement and in the struggle against racism, sexism and unjust/labor conditions.

HOW IS THE FRUIT OF LABOR ORGANIZED?

WHEN DO WE MEET?

We meet at 1:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. We bring records, songs and new ideas to our meetings. We discuss ensemble business, as well as the struggles going on in our workplaces, communities and unions. We try to relate messages of our struggles as working people in our songs. Please bring friends, co-workers and youth who are interested in adding their talents and strength as workers to the growing Freedom Movement and the Workers Rights struggle.

Please contact our ensemble coordinator and public relations person, Irene Goodson at:

833-5269
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Saturday

for information regarding joining our meetings or setting up engagements for events at which you may wish us to attend.

If you have written any labor or freedom songs, send your written songs or tapes to our education and music coordinator, Nathanette Mavo, at:

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P.O. Box 5574
Raleigh, NC 27605

Saxologist and freedom fighter Bilal Sunni Ali

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P.O. Box 5574
Raleigh, NC 27605

Saxologist and freedom fighter Bilal Sunni Ali

Keysville Mayor Gresham

Look at the MLK Banquet

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Saxologist and freedom fighter Bilal Sunni All
spoke for freedom and justice for the Palestinian people. We should join Mrs. King in condemning Israeli violence and calling on Israel to end its occupation of Palestinian lands and to let the Palestinian people achieve freedom and justice at last.

This is the time to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people as they struggle and suffer.

"At all the presidential candidates only Reverend Jesse Jackson has spoken in defense of Palestinian rights."

All people who struggled for freedom and justice for one people means one step forward toward freedom for all peoples. That is how the struggle of Black Americans is linked to the struggle of Blacks in South Africa, to the struggle of Palestinians in East, Latin Americans in and to the struggle of Black South Africa. It is a struggle in the name of all humanity.

American Constitution. The right of all people to freedom, human dignity and justice. These are the basic American principles that guided Martin Luther King and guide the struggle of the Palestinian people.

"The Palestinian people, like all other peoples all over the world, stood with the struggle of the Black people for freedom and justice. They condemned racism and repression and called for freedom and equal rights for the Black people in America & in the South in the 1960s."

Today, freedom is indivisible, and freedom of one people means one step forward toward freedom for all peoples. That is how the struggle of Black Americans is linked to the struggle of Blacks in South Africa, to the struggle of Palestinians in East, Latin Americans in and to the struggle of Black South Africa. It is a struggle in the name of all humanity.

DEAR EDITOR:

This letter is being addressed to Left and progressive forces concerning the struggle against police and racist repression, and the evolution of the new Black middleclass leadership which is being projected as representing the African American working class.

First, I think the Left errors when it does not make a class analysis of the forces operating in the struggle against police and racist repression. This is habitually error which is constantly made when it comes to the Black Liberation movement. The Sharpton's, the Mason's, Daughtery's and the rest do not represent the interest of the Black working class. All of these forces are seeking to replace the "old guard" without challenging the present structure and fighting to make fundamental structural changes. None of them came out against the corruption scandals which rocked New York City to the further impoverishment of the Black, Latino, Asian, poor and working class communities. Racism violence is the only problem affecting the Black community: 50,000 to 60,000 people are evicted yearly, the overwhelming number of which are Black, Latino, poor and working class.

The beneficiaries of this mass displacement are landlords, lawyers, City marshals, the real estate interest, banks, the city and politicians. There are 5,000 + families living in rat, vermin and drug infested shelters and welfare hotels, of which 85% are women, children, Black and Latino. There is no available decent affordable housing for poor and working class. In fact, they distance themselves. Daughtery was the only one who regularly showed up at the trial of police officer Stephen Sullivan, Eleanor Bumpurs' killer. Plus, many of them showed up for the third commemoration honoring Eleanor Bumpurs fighting spirit.

Finally, none of them are educating Black people about the the rise right here in New York City and Latino paramilitary youth culture, like the skin head and Aryan Nation youth. It is these White racist youth who the youth in Howard Beach and elsewhere take their direction from. Also, none of them are talkimg about community self defense or pointing out which communities these attacks are most likely to occur. If they did, then when Blacks and Latinos go into these communities, they would be treated like the skin head and Aryan Nation youth.

There is more, however, I will stop here. One last thin. As long as the Left suffers from inertia, does not make class analysis and disdains mass work, errors will continue to be made until the point that the State would be able to justify which would have no protection from the working class because we did not build mass organizations and trained leadership.

In Unity & Struggle
Al DeNully
Eleanor Bumpurs Justice Committee
BLACK AMERICANS AND PALESTINE:
A STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

by Dr. Hatem I. Hussaini,
International Studies Center, Shau University

Editors note: Below is a questionnaire comment about struggle in Palestine and the Afro-American Freedom Struggle in the 1950s.

The struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza is very similar to the struggle of the Black people in the South in the 1950's. Black Americans took to the streets in civil disobedience demanding freedom. They were attacked by the police, beaten and drowned to death, and some were shot and killed. The scenes of Israeli soldiers clubbing and attacking Palestinian demonstrators are similar to what Americans saw in the 1950's. They were horrified by the violence there and the U. S. government moved to put an end to attacks against the Black people and adopted laws to protect their civil and human rights. The Palestinian people in the occupied territories, similar to the Black people in the South in the 1950's, are denied their freedom today. They are arrested and oppressed by a brutal Israeli military occupation that has denied them basic human rights. That is why there are demonstrations in the occupied territories demanding freedom and justice.

This slogan "freedom and justice" is inscribed in the Martin Luther King Memorial Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Reverend Martin Luther King led the struggle for equal rights in the South, marched with demonstrators and was arrested and jailed. He ultimately gave his life for this struggle for freedom and justice. I stood in front of his marble grave in Atlanta recently and I read in silence the words inscribed on the tomb "Free at last. Free at last. Thank God Almighty, I am free at last". These were King's words. This reminded me of the young Palestinian children dying in occupied Palestine. They are giving their lives in the struggle for freedom. They are telling the world they are not willing to live in slavery and under military occupation anymore. This is the meaning of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

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In South Africa the Black people also have risen in mass struggle against apartheid. They are also demanding their freedom. The government troops and soldiers opened fire at them and killed many of the demonstrators. American public opinion is against the shooting of demonstrators and the use of brute military force against the Black people in South Africa. Similarly "help us and stand with us in our struggle for freedom." When I spoke at the Martin Luther King community center in Atlanta recently, I made an appeal to Mrs. Coretta Scott King and to Atlanta Mayor, Andrew Young, to speak in defense of the Palestinian children that are being shot and killed in the Holy Land. These are Reverend King's children too. Mrs. King must take a stand against the Israeli shooting and killing and beating of innocent civilians. More than thirty - five Palestinian women lost their infants as a result of inhaling tear gas used against them. Inside their homes in Gaza and the West Bank. This tear gas is manufactured in the United States. "Help us and stand with us in our struggle for freedom." When I spoke at the Martin Luther King community center in Atlanta recently, I made an appeal to Mrs. Coretta Scott King and to Atlanta Mayor, Andrew Young, to speak in defense of the Palestinian children that are being shot and killed in the Holy Land. These are Reverend King's children too. Mrs. King must take a stand against the Israeli shooting and killing and beating of innocent civilians. More than thirty - five Palestinian women lost their infants as a result of inhaling tear gas used against them. Inside their homes in Gaza and the West Bank. This tear gas is manufactured in the United States. "Help us and stand with us in our struggle for freedom." When I spoke at the Martin Luther King community center in Atlanta recently, I made an appeal to Mrs. Coretta Scott King and to Atlanta Mayor, Andrew Young, to speak in defense of the Palestinian children that are being shot and killed in the Holy Land. These are Reverend King's children too. Mrs. King must take a stand against the Israeli shooting and killing and beating of innocent civilians. More than thirty - five Palestinian women lost their infants as a result of inhaling tear gas used against them. Inside their homes in Gaza and the West Bank. This tear gas is manufactured in the United States. "Help us and stand with us in our struggle for freedom." When I spoke at the Martin Luther King community center in Atlanta recently, I made an appeal to Mrs. Coretta Scott King and to Atlanta Mayor, Andrew Young, to speak in defense of the Palestinian children that are being shot and killed in the Holy Land. These are Reverend King's children too. Mrs. King must take a stand against the Israeli shooting and killing and beating of innocent civilians. More than thirty - five Palestinian women lost their infants as a result of inhaling tear gas used against them. Inside their homes in Gaza and the West Bank. This tear gas is manufactured in the United States. "Help us and stand with us in our struggle for freedom."
JUSTICE SPEAKS
BLACK WORKERS FOR JUSTICE

Vol. 5 No. 6 April 88
Twenty-Five Cents

LOCAL JACKSON COMMITTEE RAN PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

Franklin County, April 1988

The local Jackson Committee is working to develop a permanent political organization to address a variety of issues affecting the grassroots/workers class people in their communities and at their workplaces.

This committee represents the emergence of a new kind of political organization in the Black community. One which has a dynamic, grassroots, working class leadership.

The Committee, under the leadership of S. Muhammed and John Chisholm, organized a powerful campaign to keep Schlae Lock open and to support Jackson. There were more than 30,000 flyers distributed to workers at their workplaces, shopping malls, churches and in targeted Black working class communities. The committee had a telephone bank of more than 30 people calling registered voters to support Jackson. There were more than 38,000 flyers distributed to workers at their workplaces, shopping malls, churches and in targeted Black working class communities.

The committee developed the unorganized rank and file Schlae workers into a basic organization with a number of working committees. All issues and concerns are openly discussed at weekly meetings and decisions are voted on by all of the workers present. The organization is currently identified as the Committee Against Schlae Lock Closings.

The Schlae workers initiated a four day petition drive and met over 5,000 signatures from workers at other workplaces and throughout their communities in support of their demands. This drive is seen as broadening the base of the campaign.

The petitions are being used to build popular support, calling on the state, county and city officials to intervene on the side of the workers demands, by exhausting every effort to keep Schlae Lock open and to support Jackson. There were more than 38,000 flyers distributed to workers at their workplaces, shopping malls, churches and in targeted Black working class communities.

The Schlae workers have put forth the following demands:

- Local Jackson:

  Committee ran

  PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

The Schlae workers organized a powerful campaign to keep their plant from closing and for severance pay and benefits. Their organization is currently at work on the issue of keeping Schlae Lock open.

The first meeting of the organization was held at the end of the first shift on the company parking lot, where more than 300 workers came forward to unite with the demands.

That evening following the "First Action" and press conference ("Second Action"), more than 100 workers (Black and White) again met at the BWFJ Center to sum up their actions and decide on the next action of the campaign.

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Excitement cut the air as women workers from workplace struggles, churches, students, younger and older, participated in the 1988 International Working Women’s Day Mini-Conference. Inspired by the representatives of six national liberation movements, about fifty women, mainly African-American (Black) workers, questioned speakers, “spoke out” (some for the first time), and took part in poetry and song, in discussion, workshops, and dance.

Workers from the Standard Products union drive struggle, Schlegel Lock plant closing struggle, Durham AFSOME Local 1194, and ACTWU, among others listened and cheered as Nicaraguan, Palestinian, Indian, Filipino, and African-American women delivered messages of solidarity, spoke of their national people’s struggles and their struggles as women to be active in their movements. South African activists sent a message of solidarity and members of SANSIC (South African & Namibian Students Information Center) performed scops from their dance/drama commemorating the 1976 Soweto (South African Student Uprising).

This is the second year that the Women’s Commission of the Black Workers for Justice sponsored an International Working Women’s Day event. The first, a Women’s Speak Out, took place at the Rocky Mount BWFJ Workers Center/Freedom Library, with about thirty women, mainly from eastern North Carolina. This year, “the Best” again came in strong with a significant delegation from the Standard Products workers’ fight for a union. The mini-conference took place in Durham and again took on the quality of a Speak Out, with several women speaking out about their conditions on the job and at home, as women, for the first time in front of a group. Several women commented they felt more comfortable in doing so because the audience and speakers were all women.

Besides the International Panel which fired everyone up, workshops included: Conditions on the Job, Health & Medical Care, Abuse in the Home, Women in the Workforce: Juggling Work and Family, Community and Self and Unemployment. A second panel, “Politics in the Workplace & Putting Workplace Issues in the Political Struggle,” didn’t take place because of a mix-up in speaker order and then the enthusiasm for those on the stage.

In the weeks since IWWD mini-conference several women have commented on their willingness to help workers at work and similar kinds of events together. The Women’s Speak Out is a definite inspiration they continue to carry after hearing struggles and stories from women fighting for freedom around the world. A follow-up meeting will discuss organizing ongoing tasks and setting dates for similar kinds of activities. Women workers feel it should take place on the Sunday before International Women’s Day.

On Saturday, April 19, from 2-4pm at the Standard Products WMCF Workers Center/Freedom Library, call 286-9711 for more information. Call the BWFJ office, 5269 (Raleigh) or 229-1639.

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STANDARDS LOST U
by S. M’Ballia

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SUCCESS

Standard Products Workers: Lost Union Vote, Not Struggle!

by S. Muhammad

by a small margin, 229-183, the Standard Products workers at the Rocky Mount plant lost their union vote on March 30th and 31st.

In the last 45 days of the union drive, the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) began organizing community support for the plant efforts. The Jesse James Concern helped to define the effort to organize Standard as a struggle for economic justice that all workers must support and identify with. Every flyer supporting Jackson called for support for the Standard Products workers. The Jackson rallies were held pushing out the standard campaign, one in which Jackson himself spoke was attended by almost 2,000 people at the Ebenezer Baptist Church.

This community-based, worker-wide organizing strategy was discussed by ACTWU organizers and members of the Black Workers for Justice Task Force. The Ministerial Alliance in link with the Greater Mt. Hermon Baptist Church in support of the Standard Products workers. The ministers agreed to sign a statement to be published in the local newspaper, summarizing the right of the Standard Products workers to decide on a union, through an election free of harassment, intimidation and fear. The ministers also held a mass prayer service on Sunday evening, March 27 at the Greater Mt. Hermon Baptist Church. The community support for the Standard Products workers was protected throughout the Rocky Mount and surrounding areas. They were a real encouragement for the Schlae Lock workers to stand up and begin their campaign for economic justice. The Schlae Lock workers feel a bond with the Standard workers. They were saddened when they were informed, while on their picket line, that Standard workers had lost their union vote. They had attended a press conference set to announce the outcome of the vote, to express their solidarity with the Standard Products workers.

On March 26, the Rocky Mount and surrounding areas Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, held a press conference at the Brown's Chicken and Naldowo Restaurant to discuss ways of publicly supporting the Rocky Mount Standard Products & Schlae Lock. The Standard Products workers held their union vote on March 30th in an effort to elect the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. The Schlae Lock workers present at the meeting spoke about the conditions inside the plant to questions from the ministers. The ministers agreed to sign a statement to be published in the local newspaper, summarizing the right of the Standard Products workers to decide on a union, through an election free of harassment, intimidation and fear. The ministers also held a mass prayer service on Sunday evening, March 27 at the Greater Mt. Hermon Baptist Church in support of the Standard Products workers and Schlae Lock workers. There were 180 Schlae Lock workers laid off on March 31.

Ministerial Alliance Supports Standard & Schlae Lock Workers.

Rev. Thorne
Rev. Walker
The struggles for Black political power and workers rights are together shaping new political climate in the South. A climate of developing working class unity and support for self-determination of oppressed peoples. The Jesse Jackson campaign, particularly the Super Tuesday primaries, helped to correctly identify the South as a political and economic colony of cheap labor and special (and National) oppression against Black and Indian peoples within the framework of the US federal government. The Black Belt South, that part of the South where the system of chattel slavery against Black people existed for over 200 years, still has 38% of the US poverty, the highest rate of infant mortality, the largest percentage of Black people on death row, the lowest per capita welfare system, the lowest rate of unionization and the cheapest wages, especially among women.

The struggles of the African-American (Black) people for political power and national liberation, are slowly becoming understood by white workers as one which is directly in their interests, because it challenges the system that keeps all workers poor and divided and their communities underdeveloped. There is still much confusion and resistance amongst many white workers regarding the just nature of the struggles and demands of the African-American people. Just as John Brown, the white freedom fighter, recognized that the defeat of slavery and the liberation of Black people would have brought about a new democratic and humane South, such as was taking form during Reconstruction following the Civil War, so will white workers realize that Black political power and liberation bring about a new South.

The Jackson campaign and Super Tuesday called for all workers, regardless of race, to unite with an expression of Black political power and workers rights. Jackson's "Workers Bill of Rights" clearly shows Black political power serves the interest of the working class. The news media and those people who are unwilling to bury their racism once and for all refuse to recognize the message of the Jackson candidacy. His candidacy, more than any of the others, calls for working people to unite and challenge economic violence and to do so wherever you find it, whether on the picket line or in the polling booth.

What we are seeing in Rocky Mount, NC in the efforts of the Standard Products workers to organize a union, the Sledge Lock Workers to fight against their plant closing and what we are seeing in Robeson County, NC, where the "black peoples are fighting against government corruption and excessive are indicators that the South no longer intends to be a colony. Black workers are playing a key role in building of a new South. The fact that more than 95% of Black people are workers makes it indispensable that Black political power champion workers rights. The 1988 presidential election year must be a call for Black workers to come forward and become organized around a plan for worker's rights and Black political power.

WHERE WE STAND!

- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
- FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor

- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops"
- FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
- FOR health and safety on the job and in the community

- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racist national oppression of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities
- FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of all oppressed peoples

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND JOIN US!
UNION WOMEN TO RALLY IN WASHINGTON

Part I by N. Blandon

The Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) will stage a rally in Washington, D.C. on May 14, 1982 at the Sylvan Theatre grounds near the Washington Monument to bring nationwide attention to family and workplace issues. Called "The American Family Celebration," the rally will include a march, services for the elderly, comprehensive health care, education, and economic justice.

The rally is significant because it comes on the heels of a workers' movement, with working women in leadership positions making demands for family leave rights and child care rights at the workplace. Women in the UAW (Mine workers union), SEIU (service employees), APWU (postal workers), telecommunications workers and others are challenging the prevailing view that their employer should only be interested in the sale of their labor and have no responsibilities towards their families. Experience has proved the opposite.

Studies have shown that women lose $6,000 the year a child is born and about 85,000 to 96,000 annually for each of the next two years due to "the loss of earnings for time taken off the delivery and care for the child." The Institute for Women's Policy Research has said about $600 million in wages are lost annually because many women lack any maternity leave and guaranteed reemployment rights. $100 billion a year in wages are lost by both working women and men when an illness in the family occurs. And working women lose $4.8 billion when taking off time to care for their elderly parents. Women also lose even when they return back to the labor force after childbirth because they are not guaranteed their old jobs and are therefore unemployed for long periods of time or end up taking lower paying jobs typically averaging $4.00 an hour less that before they had a baby.

Black working women have an even harder time of it. African-American women lose 32% more of their wages than white women, who only lose 26%. Black women are forced to do so back to work sooner because their wages are also lower. Black working women also lose more income when they have to take care of a family member who is ill. Plus the loss of wages hits them the hardest because they already make so little and often have to stretch it the farthest. Clearly the need for a comprehensive national family leave bill exists. More than 100 countries already provide some form of family leave and job protection. The United States is the worst of the industrialized countries. It has no national laws for parental leave or job protection.

POST OFFICE PROFITS

IT COSTS US MORE!

by A. Koritz

"Profitization of the Post Office," With those words, American Postal Writers Union (APWU) President Mike Biller explained the true aim of President Reagan's cutbacks in the postal service to the delegates assembled at the North Carolina/South Carolina Joint State APWU Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina on March 14th. At a time when Reagan's Attorney General Edwin Meese III, following the line of his father, was accusing APWU officials of being "soft on crime" (in the Madagascar corporate scandal), it becomes more than a little ironic that Reagan's wealthy friends are anxious to carve up the U.S. Postal Service in order to rip off the most lucrative piece of the pie, an enterprise that is aimed at generating a public outcry against the Post Office, so that Reagan and his rich buddies can rip off the postal worker, the postal service and the public.

As APWU President Biller and APWU Assistant Legislative Director Roy Braunstein effectively pointed out to us in Charlotte, the first class letter will still be a bargain at .25 compared to Japan, West Germany, Canada, etc. In real dollars it will be about what it cost to send a first class letter in the USA in 1932. Not only that, but the U.S. Postal Service is in its best government subsidy and for the past decade has fulfilled its mandate under the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970.

The U.S. Postal Service is in its best shape ever and this is exactly why Reagan, Miller and his rich buddies want to rip it off! Over the next few months, local 711 will be carrying out a series of activities to fight against the profitization of the postal services, including leafletting, petitioning, and letter writing.

Richard A. Koritz, APWU Steward (reprint from APWU 711 Newsletter)

PAGE 5
SPIKE LEE'S LOOK AT CAMPUS LIFE

"SCHOOL DAZE" MOVIE LOOKS AT BLACK COLLEGES, SOCIETY

by Morris White

What's the deal? Well, "School Daze" centers on the Homecoming Weekend activities at Mission College, a Black private school. All the elements are there: the football game, the coronation of the Homecoming Queen and her court, the homecoming parade and the entertainment show that follows that evening. But instead of just telling a story about homecoming (which was to have been the movie's title at one time), writer/director/producer Lee uses, in his words "a black college as the microcosm for the black experience in America," Really, a slice of the black experience.

Part of that experience is the relationship between the 'old school Neerotes' and the younger upstarts like Lee. Originally, "School Daze" was to be filmed on location at Lee's alma mater, Atlanta's Morehouse College. But reports have it that the college administration wanted to review the screenplay and when Lee refused, he and his move were kicked off campus. (Nearby Atlanta University allowed him to finish production on their campus.)

In the move, this slice of Black life is shown through conflict between student activism and the conservatism of the school administration. Mission College's administration threatens to expel Dap (Larriy Fishburne), the leader of a school movement protesting the college's refusal to divest from companies that do business with racist South Africa. A crazy campus fraternity, Gamma Phi Gamma, led by Julian (Giancarlo Esposito), is used by the administration as shock troops against the divestment campaign. One of the fraternity's pledges is Dap's cousin, Half Pint (Shane Lee). The conflicts between Dap and Half Pint, Julian and Dap, and the fraternity and the divestment are the conditions for comedy, drama, and insight.

The light skin, dark skin, "color struck" controversy comes up in the movie through conflicts between two related groups of campus women. One group, led by Rachel (Kyra), who is Dap's girlfriend, support the male leaders of the divestment movement. The other group, the Gamma Bava, is the auxiliary of the fraternity and is led by Jane (Tisha Campbell), Julian's girlfriend. Hair and skin tone is the battlefield for the Black lass struggle: the Jacabos versus the "Wannabees." If you enjoy music, it's all there: Jazz, pop, rhythm & blues, ballads. And there is dancing, too, along with a good cameo performance by Ossie Davis.

The way that the campus group handled the expulsion threat against its leader was real, but weak. And women could have played a greater role in the divestment struggle, too. But overall the move is well made and enjoyable to watch. Should it in Dolby stereo is even more enjoyable.

Something can be learned through watching "School Daze." Or is it "School Daze"?

The Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble: Inspiring the Struggle with Freedom Songs.

WHY WAS THE FRUIT OF LABOR ORGANIZED?

During the spring of 1984, the North Carolina Black Workers for Justice (BFJ) commissioned the Raleigh/Wake chapter to begin organizing a cultural singing ensemble. This ensemble has the purpose to carry our history and cultural traditions to our workplace and community struggles against our class and racist national oppression.

WHO ARE WE?

We are 'everyday' Black workers-women, men and youth! We sing songs to inspire, educate, motivate working and grassroots people in the 'Freedom Movement' and in the struggle against racism, sexism and unfair/unjust labor conditions.

HOW IS THE FRUIT OF LABOR ORGANIZED?

WHEN DO WE MEET?

We meet at 1:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. We bring records, songs and new ideas to our meetings. We discuss ensemble business, as well as, the struggles going on in our workplaces, communities and unions. We try to relate messages of our struggles as working people in our songs.

Please bring friends, co-workers and youth who are interested in adding their talents and strength as workers to the growing Freedom Movement and the Workers Rights struggle.

Please contact our ensemble coordinator and public relations person, Irene Goodson at:

533-5269
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Saturday
for information regarding joining our meetings or setting up engagements for events at which you may wish to attend.

If you have written any labor or freedom songs, send your written songs or tapes to our education and music coordinator, Nathassie Mayo, at:

Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble
P.O. Box 5534
Raleigh, NC 27605

INDIA: A VISIONARY'S JOURNEY

It is letter written by the Indian writer and cultural activist, Jacques Ha, without the Quakers in Fayeve Olivia to Hillestone in Jacksonville, North Carolina, to write five letters, a book, a book of poetry, and a book of essays, "The Experience." To date, 32,548 copies of the book have been released.
**SCHLAGE LOCK from page 1**

- Keep the plant open with no reduction in current wages and benefits;
- Severance pay for workers in the form of one week's pay for every year of service;
- A statement of the financial status of Schlage Lock Company over the past 3 years.

On March 31, 1988, 100 Schlage workers will be laid off. Schlage has always laid off workers at the end of the week. However, this lay off will occur on a Thursday, to avoid paying the workers 18 hours vacation pay that they would have accumulated by working one day. They would have also gotten holiday pay for Easter Monday had they been allowed to work. It is clear that not only is Schlage not concerned with the welfare of the workers by the fact that it is closing the plant, it is using every possible dirty trick to avoid helping the workers in the least way to ease the economic trouble they will face by the closing.

There is no evidence that Schlage is in financial trouble. They are moving to Mexico to exploit cheap labor. Workers have been injured and died at Schlage making the company huge profits. There is evidence that Schlage at one time dumped toxic chemicals in a pit on the grounds of the plant location. There has been at least five workers at Schlage who died from cancer. Efforts are being made to determine if there is any connection. These issues make it clear that a struggle must be waged to insure that Schlage settles all claims before it packs up and runs.

**Economic justice in terms of legislation, industrial recruitment policies and community economic development strategies, must be put in place as one of the goals growing out of the campaign. Candidates running for elected office in May, must address themselves to the Schlage issue.**

---

**INDIANS AND BLACKS from page 8**

It is hoped that the letter will help to bring international attention to the conditions of Indians and Blacks in Robeson County and to the case of Hatcher and Jacobs.

Meanwhile, Hatcher and Jacobs have been moved without explanation from the Cumberland County Jail in Fayeteville, North Carolina to an Onslow County Jailhouse in Jacksonville. Jacksonville is near the North Carolina coast only five hours from attorneys at Christia Institute-South and also five hours from family and friends. Lawyers are working to have them moved closer to Wake or Orange County.

**The Defense Efforts**

To date, more than 25,000 people have signed petitions calling for the release of Hatcher and Jacobs, that the charges against them be dropped, and that an investigation be conducted into the real problems in Robeson County.

Since the death of Julian Pierce, many lawyers have attempted to join in or support efforts to bring change to the county.

On April 4, 580 or more people marched in the county to commemorate the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., Julian Pierce and others who have died in the county.

And leaders across the county are calling for a congressman investigation into Pierce's death and the many other problems there.

Slowly, information is beginning to come to a "lawyer bank" system organized by attorneys for Hatcher and Jacobs which may well prove to be important in exposing the corruption and ultimately helping win the release of the two Indians.

On the surface, these factors reflect the great potential of the people of Robeson County to throw off the yoke of oppression confronting them in their daily lives. But potential must be realized if it is to mean anything in the face of life and death conditions.

(next month, back to a review of Robeson County's Fascinating history of repression and resistance. Also look for a report on the upcoming Hatcher/Jacobs trial.)

# # # # # # # #
INDIANS AND BLACKS FACE LONG
HARD STRUGGLE IN BLACKBELT COUNTY

ROBESON COUNTY REFLECTS DEPTH OF STRUGGLE FOR POLITICAL POWER AND JUSTICE

by A. Binia

The assassination of Julian Pierce, 42, who had lived alone, was a blow to the people of Robeson County, North Carolina, and many others across the state and nation. Pierce was a candidate for a newly created superior court judgeship from Robeson County.

Julian Pierce was found murdered in his home on the morning of March 26, the same day that fellow Lumbee Indian John Godwin was to be buried. Godwin, 72 years old, died of injuries suffered in a car accident just ten days earlier.

WORLD ON THE STREET

Street wisdom has left doubt and suspicion fester ing about both Godwin's and Pierce's deaths. While many people have expressed distrust of the hospital in which Godwin was receiving care in Lumberton, the doubts about Pierce's murder seem more grimly the head.

According to press accounts, at first there were no leads in the murder investigation, so a search was initiated. The police found a dead body in a nearby field, and the investigation continued. Later, it was revealed that the police had received a tip that Pierce's body had been disposed of in the field.

As the days and weeks pass since the February 1 assassination of the Black Panther leader, the doubts about Pierce's murder seem more grimly the head.

Word is out that there was a "hit" out on Pierce, although no one seems to know why. Many suspect that he was hit because he was a prominent leader in the community.

There have been reports of a hit list, but no evidence has been found to support these allegations. The police are continuing their investigation, but so far they have not made any arrests.

Pierce was a prominent figure in Robeson County, known for his activism and his work as an attorney. He was a member of the Lumbee Tribe and had been involved in many community organizations.

Pierce was killed in his home, and the police are still searching for the person or persons responsible. The community is in shock, and many are calling for justice to be done.

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WORKERS MOVEMENT BUILDS; CELEBRATES MAY DAY

by Akinbileju C. Ola

"We need severance pay!" "Workers have dignity!" "Workers have rights!"

These working class chants reverberated through the streets of Rocky Mount, NC, May 1st. They expressed the immediate aspirations of the workers at Schlage Lock plant, which is scheduled to close and move its operations to Mexico.

But May Day, as May 1 is known, is celebrated because of its historical relevance. Out of the struggle for an eight-hour work day International May Day was born in the U.S. It was clearly described in the biography, Gene Debs: The Story of a Fighting American. Today, of course, there is not a fight for an eight-hour day, but the fight and the struggle continues.

While Schlage Lock workers are battling to keep the plant open and to get all that they are justly due, there are and have been struggles all over the U.S. to fight the closings of steel plants, auto industry factories and plants in other industries.

The major corporations, like Ingersoll Rand—who owns Schlage Lock, are moving the plants and the jobs to mainly 3rd World countries where the labor is cheaper and highly exploitable.

U.S. workers are left in a lurch. There is virtually nowhere to go. The only answer is to find ways to fight back.

After the 150 or so May Day marchers, on the cutting edge of a growing workers movement in Rocky Mount, in this northern end of the Black Belt South, had wound their way through town, had gone past City Hall and the small cluster of six Schlage workers went to the Rocky Mount mayor's office while 68 held a picket outside.

WORKERS EXPOSE SCHLAGE ATTEMPTS TO DUMP, RUN

After discovering that Schlage Lock Chemicals had contaminated soil and groundwater in downtown Rocky Mount area, Daily Pickets at the plant date and at the Rocky Mount City Hall are a permanent feature of the struggle. Workers from Bendix and Abbott Laboratories blow their horns when they pass the picket lines. Truckers often slow down to read the signs carried by the picketers and give a loud blow on their horns. Whatever the pro-management folks say, the Schlage workers are winning.

VICTORIES, STEP BY STEP

Already, small victories have been won. On March 30th, 1988, 100 Schlage workers were laid off as part of the plant shutdown. These workers were scheduled to be laid off on March 31. The March 31 date was set so the company could avoid paying the workers their ten hours accrued vacation. Workers got accrued leave when they work the first day of the following month. In this case, Friday, April 1. Therefore if they had worked on April 1, they would have been eligible for the leave. This was a demand of the Schlage workers before the March 31 lay off. The company decided to lay off the workers on March 30, before noon, and paid them for the rest of that day and for March 31st, resulting in 12 or more hours pay. The workers therefore received their accrued leave because of their struggle.

The Schlage workers instituted a telephone calling blitz to elected officials, to get them involved by coming to a mass meeting. A delegation of Schlage workers went to the Rocky Mount mayor's office while 68 held a picket outside.

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the REAL LABOR DAY

May 1st or May Day, when in many parts of the world, the sessions start to change the word with the flowers blooming and the grass green. Open, workers in all countries stand round and tall. This is not only a time for picnics and dancing but for protest, demonstrations, strikes and meetings.

Workers world-wide uphold the banner of workers' solidarity, of international solidarity and working class cooperation. In every country people will address their specific problems in dealing with the bosses, the foreign occupiers and other enemies of working people. They will do so, however, knowing that millions in other places are doing the same.

May 1st is truly a worker's day - the real labor day. This may come as a surprise to many U.S. workers who only know of the "Labor Day" in September that was established by the bosses' companies, forced overtime and all unfair and unjust management demands. We must stand together and fight for a bill of rights for workers. We must set forth very clearly what the needs of the average worker are. We must show them that we are a force to be reckoned with, and that we will continue to fight for each other whenever the need arises. Therefore our call now is to fight!*

Other speakers included Juanita McNeil, President of Durham City Workers Local 1194, Edecombe Co. Commissioner Rev. Thomas Walker, and representatives from Black Workers for Justice and Women's Committee. Everyone fired the workers to hold on and keep their solidarity. We continue to build movement for unions, decent wages, working conditions, a decent quality of life. JOIN THE REAL WORKERS POLITICAL PLATFORM!!

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DECEMBER

1886, over the issue of what was known as the "bitter battle for the ballot." This struggle for the ballot was the beginning of what we now call the labor movement. As a result of this struggle, workers were able to achieve a measure of political power and began to organize for better wages and working conditions. This laid the foundation for the development of labor unions and the labor movement as we know it today.

The Family (Parental) and Medical Leave Act, which guarantees 12 weeks of unpaid leave to any worker for the birth or adoption of a child, is a significant step forward in addressing the needs of working parents. This act recognizes the importance of family leave and ensures that workers are able to take time off to care for their families without losing their jobs.

The Death of a Child: Square One. In 1988, a police officer was shot and killed by a policeman who was on duty. He was killed while trying to protect his family. This tragedy highlighted the need for better safety measures for police officers.

The American Federation of State, County, Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 1194 unionists in Durham, North Carolina, have been working to improve the lives of workers in the city. They have been involved in a long-running campaign to ensure that workers have access to affordable, high-quality child care. This campaign has been supported by the city council, which has made child care a key issue of its agenda.

The Infant Mortality Prevention Act, which requires states to provide Medicaid for all children up to age 6 whose family income is below the official poverty level, is a critical tool in preventing child deaths. The act also ensures that children with disabilities are able to receive the medical care they need.

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, which provides funding for programs that address child abuse, is another important piece of legislation. This act has helped to improve the lives of children who have experienced abuse.

The Title X Family Planning Reauthorization Act, which would increase funding for basic family planning programs, is another example of legislation that could have a significant impact on the lives of working families. This act would help to ensure that families have access to the reproductive health care they need.

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CALL TO JUSTICE
Analysis, Views & Demands From the BWFJ

JACKSON CAMPAIGN EXPOSES DEMOCRATIC PARTY, CONTRADICTION AT CORE

The broad grassroots movement that is the basis for Jesse Jackson's "progressive issues program" and campaign is challenging the political status quo and the Democratic Party machine more and more each day! At the base of this movement is the Black National Movement.

Both working class Blacks and so-called Black traditional political leaders are sharpening the contradiction and creating cracks in the Democratic Party machine. Remember how, in 1984, Black politicians stayed away from Jackson.

At a recent Durham County Democratic Convention in North Carolina, Willie Lovette, chair of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, challenged U.S. Senator Terry Sanford: "Why are you trying to stop Jesse Jackson?" Former governor and present Democratic Party leaders Jim Hunt and Terry Sanford, without any consultation with Black democratic party leaders, quickly endorsed conservative Tennessee Senator Albert Gore as the best choice for North Carolinians, the South and the U.S.

Black labor leaders reminded others in the convention that this was consistent with Sanford, the former Duke University president who attempted to stop the 1960s and '70s union organizing of that school's mostly Black service workforce. Today, Sanford is the developer of the billion dollar construction project, Treyburn Industrial/Residential Park and still attempts to keep unionized trade workers out.

This is but one aspect of a fundamental contradiction and broader crisis within the Democratic Party. With Dixiecrats (Southern Democrats) and the liberal Democrats continuing to shift their support to the right, there is no longer want to continue

WHERE WE STAND 1

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!
SHILOH RESIDENTS PROTEST MORRISVILLE APPOINTMENT

Some residents of Shiloh, the predominantly black community in western Wake County which was recently annexed to the predominantly white township of Morrisville, are protesting the appointment of a mayor pro-tem by the Morrisville town commissioners.

Three of the five town commissioners voted to appoint commissioner Margaret Broadwell to the post of mayor pro-tem rather than allow the mayor to appoint someone. Usually the highest vote getter in the last election would have been appointed to the position. With that practice, Delores Scott, the commissioner from District II, which includes Shiloh, should have been appointed. She received the highest number of votes in the November 1987 election. But in an effort to block this, commissioners Wade Davis, Margaret Broadwell and Neely have voted to appoint Broadwell.

Shiloh residents are very concerned that someone who, they contend, ganged the town in court, openly admitted that they do not read the local papers to keep abreast of issues which may impact which town residents, and who, they say, has never followed through on promises to deal with the town's senior citizens would be appointed to a position publicly representing the town of Morrisville.

The union organizers came to Keysville leadership to help in the union campaign. The workers were brought to talk to the Keysville leadership and Keysville leadership was taken to some of the organizing meetings. Mr. and Mrs. Neely felt especially glad about that and saw Keysville's participation as important. Mr. Neely stated, "I think Keysville has something up on these other towns and cities around this area. Our city council is making off working people who belong to unions. And we know about unions, these other city council people are not working people and don't know anything about a union. I'll tell anybody any time about what a union can do."

Burke County commissioners and other local politicians viewed a letter denouncing the union claiming that a union would scare off industry which might want to locate in Burke County.

Workers at the Keysville Nursing Home are having problems. Their vacation time has been reduced and replaced with "sick days. A plan was worked out for them to circulate a petition inside the Home getting the workers to demand policies in writing and a chance in this newest policy. Mrs. Neely and the city council would work with them. After the petition, they are to form a committee to go in to management with a member of the city council to request the changes demanded by the workers. If this fails they will work with Mayor Graham to call a press conference to expose what the Home owners are doing to the workers. About 100 state workers and other workers marched with Troyne Brooks in March to protest unfair conditions of state workers in Georgia. The workers declared it a big success. In addition, SLC is bringing it's "Memorial to Atlanta Crusade" March to Keysville this Wednesday.
Jackson carried six Black Belt states outright: Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Virginia, and ran close second in virtually all other Southern and border states. With subsequent Jackson victories across the country, the Democratic Machine asked, "What does Jesse want?" How could they deal with the fact that at the Democratic National Convention this summer in Atlanta, Jesse would command enough delegates to secure a major power brokerage role for his forces? The parties of big business could not understand how the grassroots campaign movement without all the media and television advertisements and big corporate Political Action Committee (PAC) money could make it this far in the race.

That was enough for the Democratic Party to cope with. But then, after Michigan, Jesse was the frontrunner. This was an upset victory. Simon, the fourth Democratic candidate, dropped out. Democratic bosses were in panic: calling "emergency call meetings" to decide what to do. The state primaries that followed had Jesse running only about 20 delegates short of Mike Dukakis. Dukakis’ declarations may have been more than a "sound bite" Jackson's.

Last month, New York state was the next big primary battleground. And here the Democratic party made its severest attacks against Jesse's program and campaign. Led by his is A City's racist mayor, Ed Koch, the desperate third place runner, Albert Gore, and the right-wing isolationist establishment attacked Jackson's position in favor of a national homeland for the Palestinians. They said that Jackson's program was not economically or politically workable. Jackson challenged them with, "If the country reset its priorities, it would be politically and economically workable."

There was no response from these "democratic" leaders. The oppressive movement continued to roll and Jackson took New York City. To be continued next issue.

On Monday, April 25, 1988, Standard Products union activist. Napoleon Bobbitt was fired. In response, workers held a group and confronted management demanding his rehiring. The Workers felt that if Standard could get away with firing a pro-union worker with no good reason, they could fire anybody. Workers saw the value and strength of the collective action. Two days later, April 27, 1988, Standard Products rehired Bobbitt. This is a real victory for the workers and shows the way forward towards further gains in the future. Two more workers have also been fired. Workers must take up these cases also. Look in next month Justice Speaks.
PALESTINIAN

transportation with little left to feed their families, pay their rent, take their children to the doctor, buy them clothes, and so on.

On top of it, the Israeli government does not recognize Palestinian trade unions on the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinian unions cannot negotiate on behalf of the workers they represent. They serve more as a political force than as a negotiated force on behalf of the workers. The Histadrut, the Israeli labor federation, does not allow Palestinian workers from the West Bank and Gaza to join: it is supposed to be for Israeli workers only. Palestinian workers who have Israeli citizenship may join, but the workers pay dues to the union without getting any services in return. The Palestinian worker gets one-third of what an Israeli worker would earn working in that same job.

IC MAG: In the same labor union?

REBABI: Yes. Also, it's against the law for Palestinian workers from the West Bank and Gaza to stay overnight in Israel. They either have to travel back and forth, or the Israelis would make a deal with the Israeli police to lock up his workers overnight. Sometimes there are fires in that place and Palestinian workers are burned to death because nobody can get out.

This is why Palestinian workers and all the activities that go on in the West Bank and Gaza are supposed to pay taxes. For instance, after 1982, the Israelis imposed on the Palestinians the so-called "Peace for Galilee Tax." This paid for the operation of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. So in a sense Palestinians were paying for the bullets that went to kill their relatives in Lebanon.

Palestinians have to tell all these workers: you don't get any services. There is no support whatsoever for health services. No help with education, no non-profit, no improvement of the sewers, no road services. Nothing but taxes.

The role of the workers is very important. The strike that has been going on is even forcing Israeli bosses to start thinking. "Well, maybe we should start importing workers from Portugal; maybe we should get Lebanese to work from the South Lebanon area which is under Israeli control. Maybe we should try to get the Oriental Jews who are already suffering as a result of discrimination by the Ashkenazis, the European and the North American Jews who are already treating them economically and racially.

"...There was a strike, December 21 [1987]. They had a strike and we noticed all Palestinians who are citizens of Israel and the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. And that really made Israeli bosses crazy. Because all these years they were saying that these are the Arabs of Israel. They are an ethnic group not even a national minority. They were not even even thinking about their national righ and their national loyalties and their national feelings...."

SCHLAGE

groundwater in the area and the company was now away to exploit other workers in Mexico. Schlage workers distributed 10000 leaflets to area residents in three courts and towns potentially affected by the contamination, calling for a mass meeting. Neither health agencies in Nash or state offices were informed by Schlage about the contamination; nor had the State Division of Health Services or the Environmental Protection Agency been notified by the company prior to the announcement by the Schlage lock workers.

There is a line coming from the business circles like the Chamber of Commerce, and even some small black businessmen, that the daily workers will discourage industries from locating to the area. They place this blame on the workers. They refuse to hold Schlage lock responsible in any way. The workers say the Schlage lock industries who treat their workers like Schlage Lock treated them should not be recruited to the area, instead of those small businessmen being upset at how Schlage's closing will leave hundreds of workers unemployed and adversely affect their sales. They blindfold the line of big business. It is also disappointing to see what appears to be a neutral position by many of the elected officials.

LOCAL FIGHT, INTERNATIONAL EFFECT

Sclange workers decided they needed to take action to dissuade the company from announcing a mass layoff. They held a meeting on May 1st (May Day) for Walkout. The walkout was to be announced eighteen days in advance. The company was to be requested to give one week's notice to the workers. A group was to be sent to the company to press for the walkout.

Sclange workers are going to hold an international demonstration against slavery in the White House in Washington, DC, raising their demands and protesting the veto by US President Reagan on the UN Resolution requiring corporations to give 68 days advance notice of plant shutdown. Sclange workers put out a call to workers throughout the area to join them in a march and rally on May 1st (May Day) for Workers Rights and Economic Justice. The Workers Rights and Economic Justice Association is an association distributed by Schlage workers at various plants, shopping centers, housing projects, small rural communities, town squares, motorcycle and social clubs. They organized a march on the New Jersey State House on April 29th. Workers owning common stock in Ingersoll Rand (the parent company of Schlage Lock) went to Washington, DC to participate in the meeting to raise their concerns. After driving for hours, the workers arrived late but in time to see a company movie on how much profit had been made off the division covering Schlage. The film also showed how this profit had been made by "cutting labor costs." No mention was made of the toxic waste contamination in Rocky Mount.

When the meeting opened for questions the Schlage workers immediately spoke out. They described to the shareholders how debilitating the company had treated the workers. They explained and called for the shareholders to support the just demands of the workers and the community. After the meeting some of the shareholders expressed support for the workers.

Sclange workers also wanted to take a stand in favor of a proposed resolution calling for disinvestment from racist South Africa. The Board of Directors of Ingersoll Rand called for a "no" vote on the resolution. For many of the Schlage workers, this would have been the first time they would have seen how their fate as US workers are tied to the fate of black workers in South Africa. Many Sclange workers have told them that they have learned about politics and the economic system by watching their struggles. After discovering that the Chairman of Ingersoll Rand made an unexplained salary of $1,451,567, before adding in his expense account, Sclange workers began to question the fairness of the relationship between the workers and the owners. One Sclange worker would have to work 70 years to make what the Chairman of Ingersoll Rand makes in one year.

Sclange workers are building the movement that is arowina in communities, churches and clubs. They organized a march on May 1st to help workers understand what is going on outside their local. They want to make banners and signs for the May Day march. Sclange workers are moving that is growing in Rocky Mount!
Excerpts from an International Correspondence interview with Rehaba Hadi, a Palestinian woman on the Palestine Solidarity Committee. February 4, 1988.

Rehaba: Well I think this is a very significant event because the uprising has been going on now continuously for over two months. The significance of the uprising is the fact that all the Palestinian people, of all social sectors are involved: women, children, youth, doctors, students, workers-most of all workers. That's why it's so significant. It's being very well organized. It has put the issue of Palestine at the forefront of the agenda for peace and justice for the world.

You talk about the denial of any type of democratic right. Over 300 books are banned in the West Bank and Gaza. Many Israeli orders that have licenses are not allowed to be read in the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinian orders that have licenses in Jerusalem West Bank and Gaza.

Support for the PLO is not allowed. Any kind of political expression is not allowed. Even the colors of the Palestinian flag are not allowed-red, green, black and white. One of the artists, Gaben, from Gaza, was put under house arrest because he made a painting with these colors.

The economic situation is also very drastic. 90% of all the goods used in that area are imported from Israel. It doesn't allow factories to be built. It only allows consumer goods to be distributed. It doesn't allow Palestinian farmers to plant their own produce: only certain produce is allowed. If you want to plant a tomato, you've got to get permission.

If you compare the [Israeli] settlements and the nearby Palestinian villages, you'll find the settlers enjoy swimming pools while the Palestinians don't even have water to irrigate their produce, or to drink, or to provide for their children. Palestinian refugee camps have been sewane. Very few have gas or water or electricity.

The alternative to school in jobs, and when we look at the jobs available to Palestinian people, most of the jobs are inside Israeli control. There are 50,000 workers who go from Gaza to work in Israeli factories and there are 35,000 in the West Bank. Out of the 60,000 in Gaza, only 12,000 have regular jobs. The rest, the 48,000, may get a job or may not.

The jobs that are available to Palestinians are menial jobs. They can work as dishwashers, clean toilets, clean the houses of Israelis, pick oranges, wash oranges, and so on. But they're not allowed into high industry because it's all militarized, so they do the jobs that Israelis won't do. That's what made one Israeli writer a few weeks ago write in the New York Times describing the video, "the Palestinians do as "Thug Labor", which has damn racist connotations. It's the kind of language the bosses won't even allow Palestinian workers to speak Arabic on the job. They are supposed to know Hebrew only. This is very similar to the Israeli problem that racism is trying to impose on the Latino community in the U.S.

There are all similarities to the treatment of Latino laborers working in U.S. Palestinian workers have to get up at 2:00 am in the morning to work at a place that is called 'the slave market' where they get nicked off a pick-up truck. The workers have to dress themselves and go on to bosses and tell them how great they are in order to be selected. They have to wait for hours to be hired up if they are lucky, and even if they aren't lucky, they have to travel from Gaza, in some cases, all the way from Tel Aviv to be picked up for a job, but they have to get a job so they have to spend the same amount of time back. Even if they work, the best they can make is maybe eight to ten dollars a day. Oppression of that does go on.

ROBESON COUNTY UPDATE

About two weeks ago, Bob Warren (the Christian Institute South attorney) was shot at while driving a rental car. The bullet hit the lower side of the windshield leaving a series of circular cracks in the glass. A clear mark was left on the windshield where the bullet hit. But the bullet didn't lodge in the window or break it and could not be found later.

Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs have been moved again from Onslow County to New Bern in Chowan County. They went through another bond hearing last week where they were, again, denied bond. William Kuntsler, from the Center for Constitutional Rights came down for the hearing. He made the argument that the U.S. hostage-taking statute does not apply to "U.S. citizens." The federal judge is reviewing those charges against them as well as other legal technicalities. They could be released on a technicality but it's a long shot. The struggle for justice continues for Eddie and Timothy and for Robeson County.
against all, busing of people in a show of the Black Workers for Justice leaders to "slow the trucking of leaders."  

The strike in Soweto was overwhelmed by the strength of the workers, with hundreds of thousands of people attending the grave of Victor Sosik in Soweto. If you want to know the pace of development in the overall political, economic and social problems that Black people face in society and the uneven development faced by the Black Belt South communities, compared to the rest of the South and the country, have created a consciousness among Black workers that will lead to them raise greater demands on industries to speed up their pace of development benefiting everyone.  

While there is a large white population in Edgecombe, the county is basically looked upon by communities throughout the area, should mean that the county health departments should be knowledgeable about the potential health risks and problems in their counties.  

The preparations for the screening met with some company-inspired suspicions such as, "Will the screening have real doctors?". "Only the Schlage workers supporting the demands and struggle continued on page 7  

WOMEN’S HEALTH SCREENING: SUCCESS!

There was an incredible amount of common health symptoms identified among the Schlage workers during the screening," stated Dr. Martha Nathan, lead doctor for the Schlage workers' screening clinic, held on May 21, 1988 at the Abner Berry Freedom Library and Workers Center in Rocky Mount. Dr. Nathan works in family medicine at Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill, NC.  

Eighty Schlage workers received complete and partial health screenings to identify problems associated with being exposed to toxic chemicals on the job.  

The health screening, organized by the Schlage workers with the support of the Natural Health Coalition, Black Workers for Justice and Southernerners for Economic Justice, came about as result of the Schlage hearing. Schlage Company to provide Schlage workers with a company-paid medical examination to determine their health status prior to plant closing. When plants close, workers are left for dead!

NO HELP FROM HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Prior to the screening, the Health Departments of Edgecombe and Nash Counties were contacted to assist with the screening. Edgecombe straight out refused; while Nash agreed to meet with Schlage workers. The Nash meeting ended with no assistance. Earlier both health departments and Schlage Workers' Committee about the groundwater and soil contamination created by the Schlage Lock Company. They had no knowledge of the contamination and stated that their departments were not notified about industrial related health and environmental problems. That counties give incentive for Schlage and other companies to locate in the area, should mean that the county health departments should be knowledgeable about the potential health risks and problems in their counties.
HEALTH (CONT.)

will get screening." There was even a wrong date for the screening carried in a local newspaper leading several Schlage workers, who had not been actively involved, to show up for screening one week early. Yet, the screening was a huge success.

The need for a medical screening was felt shortly after layoffs began at Schlage and workers began to organize. Workers found that a large number of people among their ranks suffered from similar health problems, mostly of the skin, eyes, nose, throat and lungs. It was also discovered that at least sixteen cases of cancer have been contracted within the last five years — already causing twelve deaths. In response, the Schlage Workers' Committee issued medical surveys to fellow workers. The surveys confirmed their suspicions and linked workers' health problems to the job, particularly to areas of the plant where dangerous chemicals are used. Research on those chemicals support the survey results. Several chemicals are known to be corrosive (doing irreversible damage to the body) as well as carcinogenic (cancer-causing).

Despite mounting evidence, newspaper articles quoting company and government officials have tried to discredit workers' claims that Schlage damaged (sometimes fatally) their health. Company officials have outright denied workers' charges of chemical exposure. Joe Moneyer, Schlage manager for human relations said, "We have a very good safety record, and an excellent health nurse and safety program. We are very confident the employees have been well cared for." Yet, while Federal Occupational Health and Safety Administration guidelines specify the use of special filters and masks when working with certain chemicals in use at the plant, workers testify that little, if any, protective gear is or has been provided.

Preliminary results from the eighty screenings show that some level of exposure to toxic chemicals used at Schlage has occurred. Dr. Nathan's exams found signs of contact in an overwhelming number of workers — in most cases by breathing fumes and vapors. The level of exposure and the results of that exposure, however, have not yet been determined as of this printing.

To prepare for the future, Schlage workers sold chicken plates the day of the screening, to raise money to help pay for blood work for liver tests needed by many workers, and who, because of being laid off, needed financial help.

Schlage workers should be commended for their efforts to make the company accountable for their deeds and for demanding that government authorities do their jobs of protecting citizens. Because working conditions at Schlage Lock are not unique but common to the mostly unorganized plants throughout the South, the struggle of Schlage workers is the struggle of all workers. They have organized their own defense and continue to fight for the rights of their sisters and brothers in Bloomer Hill and throughout the region, they hope other workers follow their example.

The Community Health Collective (CHC), a group representing several communities in northeastern NC Black Belt Counties, called a meeting in the Bloomer Hill community for residents in areas around Schlage Lock Co. The meeting discussed workers' pollution of their groundwater by the company and the role of the community in addressing the problem.

In 1981, North Carolina conducted a study which discovered significant amounts of cancer-causing chemicals within a three-mile radius of Schlage Lock. Workers have testified that they were forced to dump chemicals in ditches behind the plant. Since the government study seven years ago, no action has been taken towards a clean-up of the contaminated area. The company has already laid-off several hundred workers and has said it will completely shut down in June.

The community meeting, led by CHC representative and Bloomer Hill Concerned Citizens Secretary Ethel Jones, brought out two main points. First, There was unanimous agreement that it is the community's right to demand that the company clean up its mess — at its own expense. Second, Schlage workers' struggle is just and should be supported by the community. Schlage worker Nelson Mann brought home the point that the demands of the workers include a call for clean-up and it is to the mutual advantage of both workers and neighbors of the plant to unite against irresponsible and exploitative practices of the company. One Bloomer Hill resident also put it well: "We're working people and our sisters and brothers in Bloomer Hill and throughout the region, they hope other workers follow the example.

CHC, BLOOMER HILL DEMAND SCHLAGE CLEAN UP

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For how long will people be victims of greedy companies and complacent government? People need work, but for how long will we tolerate industries that poison our water, expose workers to toxic chemicals (see "Health Screening") and then pay off government to avoid prosecution? People have a right to a clean, healthy environment, and safe and secure work. If the companies and government don't deliver these things, we must organise and demand them.

WHICH

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The Durham 9 to 5 Clerical Workers organization will hold a workshop, "How to Stand Up for Your Rights on the Job." All clerical and office workers are encouraged to participate in this free workshop, Tuesday, June 14, 1988, 5:30 to 7:30 P.M. at the Durham YMCA, 825 Proctor Street (at Vickers Avenue). For more information, call 682-2869. Childcare available, please call ahead.

CALANDER

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POST FIGHT

An open meeting and a day of action are being held to be a part of a national movement to
organizing the country to stand up to
abuse of power of the rich and the mighty.
As part of the 1988 national campaign, the North Carolina Coalition for Jobs and Justice is planning a series of meetings. The first meeting will be held in Durham on Tuesday, June 14. The meeting will be held at the Durham YMCA, 825 Proctor Street (at Vickers Avenue). The meeting will begin at 5:30 P.M. and will end at 7:30 P.M. The meeting will be open to the public and there will be childcare available. The meeting will be an opportunity for people to discuss the issues of the time and to organize for action.

For more information, please call the North Carolina Coalition for Jobs and Justice at (919) 834-0400. The address of the North Carolina Coalition for Jobs and Justice is 823 Blair Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701.
POSTAL WORKERS FIGHT PRIVATIZATION

American postal workers are in the first stage of what may turn out to be a long struggle to protect their jobs and union rights. What is at issue is "privatization." That is, running the postal service over to private enterprise with no controls over price and no regulation.

At present the United States Postal Service (USPS) is a semi-autonomous government agency protected by federal legislation which prohibits competition in the area of first class mail delivery and operates on its own revenue with no government subsidies. The Reagan administration, backed by conservative law makers and right-wing "think tanks," wants to change this arrangement which, with all of its problems (mainly postal management), works fairly well.

If the advocates of privatization have their way, statutes restricting the delivery of first class mail will be eliminated and private companies would compete for business. The issue is customers and business mailers. They should see their own rates and level of service free of regulations. The basic, unbridled mechanisms of capitalism will take over. Making a profit will be the major preoccupation of the new companies (UPS, Federal Express, Purolator) and they will surely be joined by hundreds of wealth seekers. This is why Reagan supports it and the recommendations of the President's Commission on Privatization have a great deal of sympathy among certain sectors of the business community.

In addition to prices and service that will not be uniform, there will be a devastating effect on workers. With many companies in the business, there will be no guarantee of wages and working conditions for the over one-half million unionized postal workers. While it may be argued that separate companies may be unionized, there is no doubt that this also a union busting maneuver aimed at breaking the power of postal workers into smaller, more manageable units.

The American Postal Workers Union (APWU) is engaged in an action program that calls for passage of House of Representatives Bill - HR4159. The bill, if passed, will remove the postal service from the Federal Budget. This move will eliminate the possibility of Congress imposing spending cuts on the postal service as they did last fiscal year to the tune of 1.2 billion dollars. This was an artificial deficit reducing measure because the money was never really in the Federal Budget to begin with. Thus, all attention is currently on the "off budget" legislation.

APWU locals have been leafleting shopping centers, communities and workplaces explaining that this spending cuts has resulted in the elimination of Saturday window service hours and the processing of outgoing mail on Sunday nights, and other service reductions. The leaflet spells out the union's opposition to the cuts and asks customers to sign a petition to Congress supporting the "Off Budget" move. Hundreds of locals have conducted pickets, held press conferences and taken out ads in the local media.

The Action Program reached a peak on May 24th when thousands of postal workers from across the country converged on Washington, D. C. for a rally and lobbying on Capitol Hill.

It is a widely held view that the recent increase in the price of postage and the cutbacks in service were timed to coincide with the release of the Privatization Commission's report. When consumers and lawmakers see price increases with decreased services, they are inclined to be more sympathetic to the recommendations contained in the report. At the same point in the direction of Privatization.

Besides a victory on the legislative front, it is feared that postal workers will become more enlightened to their vulnerability as workers and the heartless and vicious nature of the economic system. When they arrive at this understanding, they will be able to wage a more effective rank and file fight against privatization as well as establishing more class conscious solidarity with their brothers and sisters in other industries and unions.

By Gordon Dillahunt, President APWU Raleigh Metropolitan Local no. 1878
CALL TO JUSTICE

Analysis, Views & Demands From the BWFJ

JACKSON CAMPAIGN EXPOSES DEMOCRAT CONTRADICTION PART II

More African-Americans and other oppressed nationalities are running for political office and some are challenging the Democratic Party machine across the South and the Southwest. For example, Black workers in Fremont and Shiloh, N.C., and Keyesville, OI; Native American Indians in North Carolina; and small towns and cities in the Black Belt, etc. The role of Black workers' organization is critically important in organizing the masses of Black people not solely to elect a candidate but to organize itself in the workplace and community to struggle for its true interests and needs.

For example, the movement that won the Martin Luther King holiday in Arizona, which was rescinded by (now former) Governor Evan Mecham, Arizona, which was rescinded by (now former) Governor Evan Mecham, removed him from office on April 4th, and is the base of Black workers' organization is critically important in organizing the masses of Black people not solely to elect a candidate but to organize itself in the workplace and community to struggle for its true interests and needs.

WHERE WE STAND!

- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST racism, sexism, and white supremacy
- FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
- AGAINST wars and military spending that make the rich richer
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor

Begins to transform our vision and issues into a new reality. We must have a national organization and program that goes beyond the 1988 elections, and fundamentally alters the power relationships between us and the forces of oppression.

The Black Workers for Justice, as part of the "Black Workers' Political Platform Campaign Committee" is working to bring this perspective to the electoral movement and Jackson campaign within the Black National Struggle. By building our own political platform, we set the issues, positions, etc. that address our needs, WJ, as Black workers, measure the accountability of candidates to our needs and base our support or non-support (i.e., recall, impeachment) on our platform. It enables us to divest and break with the Democratic Party and fight against Republicans and Democrats alike when they go against our interests.

Join us at the Black Workers Political Platform Convention this September as we plan a new road of black electoral and political independence, building mass organization that has the capacity to alter the present power relationship is the key to our empowerment.

JUSTICE ALERT!

Focus on Justice for Robinson County with family, friends and lawyers of Tuscarora Indians Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs. Speakers will address conditions of corruption and injustice, why the protest was necessary, and Hatcher & Jacobs' upcoming trial, Tuesday, June 14, 1988, 7:30 P.M., Durham County Public Library Downtown (Roxboro Street).


For more information, call 929-8879 (CH)

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!
LOCAL 77 HONORS FOUNDER, FIGHTER, OLIVER HARVEY

On May 13th, AFSCME Local 77 held its first memorial banquet in honor of Oliver Harvey at the Durham Civic Center. Oliver Harvey, who died last year, was a former Schlage Lock housekeeping worker and civil rights activist who spearheaded the organizing of a union for Duke workers.

The banquet speakers featured William Lucy, International Secretary Treasurer of AFSCME. Lucy is the highest ranking black official in the AFL-CIO, and is a leader of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. Lucy recognized the courage and determination of Brother Harvey to lead his coworkers up a “plantation” at a time when black workers’ fight for basic civil rights such as equal access and voting rights were among its highest points.

Other people at the head table included Mary Walker Smith, President of local 1988 and Ron Newton, President of AFSCME local 1194 and Ron Newton, a group of Duke students conducted a seven-day sit-in, in which Guley participated, on the Duke quadra. To honor Oliver Harvey, on April 9th, representatives of this coalition planned to unveil a permanent marker on the Duke quad as a symbol of the proposed permanent marker. Efforts to mobilize support for the permanent marker, including a petition drive, will continue throughout the school year.

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Duke strike and student vigil that gave birth to Local 77, a group of Duke students, Duke alumni, Local 77 vigil plan a major event in the fall.

Oliver Harvey began working as a janitor at Duke in 1951. In 1956, inspired by the example of Rosa Parks and other Black workers in Montgomery, Ala., Harvey led the successful effort to integrate the Duke Power Company bus system in Durham. Harvey began in the 1950s various efforts to organize the Duke workers, culminating in 1965 with the formation of the Duke Employees Benevolent Society. His efforts further led the Duke workers to mount a major organizing drive in 1966, following the assassination of Dr. King on April 4, 1968. Duke campus and hospital workers went on strike. They struck for minimum wages $16.00 an hour, collective bargaining rights and union recognition. They struck for 16 days and won a major victory. Local 77 was born out of this strike; however, it was not until 1972 that Local 77 won its first contract.

Oliver Harvey was a person small of stature and soft-spoken, yet among the working class he was a giant.

SCHLAEG WORKERS BUILD FOR PUBLIC HEARING

The Schlaeg Lock Workers’ Committee is organizing for a Public Hearing on plant closings.

Elected officials from Edgecombe and Nash Counties, the City of Rocky Mount and the State of North Carolina, were asked to meet on March 18th to sponsor a Community Impact Public Hearing around the Schlaeg Lock plant closing. At the time of the request, Schlaeg Lock workers presented the officials with petitions with 1800 signatures of black and white people supporting their demands on the company. The officials took the petition to hold such a hearing in any of the other seven states.

It is clear that the plant closing issue, as well as those of severance pay and benefits, potentially affects all workers, because it is a definite practice by the company. There have been reports that at least two other companies in the area have posted notices and held hearings with the workers responding to the climate, created by the Schlaeg Lock struggle. The notices stated what workers would be entitled to if their plant should change owners or close. In the meetings, management called on the workers to feel free to raise their concerns in regular meetings, which the company committed itself to holding.

Schlaeg workers will be distributing flyers at the major area companies to call on workers to demand guarantees in their severance pay and benefits, severance pay and extended benefits and company paid medical examinations. Schlaeg workers will call on other workers to participate in a public hearing on plant closings and workers’ rights. The Schlaeg Lock workers’ struggle is becoming an area-wide workers’ struggle against unjust corporate policies and practices. The public hearing will attempt to present a picture of the conditions that the majority of the workers face in the area. The hearing will include a panel of community representatives, elected officials and other categories of people. Impact surveys, worker testimony, medical testimony, legal opinions and community testimony will be presented.

One of the goals of the hearing is to create an Industrial Policies Committee to begin examine and formulate legislative proposals for local, county and state government on plant closings and workers’ rights.
A few weeks ago, for the third time in the brief history of our young organization, the Black Workers for Justice convened a special meeting to evaluate, formulate, and map out a direction forward during this particular political, economic, and social period. This recent study and planning retreat was part of the ongoing organizational process to sum up our humble work of developing the organized capacity and leadership of Black workers in the community and Black National struggle; in the workplace and Labor Movement of the entire working class. Key activists, as well as BWFJ members, made reports on important organizing work: summing up reports on important as BWFJ members, made political, economic and territorial analysis of the entire working class. The BWFJ will share its specific plans and directions for the development of the organized process. They also helped in assessing our organizational program with a clearer focus and sharper political power and ways to strengthen our mutual ties with workers and political activists, and organizations that will influence the labor movement of all workers in the Black community (out of the poverty level... 1/2 service and high-tech", 4) the build-up, 3) the shift in trade union membership from manufacturing to service and "high-tech", 4) the 5.7% unemployment overall but 22% unemployment in the Black community (out of the 2/3 of poor families at or below poverty level...1/2 are headed by single Black women), 5) the increase in racist national oppression and terror, 6) plant closings, 7) the failure of mission of all workers in the Black community (out of the poverty level... 1/2 service and high-tech", 4) the build-up, 3) the shift in trade union membership from manufacturing to service and "high-tech", 4) the 5.7% unemployment overall but 22% unemployment in the Black community (out of the 2/3 of poor families at or below poverty level...1/2 are headed by single Black women), 5) the increase in racist national oppression and terror, 6) plant closings, 7) the failure of.
ROBESON

CONT.

(Continued)

C. house of...drial Class.

possession, the state officials and the area police power structure as a "Black County." The reality can be seen in the Rocky Mount High and Nash School Merger struggle. Once the Rocky Mount City schools became majority Black because of the high numbers of students from the Edgecombe side of Rocky Mount, the schools were labeled "not up to par."

Edgecombe county residents are being rushed into making a decision about accepting a radioactive waste site. They are being made to feel that if they vote against accepting the site, Edgecombe County will have missed its only real opportunity to grow to the level of neighboring Nash County. This is economic blackmail.

Black and white citizens are being told that they must risk a possible disaster if they want their county to develop.

Edgecombe County Commissioners who wish to volunteer the county for this waste site are not acting according to the votes of the people who elected them to office. Political representation means being accountable to the people. Voting according to what they alone think is best.

Real freedom can only be guaranteed in fighting the day to day struggles for equality, jobs, peace and economic justice.

BLACKMAIL

(Continued)

any accountability to the workers and citizens.

Birth claims to be in...and Jacobs, Hunt

and benefits, and that he...by Schlage. I

The Black majority of Edgecombe County, along with those Whites who are willing to support Black political power, must unite and demand accountability from elected officials and elect people who want to see progress for everyone. An economic solution must be a human solution.

SIDE (CONT.)


"Juneteenth" is an almost forgotten holiday in Negro history. Sometimes called "Neuro Nation Day," Juneteenth (June 19th) represents the end of slavery and the continuing struggle for freedom.

The slaveholders had all their money tied up in crops which needed to be worked. It was not until two months after the end of the war that on June 19, 1865, when Union troops landed in Galveston, Texas, that the end of slavery was enforced.

June 19th or "Juneteenth" came to be celebrated in the Negro folk tradition of Texas as Emancipation Day. It's observance spread to other parts of the South.

Brunch- opening ceremonies, King and Queen coronation, Greenville Center Gym. Noon- 2:00 P.M.- Family picnic, $4.00 per person/

(CONT.)

The Robeson 3 Defense Committee (originally named the Black County Action Committee On Racial Violence, chaired by Ben Jacobs, and Hunt) has been working with the North Carolina Coalition for Justice to establish a new office in the county to help our community against the blackmail and the case of the victims of the Edgecombe County.

We have decided to leave open this office and hire a staff... it. An update on this story coming up in the next issue of Justice Speaks. We'll try to make an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of our defense effort to date.

We are still working on our "History of Resistance in Edgecombe County."

PERCENT

BELOW

PROVETY

LEVEL IN

- 10% Healthy

10.1% - 15% Wealthy

15.1% - 30.5% Average

30.6% - 50.9% Poor

N.C. average - 14.8%

U.S. average - 13.0%
ON THE LIBERATION FRONT

ROBESON NIGHTMARE AMID REAGAN FANTASY

July 11 has been designated as the trial date for Tuscarora Indians Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs. The two have been charged on at least seven counts of federal violations including hostage taking, issuing false threats, and possession of illegal weapons.

If justice were to be served and the defense smart, the real criminals and conditions of Robeson County would be on trial instead. The government attempted to put Hatcher and Jacobs behind bars for the rest of their lives.

Indeed, the state government, the country government, corruption, violence, injustice, four hundred years of genocide and slavery, and one hundred years of organized terror against people’s political power would all go on trial.

The “necessity defense” in this case is very important. Such conditions as those cited mean that the people must fight back “by any means necessary!”

ROBESON IN RUSSIA

What does Ronald Reagan in Russia (the USSR) have to do with Robeson County?

While speaking to an audience of students at Moscow University, Reagan made one of his ongoing comments reflecting an appalling “analysis” of U.S. history (you know, the history of the real “evil empire”).

The people of the USSR had been primed to information about the conditions of Indians in the United States in the weeks before the so-called Summit Conference. For example, Bill Kuntsler, attorney for Eddie Hatcher, met with USSR Secretary General Gorbachev last month to discuss possible asylum for Indian leader Leonard Peltier, who first approached Eddie Hatcher last August to help him get out of Robeson County jail where he believed he would be murdered, was sentenced to 32 years in prison last month.

Hunt was being tried for attempted assault and other charges after he was used by the SBI in one of their scams to “catch county drug traffickers” and then dumped. Hunt claims he was set up by the SBI. While being held...
DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION:  
BATTLEGROUNDFOR
RAINBOW CHALLENGE

HEARING EXPOSES CONTAMINATION, NEGLECT

The Schlage workers themselves organized the hearing after numerous appeals to public officials to host such a hearing went unheeded.

Testimony took place before an 11 person public citizen panel chaired by Rev. Leon White, Southern Regional Director of the United Church of Christ Commission on Racial Justice.

Schlage robbed me of my health," Lovey Harrold said. "I had never been told about cancer-causing chemicals until March 1988."

Schlage workers gave moving and sometimes emotional testimony to a host of ill-effects caused by the impending plant shutdown and years of abuse and neglect by Schlage management. Mollie Williams opened with a statement from the Schlage Workers Committee, and spoke to the just the demand for hourly workers to receive the same political power, must be the rallying point of all Black, oppressed nationalities, working class and progressive forces at the convention. Every effort must be made to stop this program, in part or in full, from being bargained away for the mere appointment of a cabinet position, even if it is an appointment of Jesse Jackson as vice president.

continued on page 4

IS THE RIGHT TO DIE ON THE JOB THE ONLY RIGHT FREELY GRANTED TO WORKERS?
HEARING

severance and health benefits as salary workers and management. Ms. Williams also spoke about her own health problems that necessitate frequent visits to Duke Hospital one-and-a-half hours away. These are visits she can no longer afford because she no longer has health benefits.

Among other issues addressed by workers testifying were working with toxic and cancer-causing chemicals, including hot acid fumes without proper protection or ventilation. A sharp issue made public Tuesday night was that though the plant opened in 1972, information was withheld until March 1988 of the dangerous effects of these chemicals.

In July 1986, a state inspection of Schlage groundwater found: 10,130 ug/1 of tetrachloroethene, 3,732 ug/l of trichloroethylene, 1,287 ug/l of 1,2 trichlorodichloroethene and 393 ug/l of methyl ethyl ketone indicating severe groundwater contamination at the plant. According to a December 1986 state Superfund report, "off-site migration of contaminants identified in groundwater and surface water at Schlage Lock could threaten public health or the environment." Thus, infirmero: denial of severance pay and extended health insurance to hourly employees, as offered to salaried employees, was an issue that sparked the workers to organize a campaign against Schlage that workers (and companies) across the South are watching closely.

Schlage cites no loss of profit but a desire to increase its profit margins in its move to Mexico. Workers are experiencing inability to pay medical bills or continue treatment, some of which may have been caused by working conditions at Schlage. At a recent worker-sponsored health screening (see JS June '85) of 79 Schlage workers, 451 tested had respiratory problems, 271 had eye problems and 211 suffered some nerve damage,* certified Rick Lochhead, director for the NC Student Rural Health Coalition.

Seeing themselves as loyal workers, many workers recounted never taking a day off in 10-15 years. Handicapped workers Leslie Williams, David Narron and William Hope spoke to their inability to find other jobs because of reluctance of companies to hire them "no matter what the laws are." All three testified they had near perfect attendance records. "I am faced with losing my home and everything I have worked for the past 13 years," said David Narron.

Members of the hearing panel appeared very impressed by the testimony and appeal to the courage of the workers in persisting despite lack of support from elected officials and community leaders.

Joseph "Chip" Hughes, of the Clean Water Fund gave the most shocking testimony. He presented a package of documents off state and federal health officials and Schlage officials showing there was knowledge of toxic waste contamination of groundwater in and around the plant site as far back as 1982. The package documented water samples of chemicals.

Ethel Jones, representing the Community Health Collective, and a resident of the nearby Bloomer Hill community also testified to community concern about damage done by Schlage to their soil and drinking water. She expressed community support for the Schlage workers struggle.

The hearing panel, which will meet July 29 to prepare a public report and plan of action, included trade union leaders, legal workers, environmentalists, planners and college instructors. This public hearing, and the five-day campaign organized by the workers themselves, has made a decisive difference in shaping public opinion in the community, both increasing public support for the workers and examining the situation and options for their own struggle and issues as workers. Some plants in the area, responding to the fighting stance of the Schlage workers have posted policies about lay-offs and workers' benefits should a plant closing occur — something never to happen before! The Schlage Lock Workers' Struggle is being studied throughout the nation. It will all serve as a model for community and workers struggles elsewhere.

BOYCOTT FORCES APOLOGY, DONATION

Winston-Salem, NC—A boycott of a racist restaurant has ended in Winston-Salem. The boycott was organized in response to racist treatment given to Black customers.

According to reports, the Clipper Restaurant, target of the week-long boycott effort, lost close to $219,000 during the boycott. Undoubtedly the successful effort will cause many to think twice before dining at the establishment, considering the cost that the boycott caused the restaurant to be organized.

Larry Little and his wife Glenda Little—a six-month pregnant woman at the time of the incident in late spring—were dining in the restaurant, and, upon preparing to pay their bill, were told that the company no longer accepted checks. As regular customers of the restaurant, the Littles were shocked. Yet they attempted to negotiate with the owner regarding payment. News reports indicate that Louisa Pantazos, one of the owners of the restaurant, and other restaurant employees launched into a verbal tirade against the two African-Americans who were in the establishment, calling them "niggers" and "filthy White," with respect.

Contributions were apologies aside, it was positive action by the people, particularly workers who overwhelmingly supported the boycott, the brought the restaurant and their business to a halt.

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plant closing occur — something never to happen before! The Schlage Lock Workers' Struggle is being studied throughout the nation. It will all serve as a model for community and workers struggles elsewhere.

* Aministration of fair and equal treatment to all those affected.

This new plan of action, included preparing a public report and plan of action, included trade union leaders, legal workers, environmentalists, planners and college instructors. This public hearing, and the five-day campaign organized by the workers themselves, has made a decisive difference in shaping public opinion in the community, both increasing public support for the workers and examining the situation and the options for their own struggle and issues as workers. Some plants in the area, responding to the fighting stance of the Schlage workers have posted policies about lay-offs and workers' benefits should a plant closing occur — something never to happen before! The Schlage Lock Workers' Struggle is being studied throughout the nation. It will all serve as a model for community and workers struggles elsewhere.
The opportunity for the Black Workers Political Platform Campaign to advance as a movement of the Black working class for Black political power and workers' power has been made greater by the Jesse Jackson Campaign for US President.

The momentum created during the Democratic presidential primaries by Jackson, the crystallizing of working class issues and struggles and its overwhelming support, particularly on Super Tuesday in the Black Belt South, clearly shows the readiness of millions of people to follow the leadership of the party projecting the type of people's program that was shown in the Jackson Campaign.

Black workers and all people want to see their political power represented on the front line of their struggles: at the plant gates, at contract negotiations, at farm foreclosures, on unemployment lines, with Black and all oppressed nationalities demanding political power and self-determination, with youth searching for hope and a future and with women and all those who are denied equal and democratic rights in this society.

The work in the '88 Jackson Campaign was its lack of focus on the struggles, issues and demands around Black political power. Workers didn't organize because the movement didn't exist. Women, farmers, unions, youth and the homeless, who are most affected by the economic crisis have no stronger and more selfless leadership than the movement for Black political power. Playing down the movement for Black political power within the unity built by the Jackson Campaign, allows for the mistaken notion that Black political power is somehow against the interest of the unity of people of all races and nationalities.

Since Jackson has lost the primaries, the outcome of the Democratic Convention, and in fact, the leadership of the movement regarding the Jackson Campaign's acceptance or rejection of the Jackson program, will have a lot to do with the future character of the Jackson Campaign and the Rainbow Coalition. If Jackson decides that unity with the Democratic Party is the most important thing then unity around a program that really begins to address the needs of the people, there will be a lot of disenchantment and confusion about what to do.

Many local Black political organizations, Black majority governments, labor activists, people's organizations and movements of all races and nationalities see Jackson as a people's leader coming out of the movement for Black political power. While Jackson has shown himself to be a capable political leader, he has not shown a willingness to break with the Democratic Party when it rejects the programs that serve the people's interests. While he challenged the Democratic Party at the 1984 convention for rejecting Black voting rights policies and other policies within his presidential campaign program, he was unwilling to consolidate the popular support had won into an independent political party to challenge both the Democratic and Republican Parties with a people's platform. This is Jackson's major weakness.

The Black Workers Political Platform Campaign, while part of the movement built around the Jackson Campaign, was and is an independent campaign, rooted in Black workers' struggles. It has objectives that go beyond the US Presidential Campaign and the electoral arena.

While suffering many from a lack of resources limiting its administrative capacity and access to more national contacts, the Black Workers Political Platform Campaign represents a movement to consolidate the leadership and organization Black workers in building a movement for Black political power. That movement can be the foundation for real social change and power for all working class people.

The 1987 Black Workers Political Platform Planning Convention, held in Enfield, North Carolina, began a campaign toward developing a Black Workers Political Platform. The convention and campaign united Black workers from several states, including: Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and North Carolina, to give Black workers a movement built around the issues and demands of Black workers and youth. The Black Primary Ballot that came out of the convention was passed out in dozens of workplaces, community programs and picket lines in Black communities and workplace struggles in the North, East Coast and Mid-West. It has helped identify issues and attitudes of Black workers and has helped to push forward the development of some
CONVENTION

INDEPENDENT STRATEGY

The many forces united around the Jackson candidacy in the midst of "party politicking" at the Democratic Convention, as they did at the Rainbow Coalition, have not come out in support of Jackson. Thus, it would be an error to depend on a spontaneous unity and bloc to emerge around a "Rainbow Challenge." It must be organized.

Progressive forces must call for a replacement of the slogan "Loyalty to the Democratic Party" with "Loyalty to the Rainbow Program."

The "Rainbow Challenge" should circulate a petition at the Democratic Convention, calling for Jackson to be a draft candidate for US president as an independent, should the Democratic Party reject a people's platform embodied in the Jackson campaign program.

PEOPLE'S FRONT

The united front against the economic and racist policies of the big corporations and the government is not the Democratic Party with progressive forces operating within it against the Republican Party. It must be a Rainbow Coalition, a sort of "People's Front"/Strategic Alliance, which unites the people's movements around a strategic program for empowering those movements and sectors of the Rainbow in this period. Progressive elements of the Democratic and Republican Parties, if there is such a thing, would have to participate in the Rainbow and be united with the people's movements and the working class.

WHERE WE STAND!

- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy
- FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor
- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops"
- FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
- FOR health and safety on the job and in the community
- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racist national oppression of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities
- FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities

WHERE DO YOU STAND? WITH THE WORKERS OR THE BOSSES? TAKE A STAND! JOIN US!
Vocal mass demonstrations at two public hearings on a proposed "waste park" in Edgecombe Co. forced county commissioners to admit defeat. Before an angry crowd of 800-1000 gathered at Edgecombe Community College in Tarboro on June 6th, and just before the 2nd hearing was to begin, one of the commissioners read a statement explaining that the board would not volunteer Edgecombe Co. for the nuclear toxic dump that the president favored as a "park". The board of nuclear commissioners (and chiefly State Rep. Joe Navretic) claimed the dump would solve virtually every problem facing the county through cash "incentives" paid by the federal government. It is clear that they would not accept this kind of economic blackmail.

NAVRETIC RIDES LONE RANGER

It is nothing new for elected officials to take unpopular, unrepresentative stands. Nor is it anything new for such officials to manipulate the law in pursuit of their ends. Prior to the public announcement of Edgecombe's "volunteering" for the dump, the county board of commissioners held a secret meeting, and key provisions from a county ordinance of last year that placed strict limitations on where hazardous wastes could and could not be dumped were removed. The ordinance was effectively neutralized when concern on the part of county officials and citizens was dismissed by what appeared to be the proximity of a dump site to schools and vital waterways, for instance. In each of these cases, Navretic spent great amounts of time trying to shape public opinion and blame the trail, for the dump. He convinced farmers that somehow a toxic dump would be good for the soil, and stopped up many of the more articulate and critical opposition meetings. Navretic is the typical politician of today who cannot even face the truth.

The group convened its first meeting at the IMF Workers Center in Rocky Mt. in late May. While the Black class whites mustered most of the resources (and fought hard against the dump), it was the Black leadership, mainly from the Halifax Co. Black Caucus, that pushed forward the all-important line of mass demonstrations. It was this priority that decisively won the vote in Edgecombe.

Without the militant show of opposition, the mock hearing, with its panel of company scientists and pro-nuke academics, would have gone on. While the middle-class forces in the coalition pursued court room solutions, the dump-happy commissioners would have viewed the general quiet as a chance for their agenda and bulldozed the dump through. It is important to note that not only the reservations to the dump from the board were voiced by Commission Thomas Walker, a progressive Black minister from Rocky Mt.

POLITICS IN THE LONG RUN

The struggle in Edgecombe has been both against the dump and also very clearly against the majority of the Edgecombe county commissioners remains. Above all, what will be the role of the majority voice in Edgecombe — The Black voice — in solving this problem?

Navretic shrewdly waited to clinch the Democratic primary before taking his stand on the dump. Now he feels confident that he will be re-elected. Black people, he knows, have traditionally voted Democrat as the lesser of the two evils. When we hear an African-American vote for such a white politican as Joe "I'll-tell-you-what's-good-for-you" Navretic with a clear conscious?

Many have suggested running a write-in candidate. That is one possible solution. However, write-ins always have the odds against them.

What is clearly needed is an independent party, a third party. If the powerful voice of the Black worker — The majority voice in most of the Black Belt, including Edgecombe county — is to have its say, it must have a political vehicle.

WHAT NEXT?

It has been over 100 years since the "Reconstruction" and the political machine keeps turning out Black majority boards in black majority counties. On the national level, a pro-working class candidate like Jackson can have a major tidal wave of support and still have a minority of the delegates needed to win the democratic party nomination (as he did at one point). A candidate of...
Workers chants for dignity and a program for fair labor hung in the air at Durham's City Hall downtown as picketing city workers of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 1194 handed out informational flyers. The June 1st picket and press conference were in response to economic hardships of the 8% rise in the local cost of living (food, shelter, health care, child day care cost, taxes, etc) and worsening work conditions. They were also expressions of the growing rank and file union activism and leadership of city workers.

That Durham's City Council members work "part-time" as government public officials, make more than most city workers who work full time in servicing our community needs is a statement. The city workers provide clean water, refuse collection, bill collection, housing inspections, street repairs, water and sewer maintenance, street cleaning, office support, and more to keep the city running. They do not enjoy the prosperous homes and decent life that city council members and other affluent Durham residents enjoy in this growing city. "Paring city pay raises (down) for city employees will allow the council to give to residents" said City Council Finance Committee Co-chair Thomas H. Campbell. City workers are residents. Which residents are Campbell and his supporting city council developing and installing a $2.1 million parking deck, a project the City Councilwoman Campbell further stated "I thought we would be able to cut more new positions". At a time when the city is quickly growing, annexing, and increasing its' property, local residents would not be able to afford this. What is needed is an item to cut.

Jack Preiss, activist and the chair of the city's housing task force, told council members that a recently approved minimum wage, $6 an hour, and workers are useless without enough workers to enforce them. "As you know, the inspections department is already behind two years". Preiss said. Furthermore, shop stewards in this department states that "employees don't have time to properly develop, inspect, and inspect...therefore, they get paid and get set on probation. Tale council committee rejected a request for four new inspectors and agreed to only one.

Many Sanitation Dept. workers "feel treated like horses...and when we get hurt...our backs, shoulders, legs go...they riff us out of our jobs. "Our routes get longer...but the work crews don't. Office workers are catching an overload of clerical and secretarial work, as the unions, salaries, wages as well as living conditions fall behind their fellow workers in the private sector.

No Contract Rights, Big Hunk, and File Fight

North Carolina laws prohibit collective bargaining or contracts for public employees. On Monday, June 6, 1988, union members invited city council to attend a "Cold Baloney" Luncheon at our office. At that time, they hoped to confer with those on the council sensitive to the concerns of workers. Our sole diner was Councilwoman Peggy Watson-Englehart and her narrow perspective on the growing public service effort.

At a public hearing that same evening Local 1194 President Juanita McNeill reminded the council members that the present debt is a program for city-sponsored child care for employees, a family dental plan, maternity/paternity leave with pay, and a 4% pay raise or $1200 across the board (whichever is greater), was a part of the council's agenda unfinished agenda of the city council in 1988, political platform by labor/workers must be the standard by which we measure this politicians' accountability.

On June 7th, union members continued to pass out flyers, make calls to council members and conducted a "TV and radio blitz to educate city employees and working people in the community about the struggle for a fair labor program and better wages. Union member Brenda Lassiter blasted indifferent city council members such as Ms. Brindle and her narrow perspective on the growing public service effort.

At a public hearing that same evening Local 1194 President Juanita McNeill reminded the council members that the present debt is a program for city-sponsored child care for employees, a family dental plan, maternity/paternity leave with pay, and a 4% pay raise or $1200 across the board (whichever is greater), was a part of the council's agenda unfinished agenda of the union over the past 2 years. She hoped to confer with those on the council sensitive to the concerns of workers. 8% per week more in the pockets of lower-paid workers. And the "workers with children would have to pay for the present dental plan out of their pockets".

1194 knows the history that we must struggle for our needs for an improved position and strength. This is why union membership has increased this recent effort in response to our struggle to improve conditions our workplace and community and meet our needs as workers. On the 2nd floor, in the streets, city council chambers are community, more union and workers are learning that we have a voice. Strength is based on community organizing and to better organize influence the present power relationship between workers and local government.

All Public Service Workers Join the Struggle For Democracy and Civil Rights in Your Workplace 2020.
COLORS:
STEREOTYPES IN BLACK AND WHITE

by D. Movie Mann

Colors, an R-rated motion picture, debuted April 15. One week before its first public screening, the Los Angeles Police Department staged sweeps across 'gang neighborhoods' (Black and Latino communities) in a "show of force to stop gang violence." Colors is based on this reality, a tale of gang-police action in L.A., and the title refers to the clothing worn by gang members to distinguish themselves from other groups.

The release of the movie created a whirl of controversy in southern California. The local district attorney claimed that the Orion Pictures production was realistic. The Los Angeles Police (who provided consultants for the movie's production) and gang social service workers, however, ranted and raved about the movie's alleged favorable depiction of 'gang life.' With all of these factors in mind, this writer was impressed and at the same time disappointed with Colors.

Colors follows the police work of two L.A. cops, DannyMcGavin and Bob Hodges (Sean Penn and Robert Duvall), members of the Los Angeles Police Resources Against Streethood-Unit, a real-life 'anti-gang' section. Duvall is the mature, intellectual, a veteran one year away from retirement officer. Penn is the brash newcomer who 'didn't join CRASH to be nice to these ass holes' (referring to gang members). The police duo investigate gang shootings, murders, and cocaine trafficking. They participate in police raids where doors are kicked in, police patrol cars and shotguns drawn. In one raid a Black man/twelve years old is shot by the police in his head and back while he is having intercourse.

Racial and social stereotypes of Color's characters exist throughout the movie. The main Characters, Penn and Duvall, are Anglo (white) policemen, however, the"good" and the"bad" gang, between the"good" cop, Hodges, and the"bad" cop, McGavin, helps to keep the movie interesting. But Colors's stereotyped image of Blacks and Latinos allows police violence to appear justified or a necessary evil; it also does not allow the acting abilities of the many Black and Latino actors in Colors to be fully appreciated.

The movie's production was realistic. Good camera work, crisp sound, realistic depictions of violence, pulsating rap music (which, unfortunately is almost always associated with violence or a violent, Afro-American character), and today's realities make Colors a classic, controversial movie. Those who it depicts—Blacks and Latinos—should seriously consider the short and long term negative effects that Colors will have upon the issue of police violence and the 'war on gangs' in todays' and tomorrows' Black and Latino America.

One man's view from the outside of a social situation looking in.

PLATFOM

distorted following the presidential elections in November 1988.
We must remember that had it not been for the struggles for Black political power, mainly in the Black South, but also in cities like Chicago, Jackson's mass political appeal would not have been as great in 1984, which then positioned him for 1988.

For more information about participating in the 2nd Planning Conference of the Black Workers Political Platform Campaign, please contact the BWPC Workers Center, Box 1863, Rocky Mount, NC 27802, 919/977-8162.

The time is now to take the people's movement forward. Build the Black Workers Political Platform Campaign.

DUMP

a working people's party, a party that answered to and represented the will of the Black majority in places like Bladen county could change all this. Imgame the possibilities. Working people from towns and cities throughout our region would nominate and elect their own. Everyone would know their representative. At ward or town meetings that rep would get her or his direction from the people directly. This vision sounds idealistic, but sisters and brothers have realized this in many places around the world throughout history. We too have made steps towards this. The Black workers Political Platform Campaign effort is just one. And when they tried to dump a dump on us it was said loudly and clearly: We refuse this economic blackmail from our elected officials and we will not stand for unrepresentative representatives. We follow through at the polls! And we will see to it that we have more to choose from than the lesser of two evils.

STRIKES

the back by the police, and she has been confined to a wheelchair for the past twelve years. She is the presently a co-recipient and administrator at the Self Help Association of Paralyzed Americans. It was an apparent endorsement of the call by COSATU for a conference of "a broad range of anti-apartheid organizations."

Some 1989 people met at Soweto's Regina Mundi Catholic Church, where they heard Black leaders appeal for unity among anti-apartheid factions. It was an apparent endorsement of the call by COSATU for a conference of "a broad range of anti-apartheid organizations."

Indian warriors Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs were released on bond Tuesday, July 5 after more than five months of illegal detention in North Carolina county jails. The two were arrested last February 1, after a ten hour siege of the Robesonian Newspaper office in Lumbee where they demanded that state officials conduct an investigation into corruption and acts of oppression against Indians and Blacks in Robeson County. Hatcher and Jacobs, both of the Tuscarora Tribe, face possible life sentences if convicted under federal statutes including hostage taking and use of illegal weapons. Their trial, currently scheduled to begin on July 11, is expected to be postponed until late August or early September.
POLITICAL UNITY FORGED: MASSIVE STRIKES

By Akinshinji C. Olai

Almost two million Black South African workers stayed away from work three days this month, in the largest strike in the history of the country. Later, on South African Youth Day, more than one million Blacks again stayed from work to mark the twelfth anniversary of the Soweto uprising.

The three-day political strike—which began on June 6—was initiated by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the National Council of Trade Unions (NACTU). The unity action was made possible after COSATU called a special congress May 15th where some 1,888 delegates debated and voted to make a decisive change in its policy.

The delegates decided to shelve COSATU demands that any potential ally must profess nonracialism. The move created an opening for unity with NACTU, the country's other black but smaller trade union. It also allows for a possible alliance with the Azanian People's Organization (AZAPO), the black consciousness rival of COSATU ally, the United Democratic Front (UDF).

The June 6th strike was remarkably successful despite the intense brutal repression imposed by the racist government. The protest was against two repressive laws by the Pretoria government: one was a new labor law, the Labor Relations Amendment Bill, which was imposed last month. The LRAB virtually outlawed strikes. The second target of the trade unions was the banning of the UDF and 17 other anti-apartheid organizations, in February.

The South African Council of Churches and those UDF affiliates that already banned, along with the likes of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Dr. Alan Boesak and Rev. Frank Chikane, supported the unions' call to strike. Schools in many townships and universities were deserted because students stayed away from classes in solidarity with the workers.

The strike itself was peaceful though police and military presence was widely visible in the townships. Not only are stay-aways and boycotts illegal under the current state of emergency, but workers will also lose millions of dollars in wages because employers throughout the country have adopted a "no work, no pay" stance.

A survey taken on the first day of the protest by the university-based Labor Monitoring Group found a 79 percent absentee rate in the Pretoria, Witwatersrand and Vaal areas; 67 percent in the Durban region, and 64 percent in the Pietermaritzburg area. The LMG also reported that statistics from the South African Transport Services and the bus companies showed that 1.9 million people did not travel to work on the first day.

"This makes it the biggest stayaway in South African history," said a spokesperson for the monitoring group.

In KwaMashu township in Durban, a Press Trust of South Africa correspondent reported that the second day of the strike was also effective. "There were no buses or private taxis," he said, "and the streets were empty except for large numbers of police and security personnel." After seeing reports on the state-controlled radio and television, the correspondent said, "the people seemed more determined to continue the protest."

"The people are saying that the state media and the newspapers are trying to break the morale of those supporting the protest and that something must be done about this," he added.

There were a number of violent incidents in Johannesburg and Natal province, June 6. In Soweto a railway line was bombed just after midnight but no one was reported injured. Police say they found another mine on the same railway line after further investigation.

Seven people, including three children, were reported killed, twenty-three others injured and twenty-one arrested during several other incidents.

Kwazulu bantustan leader chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi did not support the strike, and tried hard to undermine its effect. Buthelezi was 17 years old then. She was shot in i

continued on page 7
WORKERS WIN SCHLAGE 'BONUS'

ROCKY MOUNT, NC -

The Schlage Lock Company has recently made promises in the media that begin to concretely address many of the demands raised over the past five months by the Schlage workers in their campaign against the plant closing.

Mr. Joseph Momayer, Director of Human Resources for the Schlage Lock Company headquartered in San Francisco, recently stated in the Rocky Mount Evening Telegram newspaper, that Schlage will be:

*paying more than 900 former Schlage employees a job retraining bonus equal to the amount of one-half week of their pay for every year they worked for Schlage, if they participate in a job retraining program;

*as a special consideration to the Schlage employees, workers' retirement pensions and company paid stock would be released early;

*Schlage will hire a doctor specializing in Industrial Medicine to examine any Schlage worker believing that they have developed health problems from working at Schlage; and

*Schlage would conduct a detailed 'clean up program' for any toxic chemical contamination they have caused.

These are important gains for the workers movement in North Carolina and the Black Belt South, where unionization is very low. The Schlage plan makes it clear in the absence of unions, workers need to form workers associations as was done by the forming of the Committee Against Schlage Plant Closing, grounded in a strong community base of support.

COMMUNITY DEMANDS CONTRACT

While Schlage workers intend to hold Schlage accountable to their promises, they are not satisfied with promises alone. They are calling for all promises to be put in writing and signed by an authorized official, preferably the President of Ingersoll Rand. They are demanding a plant closing contract as a guarantee when all relations are severed with Rocky Mount.

Recently, at a job retraining session, Schlage workers were asked by a Rocky Mt. Chamber of Commerce representative to sign their names on a black sheet of paper that would be added to a newspaper article. The article was to state that workers feel that Schlage was a good employer and that workers do not have any animosity towards Schlage for any reason. Many workers refused to sign. In fact, continued on page 7.

WORKERS AT HOUSE OF RAIFORD TURKEY PLANT RALLY TO ORGANIZE THEIR UNION.

1000 WALK OUT; DEMAND UNION!

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RAEFORD, N.C. — On Monday, August 1, 1988, about 1000 workers [mostly black and Indian women] at the House of Raeford turkey processing plant here walked off the job. The week before, workers in the chiller department had walked out demanding a $1 an hour raise. Management tried to stall them saying, "Wait until Labor Day and we will see if we can get you some raises then."

The owner of the company, Marvin Johnson, reportedly said, "Those workers are my black nigger slaves and they do not deserve a dollar an hour more."

SLAVES NO MORE...

That was the last straw. Poultry workers who knew they were unable to survive any longer with the brutal working conditions at the House of Raeford, quickly spread the word "Come on, we're on strike. If we're going to get anywhere, the only way is to just go now." All but 3 workers walked out.

Nearly all of the workers at the plant make less than $4 an hour. Some who have worked as long as 10 years are making $1.98 an hour. Medical benefits are minimal and a pension plan is non-existent. Workers must put in 50-60 hours per week with a compulsory 6 day work week. They would receive two 30 minute breaks for the entire period. There are no sick days allowed. The workforce, which is almost entirely women, do not have any animosity towards Schlage for any reason.

The Schlage plan makes it clear in the absence of unions, workers need to form workers associations as was done by the Committee Against Schlage Plant Closing, grounded in a strong community base of support.

Despite the absence of unions, workers need to form workers associations as was done by the Committee Against Schlage Plant Closing, grounded in a strong community base of support.
KEYSVILLE STRUGGLES TO BUILD DESPITE RACIST ATTACKS

Keysville, Ga.: The new Black majority government in Keysville has nearly come to the end of its first year in power. Another election is expected in January 1989. But the year has been fraught with efforts by the white minority to undermine and disrupt the slow but sure development of Black political power in Keysville.

The Black majority government has made great strides for it’s first year of work to consolidate power. Efforts have been undertaken to bring key officials into the city limits to those Black voters who were left out of the January 88 election. The mayor and city council have been involved in a variety of training sessions. New youth programs have been initiated. Groundwork is being laid to bring water services into the town and the basic governmental infrastructure to manage the community. Keysville is being put into place.

The Keysville leadership has done a remarkable job. They are an inspiration to all of the Blackbelt South.

Still, with so much progress, the small town faces a number of serious difficulties. While progress in Keysville is possible the number one problem – it is not the main obstacle to progress. The white minority has been relentless in it’s harassment and it’s attack against Black political power in Keysville. They have operated on two fronts: against the government of Keysville and against the workers in the nursing home.

The opposition forces have continued to use the city boundary of Keysville as the basis of their attack. They claim that no clear boundary exists or can be set for Keysville, in spite of the 1988 election, and therefore any government for the town is not to be recognized.

Three motions have been filed in court to open up the question of Keysville’s right to exist and the right of the Black majority to rule in Keysville. One of these motions has been filed with the United States Supreme Court. The other two have been filed in state court and all rest on the so-called boundary issue. The state court rulings will be issued in a hearing on September 13, before the infamous Judge Albert Pickett who first ruled that Keysville Blacks could not hold an election (both in 1985 and in 1988).

Though Pickett has been ultimately overruled each time – a decision against Keysville is again expected.

The fight for Keysville is not just the fight for a town to exist. It is the struggle of all Black people, particularly in the Blackbelt South, for political power and justice. It is the battle for the Black community in the south.

Reconstruction in the Blackbelt South continued on page 7

FEDS PERSECUTE INDIANS, TRIAL NEARS

ROBSON COUNTY, N.C.—The struggle for justice in Robeson County (and the fate of Tuscarora men Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs) took a bizarre twist on August 31. Hatcher and Jacobs had been illegally held in preventive detention for five months after the takeover of the Robesonian newspaper last February 1, 1988.

The two were finally released on bail in July due to a legal technicality discovered by their lawyers. However, on August 31, both men were ordered returned to prison after nearly two months of freedom while they await trial. Jacobs was picked up right away and is now in a North Carolina County jail.

A number of innovative legal maneuvers are being played out in preparation.

Attorneys for Tuscarora leaders, part of the legal defense team, have just recently filed motions to enforce the government’s turn over any records they have on drug-related corruption and instances of violence involving local law enforcement officials.

They are also seeking information on informants – who they were, what assignments they had, what results they provided.
WORKER WINS PRECEDENT BROWN LUNG CASE

Ms. Garis with her family. Josephine Garis is an activist worker from Garysburg, NC. She was active in the Brown Lung Association, helped organize a union at her plant, and has served on the boards of The Peoples Voice, New Hope Coalition, and Center for Women's Economic Alternatives. She currently serves as a representative to the Community Health Collective from Garysburg.

Josephine Garis of Garysburg, NC, recently won a $48,000 settlement from her former employer, New Carolina Industries. NCI produced sleep and maternity wear in Weldon until it shut down in 1984. Her case is important because it is the first time a worker has won a Brown Lung-type case against a garment producer rather than a cotton processor. Up until now, the assumption has been that only cotton fibers have been spun into thread and woven into fabric, workers are safe from the deadly dust that causes Brown Lung Disease.

Ms. Garis spent 16 years at NCI, mostly in the cutting dept. She worked with fabric as it was uncoiled from huge spindles. During this process she was exposed to strong fumes and dust causing burning on her face, in her nose and sinuses, as well as itching of the lips. Ventilation was practically non-existent.

Ms. Garis was finally admitted to a hospital where she stayed from May through Nov, 1979. After "more tests than you could imagine," doctors made the diagnosis of emphysema, a debilitating disease of the lungs associated with heavy smoking. However, Ms. Garis never smoked in her life. The doctors had to conclude that her problems were work-related.

8 YEAR BATTLE

Ms. Garis filed for workers' compensation in 1980. Many were skeptical and she herself doubted whether or not she could win against the company and its lawyers. But she wanted to see justice done. "It's a blow when you find out something is wrong with your body," says Ms. Garis, "but whoever you are, wherever you work, don't be afraid to take the company to court [when they have damaged your health]." She adds that most lawyers that handle workers' compensation cases take them with no cash up front, working on a percentage basis.

Only two NC workers came forward to sue the company—one case won and one still in court. But Ms. Garis says there's strength in numbers. All workers in a work area usually experience the same problems. If all acted together to address those problems, great gains could be made.

WORKERS WIN EXTENDED BENEFITS

On June 28, 1988, three representatives of the Committee Against Schlage Plant Closing, filed a certification petition with the US Department of Labor. The petition was filed on behalf of all Schlage workers who lost their jobs because Ingersoll Rand Company decided to close the Rocky Mount plant and move to Mexico. This action succeeded, gaining the Schlage workers' compensation under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act.

The Trade Readjustment Act provides unemployment benefits up to 104 weeks, along with relocation assistance, job search travel assistance and job training for workers who have lost their jobs because of plant closings due to foreign imports.

The Schlage Lock Company has built plants in Mexico from which they import locks into the US. This means that the deal from Schlages' US plants are down. On the books, it looks like Schlage is losing sales from foreign competition, but in reality, Schlage is competing against itself and therefore not losing, but gaining big profits.

On August 10, 1988, all Schlage workers employed after May 26, 1987, became eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance. Workers need to apply at the unemployment office and fill out a general form for state eligibility.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance is well known in the northern areas, where plant closings have seriously affected major cities and their communities. It is relatively new to the South, but when committee representatives spoke to Rocky Mount unemployment office personnel, they had never processed Trade Adjustment Assistance before. The Schlage Lock workers' struggle is forging new ground for the workers' movement and trade unions in North Carolina, especially Eastern North Carolina.
CALL TO JUSTICE
Analysis, Views & Demands From the BWFJ

WORKERS NEED OUR OWN PLATFORM,
OUR OWN CONVENTION, BLACK POLITICAL POWER!

BLACK POLITICAL POWER IN THE BLACK BELT!

The Reagan Era has devastated our lives and neither the Democrats nor the Republicans offer any real solutions. Both parties are moving further and further to the right. They are the parties of the rich. The historic Jackson Campaign is over but the needs and demands of millions of Black and oppressed people have not been answered.

PEOPLE’S POWER, NOT PERSONAL POSITION

The struggles of Black people, other oppressed nationalities and the working class in the 1980s are struggles for power. They are not merely struggles for concessions from the Democratic or Republican Parties. The main strategies of the mass struggles have not been simply to offer possible support of a voting constituency to the political parties in exchange for a few favors, token appointments or seats on the party committees. The masses have had to engage in direct action, using their power to strike, to boycott, to pursue legal action, to picket, to vote, and other tactics to have a greater impact on the processes of the institutions and systems that oppresses and exploit the vast majority of the people.

A ROCK & A HARD PLACE

When the essentially pro-corporate agenda emerged as the Democratic Platform rejecting key positions around Black Political Power and working class issues, the masses in the Jackson Campaign were left with a political alternative other than to be mad at the Democrats and try to defeat the Republicans. This was not a real alternative.

The preparation of the mass to fight for and protect their interests is a necessary aspect of an effective political struggle. The people must always be educated about a political alternative, and the strengths and weaknesses of that alternative. The fact that the Democratic Party was being influenced by the far right direction set by the Republican Party did not make a difference in the decision by Jackson in 1984 and 1988 to support the Democrats. While the Jackson Campaign had many major strengths, its major weakness is its lack of a political alternative to being rejected by the Democratic Party.

Black workers need a political platform. A political platform is a political program of action that unites the many workplaces and communities across the South and around the country in the fight to change our conditions and to alter the power relations between the people and the corporations and the other structures of the system that oppress and exploit them.

Black workers must make the lead. We must build a political program of demands and actions and hold on the line until we achieve victory. We must call upon all Black people and allies of all races and nationalities for the fight for justice to unite with us and fight for change.

Last September, nearly 80 representatives of Black organizations, communities and groups met in the first planning conference to build the Black Workers Political Platform Campaign. This year we will meet again in Atlanta, Georgia to plan the ongoing efforts to open this important program. We must build towards a National Platform to have a greater impact on the processes of the institutions and system that oppresses the masses to fight for and support their interests is a necessary aspect of an effective political struggle. The people must always be educated about a political alternative, and the strengths and weaknesses of that alternative. The fact that the Democratic Party was being influenced by the far right direction set by the Republican Party.

Where We Stand!

- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- FOR democratic rights and equality of all nationalities and races
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor
- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
- FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "run-away shops"

BLACK WORKERS FOR JUSTICE is an organization of Black workers, organizing to build the African-American workers’ movement as a central force in the struggle for Black Liberation and Worker Power.

- FOR health and safety on the job and in the community
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
- FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities
- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities
- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities
DEM'S: NO ROAD TO BLACK LIBERATION AND WORKERS POWER

Because of the Joeuse Jackson presidential campaign, millions of working class and poor people, especially African-Americans, focused major attention on the Democratic National Convention recently held in Atlanta, Georgia.

After years of broken promises by both Democratic and Republican parties, the 75 million people voting for Jackson in the primaries were saying: "It's Time For A Change!" They were not merely voting for the latter of the evils. They saw Jackson as a candidate willing to challenge the political direction and history of the Democratic Party - even though he ran on that ticket. Jackson's call for a people's platform made people feel that his campaign would go beyond the traditional brokerage and politicking which take place at the Democratic National Convention. It was a substitute for direct organization of the Black liberation and working class struggles.

Coming into the convention, the most organized section of the Jackson campaign was the middle class, led by the Black middle class. The strategy and tactics were worked out by the middle class, in the absence of Black mass and working class participation. This was a major error, since the strength of a Jackson challenge at the convention was dependent upon a mass Black electoral base supported by allies in the form of the Rainbow Coalition.

The middle class demands its class interest as administrators, managers, supervisors and government appointees. The Black middle class has been an important ally of the Black mass and working class struggles. But their leadership cannot run a political movement embodied in the Rainbow Coalition.

The Black Workers Political Platform

Workers must have our own political platform!

The Black Workers Political Platform Campaign sponsors a BLACK WORKERS POLITICAL PLATFORM 2nd PLANNING CONFERENCE

Franklin Center at Bricks
Enfield, N.C. (outside Rocky Mount, N.C.)
September 23-25, 1988

call 919/977-8162 or 919/833-5269
LOADED "OUT DELEGATES GET POLITICAL LESSON

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Editor's note: This article was written by a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

ATLANTA—Democratic Party delegates on the barricades? Impossible! This was the Democratic National Convention. We were duly elected. Yet on two nights during the Democratic National Convention, officials sealed the convention center, saying the fire marshal had declared the facility overcrowded. Hundreds of delegates, alternates and press people were locked out.

Angry delegates militantly protested the lockout. "Let the delegates in! If I'm out here, who's in my seat?" chanted the delegates with raised fists, waving their credentials.

"You may not come in by any order of the Democratic National Committee," a secretary guard shouted. "But I'm on the DNC!" yelled one delegate, another delegate pleaded to be let in. He had travelled 3000 miles at his own expense and now was locked out on the night Jesse Jackson was to speak. After over an hour of attempting to get in other barriers and entrances, the crowd gathered at the north entrance of the center while they watched Jesse's speech on TV.

Eloquently, Jesse demanded a no strike policy; a stop to the area strikes; pay equity; housing for the homeless; a living wage; universal health care and education; and no control aid. Viewers were cheered. Many did not know that just a few hours earlier all these issues had been struck out or voted down on the convention floor.

Spontaneous float demonstrations not "authorized" by the DNC were squashed. Petition forms needed to put Jesse's name in nomination for the vice presidency were either "unavailable" or disappeared. Delegates either got no information or misinformation, and there was little or no political discussion unless aggressively demanded.

The delegate lockouts graphically demonstrated the real power of those controlling the Democratic Party. On one side of the barricades stood delegates with only paper credentials to denote their rights. On the other side stood armed police enforcing the rights of the few such as Paul Kirk, chairman of the DNC.

It was much the same inside the convention center. There the barricade was not a police line, but the huge podium that towered over the seas of delegates. Democracy was for the few who stood on this high stage—that for the thousands in favor of it. Democracy belonged to the rich and powerful owners of wealth in society and their leadership force had the concomitant force. For the vast majority of delegates, the Democratic Convention was not in the least democratic.

RAEFORD

injuries. Dull knives and a piece of human dignity. They ask managers to use the bathroom, and they are not granted it or "paid" this "privilege."

UNION BLOWOUT

There have been rumblings at the plant for several years about organizing a union but there are no unions in the county or in any of the nearby counties. After the workers walked out they went across the street and began to tell each other "we want a union." They contacted the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 294, which sent in organizers. UFCW held a big rally to start the drive the week-end following the wildcat. Six days after the walkout the union had 780 cards signed—enough to seek an election.

A union official explained why this is a very significant event—about from across the country is watching to see what develops. It is highly unusual for an entire plant to walk out spontaneously with no formal organizing effort and then to so rapidly be able to get cards for an election in the non-union South. The union is also interested because they feel it will give them a foothold with the rest of the poultry industry which is largely unorganized. North Carolina is the nation's leading turkey producer.

This wildcat is significant as more than just a union issue. It is politically significant because it shows what workers must do in order to survive. The workers did not organize themselves because they were unhappy but because they could not survive.

It is also politically significant because Raeford, N.C. is the Black Belt of the South. This is the area where the slave plantations were.
KEYSVILLE

There must be national resistance to overturning the House Committee decision, the most visible expression of the fight for Black political power in the Black South.

THE WORKERS....

After the January 88 victory in Keysville, the remaining workers in the Keysville Converse Home, faced an uncertain future. The "nursing home" was owned by the owners of the Home. The "nursing home" operation was replaced by the owners on the workers just as they have been behind the assaults on the Keysville government.

Established sick time and vacation time was arbitrarily taken from the workers. Workers were being constantly lied on and harassed on the floor. White workers were being hired and immediately promoted and paid more than Black workers who have worked in the Home for years. Enough was enough.

In August the workers filed a petition to affiliate with Local 1999 of the Hospital Workers Union. Their election is scheduled for September 21 this year.

The workers are strong and have already had a victory in a August 17 hearing to determine the make up of the bargaining unit and who will vote. More than 25 workers and supporters from Keysville attended the hearing. All of the workers on the floor and in the kitchen are included. That is what the workers were fighting for.

Meanwhile, the workers at the Sampson and Delilah Plants in nearby Louisdville are facing a stiff campaign from the plant managers who have been refusing to bargain with the workers in good faith.

The Keysville Nursing Home workers and the workers from the Sampson and Delilah Plants ought to stand together and support each other's struggle. And Keysville workers should stand behind them both.

SCHLAGE

a local newspaper reporter had been secretly invited to the Schlage Plant Closing held on Saturday August 27, 1988, at 216 E. Atlantic Ave., Raleigh, NC 27605.

News articles, letters to the editor and community calendar events are welcome in JUSTICE SPEAKS. They must be received by the 20th of each month.

DEMOCRATS

The struggle for Black political power in the Schlage Plant should be a major campaign issue. The Democratic convention is the primary focus for the Democrats. The Black middle class at the Democratic convention should include those who have been working since last year for an international convention that would regulate the dumping of dangerous waste.

I thought it might be a good idea if this convention does take place, for delegates from the Black Nation in the South to try to attend. At minimum, a draft petition to the United Nations Convention conveying the plight of "toxic terrorism" in the Black Belt South should be submitted. I am dubious that the few sympathetic ears to the fight by Black workers in Edgecombe County or Rocky Mount against toxic waste dumping.

Nathaniel Blando
Washington, D.C. 

BLACK WORKERS' POLITICAL PLATFORM CAMPAIGN

News articles, letters to the editor and community calendar events are welcome in JUSTICE SPEAKS. They must be received by the 20th of each month.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I was very interested in the struggles in Edgecombe County and in Rocky Mount exposing and condemning the toxic waste dumping in their communities. It brought to mind a very similar struggle taking place presently in west Africa and it renewed in my mind the common struggle by the Black race against exploitation whether in the Black Nation in the South or a Black nation in Africa.

In Nigeria in June, the government arrested 15 people and is threatening to shoot them for dumping over 4,000 tons of toxic waste, including over 150 tons of PCB, a highly carcinogenic compound. It is one of the world's most deadly and toxic industrial wastes. The PCB came from Italy. In Guinea, west Africa, a Norwegian ambassador was arrested because a Norwegian-registered ship dumped 15,000 tons of toxic inecinctoriser ash (originally from Philadelphia). In the Congo, government officials were arrested for a scheme to dump 50,000 tons of toxic waste in that country. The toxic waste was from a New Jersey City Export Waste Management, Inc.

Throughout Africa criticisms have been raised against the West's waste dumping. Several African nations have condemned this dumping as "toxic terrorism" by western nations (mostly Europe and America) and another form of neo-colonial exploitation of the continent.

Pressure is also mounting for speedy action on a proposed United Nations Convention that would prohibit toxic waste dumping without the informed consent of the country. Apparently, the United Nations Environmental Program has been working since last year for an international convention that would regulate the dumping of dangerous waste.

I thought it might be a good idea if this convention does take place, for delegates from the Black Nation in the South to try to attend. At minimum, a draft petition to the United Nations Convention conveying the plight of "toxic terrorism" in the Black Belt South should be submitted. I am dubious that the few sympathetic ears to the fight by Black workers in Edgecombe County or Rocky Mount against toxic waste dumping.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I was very interested in the struggles in Edgecombe County and in Rocky Mount exposing and condemning the toxic waste dumping in their communities. It brought to mind a very similar struggle taking place presently in west Africa and it renewed in my mind the common struggle by the Black race against exploitation whether in the Black Nation in the South or a Black nation in Africa.

In Nigeria in June, the government arrested 15 people and is threatening to shoot them for dumping over 4,000 tons of toxic waste, including over 150 tons of PCB, a highly carcinogenic compound. It is one of the world's most deadly and toxic industrial wastes. The PCB came from Italy. In Guinea, west Africa, a Norwegian ambassador was arrested because a Norwegian-registered ship dumped 15,000 tons of toxic inecinctoriser ash (originally from Philadelphia). In the Congo, government officials were arrested for a scheme to dump 50,000 tons of toxic waste in that country. The toxic waste was from a New Jersey City Export Waste Management, Inc.

Throughout Africa criticisms have been raised against the West's waste dumping. Several African nations have condemned this dumping as "toxic terrorism" by western nations (mostly Europe and America) and another form of neo-colonial exploitation of the continent.

Pressure is also mounting for speedy action on a proposed United Nations Convention that would prohibit toxic waste dumping without the informed consent of the country. Apparently, the United Nations Environmental Program has been working since last year for an international convention that would regulate the dumping of dangerous waste.

I thought it might be a good idea if this convention does take place, for delegates from the Black Nation in the South to try to attend. At minimum, a draft petition to the United Nations Convention conveying the plight of "toxic terrorism" in the Black Belt South should be submitted. I am dubious that the few sympathetic ears to the fight by Black workers in Edgecombe County or Rocky Mount against toxic waste dumping.

Nathaniel Blando
Washington, D.C. 

BLACK WORKERS' POLITICAL PLATFORM CAMPAIGN

News articles, letters to the editor and community calendar events are welcome in JUSTICE SPEAKS. They must be received by the 20th of each month.
SOUTH AFRICA FORCED TO BARGAIN—MANY SKEPTICS

By Akimshiju C. Ola

AUGUST 21—The August 8 cease-fire agreement signed by Angola, Cuba, and South Africa has generated some cautious hope internationally, though in Namibia there is much skepticism about Pretoria’s role.

"We are not too optimistic," South West African People’s Organization (SWAPO) representative Monica Nashandi said in an interview with Guardian correspondent Karen Gellen. "The Angolan government, whose deep friendship ties early with South Africa have a long list of extraneous items they can introduce at any time to stop the process."

South Africa has linked the Angolan commitment to get out of Namibia to the withdrawal of South African occupation forces from Angola (formerly South West Africa). In 1975, Angola won independence from Portugal after a long, national liberation war. But before independence could be declared, the South African-backed UNITA "contra" attacked the liberation movement, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). After independence, UNITA (now also backed by the US) and later South Africa, openly waged civil war against Angola, creating horrendous conditions for the people and economy. The new Angolan government, whose leadership has developed deep friendship ties early in their movement with Cuba, asked Cuba for military help in ousting South Africa from their country. There is no relashandisaid on an apartheid regime's long occupation of Namibia and the Angolan government's request for Cuban assistance.

CEASE-FIRE DETAILS
The cease-fire was reported to go into effect immediately after the agreement was signed in Geneva. The three nations made the announcement along with Chester Crocker of the US State Department—who participated as a mediator. The Pretoria government said it would withdraw its troops from Angola by Sept. 1, and if the timetable for the Cuban pullout is accepted, it would cooperate in the implementation of the UN plan for Namibian independence.

The UN plan, Security Council Resolution 435, calls for total South African withdrawal from Namibia, and UN-supervised elections that would lead to Namibian independence. The resolution is 18 years old, and South Africa has continued its refusal to relinquish its illegal control of the territory. Representatives from neither SWAPO nor the African National Congress were participants in the 4-party meeting in Geneva.

The main provisions of the agreement are:

* The removal of South African troops from Angola by Sept. 1, by which time Cuba and Angola will present a timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban forces.
* Implementation of Resolution 435, to which South Africa agreed in principle in 1978 but has never carried out.
* A phased withdrawal of most of the 50,000 South African troops from Namibia to be completed by Feb. 1, 1989, and the deployment of a 7,500-member UN peacekeeping force.

POLITICS AND MILITARY MOP PRETORIA

There has been some talk that the Pretoria government became a party to the Geneva agreement because of pressures from the international community. But this is a specious argument, since South Africa has done international opinion and has chosen relative isolation for years. It is a fact that South Africa and its puppet Jonas Savimbi of UNITA have found that the combined forces of the Cubans and the Angolan army are quite formidable fighters.

The winds of change in the war began to shift last summer when the Angolan army launched a Cuban-backed offensive against UNITA strongholds. South African troops came to UNITA’s aid with a counterattack that pushed the Angolans and Cuban forces back into the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale. As the South African troops attempted to take the town they suffered enormous casualties, and ceased no victory.

Those troops that remain in the Cuito Cuanavale area have been virtually encircled by the Angolan and Cuban forces, and are cut off from their retreat to rear bases in Namibia, according to Guardian correspondent Paul Fauvet in Maputo, Mozambique.

"We learn of comfort in the cease-fire for South Africa," Fauvet adds, "is that it will be able to extricate these troops without suffering further casualties."

The Angolan government has refused to talk with Savimbi. This has been termed by Crocker as a potential block to an overall regional settlement. The U.S. says it will continue to support Savimbi, and UNITA continue to get support through a military structure that’s still in place.

Another crucial factor in the negotiations is that it is perhaps in South Africa’s best interests to keep Africa to itself in Namibia before the administration leaves office. Still, there skepticism even among Western diplomats who Pretoria will honor a commitment to get out of Namibia, which it is controlled for 73 years.

"We will celebrate Nashandi said, "when South Africa signs a cease-fire with us, and we see the forces going into Namibia to supervise an election."

She concluded, "we are not serious about negotiations, then will fall back to the battle lines. Either way, they will be forced to pull out completely."

SUBSCRIBE!
Exhausted Worker Mangles Hand, Cites Overtime

BLOOMER HILL—Danny Lewis, 24, a recently hired technician on the CDC Family II Rod Line, was injured when his hand was mangled in a machine on September 22. He may have permanently lost usage of it. The accident occurred when his jacket sleeve got caught in moving equipment, pulling his arm through a space only 1 1/2 inches wide.

CDC management was quick to point out safety standard violations (wearing unsnapped long sleeve clothing while operating a machine). But they failed to mention the effects of excessively long hours people have been forced to work. [see related article]...

"Carelessness" leading to injury on the job is not just the result of a lack of safety awareness on the part of the worker; it is the result of mental and physical fatigue and the pressure by management to meet production goals within deadlines.

The Family II Rod Line had just returned to 8 hr shifts after working 12 hr shifts for 5 weeks. Long hours and forced overtime are a question of health and safety, even life and death, for workers at CDC. As CDC continues these long hours and forces many new workers through a "hurry-up-quick" training program to meet production demands of 500 engines per day, the risk of serious injury becomes greater and greater.

In response, the CDC General Manager, the Personnel Manager, and the Director of Machining all came to a Block Line team meeting to tell technicians that production demands will continue to dictate working hours, without physical, mental, or family needs of the people being considered.

SUCCESSFUL PETITION
Machine breakdowns get more attention than people breakdowns. After working most of June and July on 12 hour shifts, workers on the Block Line came back from the annual plant shutdown to find themselves working 18 days straight with no day off. When the Block Line Manager raised the possibility of working through the Labor Day weekend to meet production, 28 technicians and temporary workers signed a letter to the Director of Human Resources asking for the three day weekend off. "We the Technicians of the Block Line ask you to allow us to be off work for the Labor Day weekend. As of Friday, September 2, we will have worked 18 days consecutively with no day off. For most of us, the majority of those days have been 12 hour shifts. Our physical and mental needs demand three days off in order to rest and recover our energies so that we can continue to perform effectively on the job. Our labor cannot continue unlimitly to make up for machine breakdowns and other management problems. The Labor Day weekend is an important time for our families. This holiday was created to honor the working men and women that have built this country. It only adds insult upon injury to expect us to continue working through this holiday weekend. We are human beings that have a right to be treated with respect."

In response, the CDC General Manager, the Personnel Manager, and the Director of Machining all came to a Block Line team meeting to tell technicians that production demands will continue to dictate working hours, without physical, mental, or family needs of the people being considered.
SHILOH, ANOTHER VICTIM OF TOXIC TERRORISM

SHILOH, NC—Toxic terrorism continues on! This time an attack was made against the predominantly Black Shiloh community and the former employees of the Koppers Company, located in western Wake County, NC.

From 1968 to 1975, Koppers Co., Inc., employed workers to treat wood with chemicals isopropyl ether (IPE) and pentachlorophenol (PCP). These chemicals were used. Wastes from these chemicals were first dumped in a pond on site at the plant and later into two lagoons, also on site. Waste was also applied to other property on the company site. This waste was hazardous waste that the company was immediately dumping into two lagoons, also on the site. Waste was also applied to other property on the company site. This waste was hazardous waste that the company was immediately dumping into two lagoons, also on the site. Waste was also applied to other property on the company site. This waste was hazardous waste that the company was immediately dumping into two lagoons, also on the site. Waste was also applied to other property on the company site. This waste was hazardous waste that the company was immediately dumping into two lagoons, also on the site. Waste was also applied to other property on the company site. This waste was hazardous waste that the company was immediately dumping into two lagoons, also on the site. Waste was also applied to other property on the company site. This waste was hazardous waste that the company was immediately dumping into two lagoons, also on the site. Waste was also applied to other property on the company site. This waste was hazardous waste that the company was immediately dumping into two lagoons, also on the site.

The attack on the Shiloh community took place when the chemicals dumped in the pond and lagoons leaked into the water table and on the soil, resulting, into the wells of the community, and contaminated 2,200 people. Recently, many wells near the former Koppers plant have tested positive for these toxic cancer-causing chemicals.

KOPPERS AND GOVERNMENT MUST BE HELD LIABLE

Koppers transferred some of the PCP to a hazardous waste facility because of Federal Law; however, PCP remains on the company grounds. "The most dangerous of these sites in North Carolina may well be the Koppers Company which used PCP as a wood preservative," stated Spectator magazine (Vol. 9, Sept. 1981). The State government has been aware of this hazardous waste problem since 1981. The Federal government had knowledge of this site as well and put this site on its "Super Fund" list. This is a list identifying the most dangerous sites in the nation and supposedly provides funds for clean-up of toxic chemicals. However, government funds have not been cut in the midst of a political climate that allows companies to get away with such criminal acts.

Koppers found the PCP in the drinking water in 1980. From 1980 to 1986 Koppers transported some of the PCP to a hazardous waste facility because of Federal Law; however, PCP remains on the company grounds. "The most dangerous of these sites in North Carolina may well be the Koppers Company which used PCP as a wood preservative," stated Spectator magazine (Vol. 9, Sept. 1981). The State government has been aware of this hazardous waste problem since 1981. The Federal government had knowledge of this site as well and put this site on its "Super Fund" list. This is a list identifying the most dangerous sites in the nation and supposedly provides funds for clean-up of toxic chemicals. However, government funds have not been cut in the midst of a political climate that allows companies to get away with such criminal acts.

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INDIAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS
FORCED TO TRIAL

1986 ROBESON MARCH FOR JUSTICE

RALEIGH, NC— The trial of Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs has started in 4th Circuit Federal District Court in Raleigh, N.C., Sept. 26.

At that time, Judge Boyle denied Hatcher’s request for a delay until his trial lawyer — activist attorney — William Kunstler — could be present. The judge then attempted to force two other attorneys to represent Hatcher. So, although Eddie Hatcher takes every opportunity to remind the court that his constitutional rights are being denied, he and Timothy Jacobs are still being forced to proceed with the trial.

"In a country which consistently insists that criminal defendants are entitled to counsel of their choice," said Kunstler, "it is a disgrace for a federal judge to deny this right to anyone, particularly a Native American who faces a potential punishment of life in prison."

FOSTER, TELLS, CONVICTS

Hatcher and Jacobs are the two Tuscarora Indians from Robeson County, N.C., who took over a local newspaper office in February. Theirs was a desperate attempt to protect official corruption, excessive drug trafficking, and racial oppression, and a plea for Governor Martin to investigate these longstanding problems, in a county whose population is 2/3 African-American and Indian.

WIDESPREAD COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Since then, thousands of county residents have united in a show of support and concern. The defendants’ mothers, Thelma Clark and Eleanor Jacobs, have been their sons’ most

NEWS BRIEFS

HALIFAX CO., NC— The Halifax County Black Caucus (HBC) is throwing its support behind candidate Edith Jenkins in the November ’88 Weldon City School Board election.

The Caucus’ support for Jenkins comes on the heels of its May ’88 attempt to regain Black control of the Halifax County School Board. In that election the Caucus supported a slate of three Black candidates; one, Incumbent James Pierce, was elected to the four member body. Another Black candidate, not a member of the slate, Steve Thornton, was also elected. Thornton’s positions on issues related to blacks is unknown, however.

Rocky Mt., NC— The Trade Union Commission (TUC) of the Black Workers for Justice met September 11 to discuss the Schake Lock workers victory against the plant closing and its implications for building the workers rights movement in North Carolina and the Black Belt South. Plans are to publish the second issue of the TUC bulletin, New Trade Unionism, in November. The bulletin will include articles about area and Southern workers struggles, the linkages between on-the-job struggles for workers rights and unionism to the Black Belt Southern movement for Black Political Power.

PEONRY, NC— Sept. 17th saw the re-opening of the Fremont People’s Clinic, a community clinic which offers full health screening and basic medical services. This clinic is free and sponsored by an area-wide people’s health committee. With representation from the Wayne Co. communities of Eureka and Pikeville, and the Fremont Concerned Citizens.

Living in the Black Belt, residents suffer health conditions that resemble many Third World countries: high infant mortality, treatable diseases, unsafe working conditions, and industrial pollution. While some committee members are health workers, most are not trained in health. They are simply concerned, active people aware of the health problems of their community. Technical person-power is largely received from the NC Student Rural Health Coalition, a group committed to serving such grassroots initiatives.

For more information, call 282 - 3709 and 282 - 5921 (Fremont).

CHARLOTTE, NC— Over 1500 employees represented by the United Food and Commercial Workers Union at 21 Kroger stores in North and South Carolina were recently told that their negotiations have reached an impasse. Negotiations are expected to continue.

For more information, call 232 - 2953 (Charlotte).

POLITICAL POWER IN THE BLACKBELT

As a leading circulating city Mount Bendis
My friends and employees: We must take the time to think about a very important situation, you as well as I, at any time off, personal days, are very often unpaid. By now you are all aware of the attendance problem employees have in this business. When you are absent, you are not here to do your job. In the past, we have had a system that allowed employees to work when it was convenient to them. The system was based on the word of the employee, and it worked well. However, as the business has grown, we have found that this system is no longer adequate. We need a more organized and efficient method of tracking attendance.

You also have administrative pay for the day. The pay for the system works on those who drive at bars and belong to the golf club. It is not a secret that when it comes to attendance, you are not in your best mind. Your friends and employees, this is a time when you must also take a stand for the benefit of your community. Yes, it is that serious. Now, those who are employed will be given a letter saying that you have been absent at this time for the following reason:

When, for example, supporters were questioned about sympathy for the Robesonian newspaper staff, Ms. Jacobs passionately responded that the oppressed people of Robeson County have been held hostage for hundreds of years.

POLITICS COMMANDS LEGAL DEFENSE

The Christie Institute-South legal defense team in presenting a necessity defense — that Hatcher and Jacobs believed their lives were in danger and that they had no other reasonable alternatives. The legal strategy is to aggressively present evidence and witnesses to support charges of corruption. This includes calling the county sheriff, four deputies, and other law enforcement officials who may be involved in trafficking vast amounts of illegal drugs into this poor, southeastern N.C. Black Belt county. This legal strategy is a chance for the community to strike a blow for justice against well-established forces, in continued on page 7.
Justice Speaks

CALL TO JUSTICE
Analysis, Views & Demands From the BWFJ

PLATFORM CAMPAIGN ADOPTS
IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS

SUCCESSFUL SEPT. 24 CONFERENCE SHOWS VISION OF A CONSOLIDATED BLACK POLITICAL MOVEMENT.

FULL REPORT TO FOLLOW IN NEXT ISSUE OF JUSTICE SPEAKS.

2. The Platform Campaign develop a) an electoral strategy for local and independent elections; and b) discussion nationally on feasibility of running an independent presidential candidate in 1992 and building an independent political party and movement. Steering Committee will direct discussion & outreach.

UNIONIZING THE SOUTH/STRENGTHENING THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

3. The Keysville Nursing Home workers’ struggle for a contract is supported and adopted by the Platform Campaign. Campaign contacts in Atlanta and the Samson and Delilah plants will meet to formulate closer, more concrete support.

4. The Campaign will design model legislation on plant closings based on lessons learned from the Schlage Lock workers struggle.

5. Campaign assist Schlage Lock workers’ struggle to gain national exposure, i.e., through pickets, press conferences, speaking tours, etc.

BLACK POLITICAL POWER

6. The Campaign supports the development of a Black Belt Defense Committee to defend workers’ and Black political power struggles in the Black Belt, with Keysville as an integral part of that struggle.

7. A Black Belt congress or conference on Political Power in the South and create into a permanent body or

BLACK WORKERS POLITICAL PLATFORM CONFERENCE ’88
RESOLUTIONS

1. Black Workers Political Platform Campaign Affiliates should outright condemn the Republican Party, question the Democratic party (through forums etc., leaflets at rallies etc.) on issues of Black political power in the South and throughout the US (ie. second primaries, at-large elections, voting rights etc.)

Where We Stand!

- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor
- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
- FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, “run-away shops”
- FOR health and safety on the job and in the community
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and “killer shops”
- FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities
- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racist national oppression of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities.

BLACK WORKERS FOR JUSTICE is an organization of Black workers organizing to build the African-American workers’ movement as a central force in the struggle for Black Liberation and Worker Power.
institution. The campaign will send out letters to various communities engaged in struggles to invite to participate.

8. Creation of a pamphlet or brochure on the connections between Black Political Power and Workers' Rights.

9. Develop a program on Toxic Terrorism in the South; develop the links between community and workplace struggles against toxic waste and dumping. Toxic terrorism on the international level should be at least monitored. Seek contact with the UN Conference on Toxic Waste.

10. Campaign develop a model on incorporation for small towns (both unincorporated areas and inactive incorporated towns) indicating benefits of incorporation and political importance to the Black Belt South.

11. A Youth Conference Planning Meeting be held in 6 months to organize a regional youth conference; work will be coordinated by Campaign contacts in Atlanta.

12. A commission be established to study combating drugs and the effects on youth, in particular, and the community in general.

13. The Campaign will build local platform campaign committees to conduct local work; the steering committee will develop the formula on how a local committee should look.

14. The Campaign Steering Committee will convene at least twice in 1989.

15. The Steering Committee will be composed of all struggles represented at the Platform Conference.

16. Conference Proceedings & Resolutions will be distributed in 15-30 days.

17. [The Justice Speaks newspaper will continue as the organ of the Campaign.] Articles should be sent to Justice Speaks from the various areas on the activities generated by the Campaign.

18. The Steering Committee, or the Campaign Co-Chairs, will develop the Black Primary Ballot within two months and distribute for discussion at the March 1989 Steering Committee Meeting.

19. The next Steering Committee meeting will be in March 1989 in Keysville, Georgia.

20. The 1988 Black Primary Ballots will be tabulated and reported on at the March '89 Steering Committee meeting.
Corporate buyouts are often considered a threat to workers, as exemplified by the situation in Charlotte, NC. Kroger, a leading grocery chain, has been accused of unfair labor practices, including the recruitment and hiring of new workers to maintain the status quo. The company's "team concept" and "management by stress" approaches have been criticized for their negative impact on workers and the community. The Charlotte area's historically black workforce has been particularly affected by these practices, leading to an increase in union activism and demands for fair employment practices.
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INDIANS
spite of the judge's attempts to persist only a narrow range of evidence.
In the first week of trial, defense attorneys suggested the judge should just pull up a chair at the government prosecutor's table after he had limited a witness' testimony. Robeson Co., drug-running. The Hatchet/Jacobs legal team believes the prosecutors have evidence of large-scale illegal activities in the county but refuse to bring it out. The prosecutors ignore but do not deny these charges.
Jury selection and presentation of the prosecutor's evidence took up the first week of trial. In this judicially-looked-for, is the judge's decision whether or not attorneys can question potential jurors. Not surprisingly, Boyle dismissed defense requests to question jurors. Boyle pronounced that none of the jurors selected would be discriminatory. At the same time, prosecutors automatically eliminated the two Native American prospects. The selection

of nine Black jurors does
look promising, however.

PALESTINE
committees were established in each neighborhood in the occupied territories. We are talking about thousands of neighborhood committees and popular committees in the occupied territories. These committees offer services to Palestinians and represent the only authority in that area. These committees are divided into sub-committees to cover every aspect of needs and services. We have, for example, educational sub-committees since the Israeli authorities closed schools.
These educational sub-committees took charge of creating and establishing a new educational network, educating our children about the Intifada—its objectives and why it is there. We teach them about Palestinian nationalism, about the struggle of other people in the world, about the struggle of South Africa, the struggle of Nicaragua, the struggle of El Salvador, the struggle of Namibia. That's why we call it Popular Education.

SHILOH
In future meetings of Shi'loh Coalition with the Koppers Co., these demands will be discussed and renewed. Meanwhile, this community will continue to organize itself, build support and learn lessons from other struggles against "Terrorism."
The Intifada has the following phases: First, the attraction of world public opinion to the Palestinian situation under Israeli occupation and how to benefit from the media coverage in making this situation known. The Intifada did achieve such objectives through demonstrations and through stones. This phase required a large number of participants and resulted in many brave martyrs, and injured and detained Palestinians. But we also received a reaction from world public opinion, and world condemnation for the Israeli occupation.

We are in the second phase right now, preparing for the third phase, when comprehensive popular insurrection is declared. If we want to define the effects of the current Intifada that began December 9, 1987, and to place it within its real context we should emphasize that, one, the initiative was Palestinian. Second, the Intifada transferred the Arab-Israeli confrontation from outside the borders of Israel, to within its own borders for the first time. Third, it proved that the Palestinian front and body has not been penetrated by the Israeli might and power.

As Palestinians under occupation, we talk about the political, economic, and social consequences of the Intifada.

Clear political objectives of the Intifada were:

1. To provide world protection to our people under occupation.
2. To send international observers to the occupied areas.
3. To obtain the immediate release of all detainees, and the closure of all detention centers.
4. To stop the deportation policy, and the demolition of houses.
5. To force the withdrawal of the Israeli army from the populated Arab centers, and to stop the transformation of refugee camps into detention centers.

What has been achieved from all these political objectives at the Palestinian level? At the level of the Palestinian administration plan in the occupied territories. At the level of the Palestinian authority’s plan to achieve a comprehensive popular uprising. And at the level of the International Conference to End the Israeli Occupation of the Palestinian territories.

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The economic aspect is also very important. The Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is not just a military occupation. It covers every single aspect of the daily life of the Palestinians living there, and the economic occupation is another aspect of that occupation. The moment that the Israel army entered the occupied territories they started destroying the Palestinian economic infrastructure by prohibiting the Palestinian authority from rebuilding their infrastructure, annexing the Palestinian economy to the Israeli economy, and making it illegal for the Palestinians to have any kind of economic activity in the occupied territories.

The total amount of money which enters the Israeli treasury as a result of occupying the Palestinian territories is $2.2 billion annually. This amount is exactly half of the American aid which gets annually. It is profitable occupation that is why Israel keeps the occupied territories. It only knows two countries in the world who are willing to occupy oppress, kill, deport, and people and have been doing it for the last 40 years, the Israeli occupation.

Let me explain the objectives of the economic aspect of the Intifada. First, to inflict as much damage as possible on the Israeli economy, as second, to start building a Palestinian national economy in the occupied territories.

What has been achieved at the economic level? First boycotting Israeli products. Second, to start building a Palestinian national economy in the occupied territories. We have been doing it for the last 40 years. Now, we don’t have any political agenda, and we have been doing it with the help of the Israeli treasury and the will of the world to stop this occupation.

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Raleigh, NC— After nine months of intense political and legal struggle, the Asheville Times journalist Alex S. Smith and three of his colleagues, Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs, were found not guilty on all counts. The charges against them included abstracting, conspiracy, making a false statement, and several counts of federal gun charges.

The verdict rendered by a jury of nine blacks and three whites (four women and five men), was a major political victory for the forces of justice and human rights in Robeson County. Legally, the verdict may result in a lack of criminal justice; politically, the verdict was a clear demand for justice.

The announcement of the verdict comes only two months after the closing of the Asheville Times. Following the closing, and resulting in the loss of 800 jobs, the Burlington News-Forums at its bankruptcy auction of the paper.

The verdict was a clear signal that job security of Rocky Mt. workers is the potential political victory. In the Black Belt South, just as the period of Reconstruction, the 19th Century, marked the rise of a Black power in the South, and new forces, the movement of the Black and Indian population, was the potential political victory. In the Black Belt South, just as the period of Reconstruction, the 19th Century, marked the rise of a Black power in the South, and new forces, the movement of the Black and Indian population, was the potential political victory.
PLANNED CAMPAIGN OFFERS SOUTHERN HOPE

Background

"A new generation of black voters, for whom the New Deal and even the civil rights legislation of the 1960s are only history lessons, appear less committed than older blacks are to the Democratic Party and its presidential nominee, Gov. Michael S. Dukakis, according to the latest New York Times - CBS News Poll..." This disenchantment among younger blacks is a major reason why the Massachusetts governor is running not quite as well among black voters as the Democratic nominee was at this time in 1988 or 1984.

The Black Workers Political Platform Campaign

Organizers of the Black Workers Political Platform Campaign, launched in the spring of 1987, have noted this disenchantment among the people. But more than that, the Platform Campaign was initiated to provide an answer, a direction, a plan.

Under the slogan, "Black Workers Need A Political Platform" this still embryonic effort has been launched. A political platform is a program of action that unites the many issues and struggles affecting the masses of black people. In these times of dangerous, conservative America, Black working people must become conscious of and consolidate their agenda, their program of action. From this program of action, the Black working class must form the basis of a broad black United Front of all black people. This Front must emerge as a strong force within the Rainbow Coalition.

The BWPPC 2nd Planning Conference

On September 24, 1988 the BWPPC held its second planning conference at Enfield, North Carolina. The conference was a follow-up session from the first planning Convention held in September 1987 at Suffield.

More than 50 representatives of organizations and struggles attended the conference, including representatives from the Black Rank & File Exchange in the midwest, the Schlaen Lock Workers For Justice from Rocky Mount, N.C., the Keyesville City government from Burke County Georgia, AFSCME, Local 1194 of Durham, Shiloh, N.C. and Halifax County, N.C.

Another important occurrence was the forming of a women's caucus during the conference which video taped a solidarity message to Assata Shakur and the International Women's Conference to be held during October in Cuba. Freedom fighter Assata Shakur is currently exiled in Cuba and was expected to attend the International session.

Everyone felt the conference was a tremendous happening in close proximity to Tillery in Halifax County, N.C. and was expected to occurance was the forming of a women's caucus during the conference, including representatives from the Black Rank & File Exchange in the midwest, the Schlaen Lock Workers For Justice from Rocky Mount, N.C., the Keyesville City government from Burke County Georgia, AFSCME, Local 1194 of Durham, Shiloh, N.C. and Halifax County, N.C.

There were no changes in the leadership of the campaign as elected in the BWPPC held its 2nd Planning Conference on September 24, 1988 at Suffield.

Control Belt Struggle to Health Care

In the face of poor economic and unhealthy conditions in the NC Black Belt, the presence of the Tillery and Fremont People's Clinics, as free, community-run health clinics, is especially significant. Not only have they been able to share the burden of health care brought to where they are most sorely needed, but they have been organized by the very communities who will use them, run them, and staff them.

POVERTY NEXT DOOR TO WEALTH

"Our people really need these clinics," said Sylvester Artis, Fremont City Councilperson and health committee member. Because of the Black Belt's underdevelopment and political backwardness, most residents of the area—the majority of whom are African-Americans—face health conditions equally as poor or worse than many of the Third World nations, for example, Costa Rica and Cuba.

In close proximity to high tech medical institutions of Chapel Hill and Durham as well as some of the biggest medical and drug industries in the world, people still suffer and die from treatable diseases, workers go home sick from the job with nowhere to turn for decent, affordable medical care. To add insult to injury, the 80's have seen "non-profits" hospitals bought up by huge mega-companies like Humana Corporation and converted into for-profit businesses, further limiting the already scarce health resources available to working class people.

ORGANIZING FOR HEALTH CARE IS STRUGGLING FOR FUNDING

Medical organizing efforts own their success largely to the Community Health Collective. OCK is made up of representatives from Tillery in Halifax County and from Winton, Bloomer Hill (Fremont) and Garysburg (Northampton Co.). It provides a forum for sharing information and possessing that it can shape effective solutions about conditions they face in common. Decision made at CHC are based on the collective experience of the four communities. Their informed decisions are then passed on to the health committees.

The North Carolina Student Rural Health Coalition (NCSRHC) assists local health committees in recruiting doctors and medical students as well as obtaining necessary supplies and equipment. Probably the most important purpose of the CHC is to wage the fight for justice in health. Ethel Jones of Bloomer Hill told the conference that the people's health institutions where the people's health care is at risk of being sold to the highest bidder, is a fight worth fighting. In other words, the fight to win justice in health is the fight to win a people's health institutions where the health of the people is at risk of being sold to the highest bidder, is a fight worth fighting. In other words, the fight to win a people's health institutions where the health of the people is at risk of being sold to the highest bidder, is a fight worth fighting.

"This was the people's power meeting," said Cherie Liddell, a member of the Black Workers Political Platform Campaign. "We want to see representation of the people. This was the people's power meeting," said Cherie Liddell, a member of the Black Workers Political Platform Campaign. "We want to see representation of the people. The United Comerical Workers' immediately objections will be National Labor Relations Act. The board could order election. The joint presentation of the agreements of the health facilities, wages and conditions of the legal process given the community time to decide against representation. And how the w orked to get a claim of small community center, 10.5 acres, supervised by the National Labor Relations Act.

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In the South, the coalitions are the most powerful force within the struggle for Black Liberation and Workers Power. This Front must emerge as a strong force within the Rainbow Coalition.
UNION VOTE LOST BUT WORKERS VOW TO FIGHT ON

The United Food & Commercial Workers Union immediately filed objections with the National Labor Relations Board, charging the company with 30 different labor law violations. The Labor Board has yet to decide the Union's charges of illegal firings.

Many of the older workers who can't read or write feared they would lose their jobs and wouldn't know how or where to apply for another. Workers were forced to attend almost daily "captive audience" meetings where speeches and films of strikes, violence, plant closing and loss of jobs and homes were portrayed as the result of unionization.

Several key leaders of the August strike weren't allowed back into the plant or were fired over nothing. The Labor Board has yet to decide the Union's charges of illegal firings.

The day before the election, supervisors passed out "Vote No" shirts and made employees sign for them. They also took a list of those wearing the Union's "Vote Yes" t-shirts. On election day, owner Marvin Johnson stood at the plant gate like an old plantation owner, welcoming each of "his workers" who appeared in the green company shirt.

THE RAEFORD FIGHT IS NATIONALY IMPORTANT

The battle in Raeford has national significance. Reality is an industry that has moved into the Black Belt South replacing the traditional plantation economy of cotton and tobacco. North Carolina is the US's leading turkey producer, yet no plants are unionized. Conditions allow workers to barely survive, while plant owners are enjoying great profits. Unions are virtually outlawed in the South's Black Belt. And as the Raeford campaign shows, the owners intend to keep it that way, even if it means breaking the law.

Poultry is an industry that has moved into the South Carolina Black Belt. And as Tillery says, the war is not over in Raeford...it's just begun. The union has vowed to fight on. This Thanksgiving, as working people enjoy their turkey dinners, take a moment to consider the lives of those who work in near-slavery conditions in the Black Belt turkey plants. Our futures, our lives are bound up with theirs.

Many Thanks to the People's Tribune for this article.

RAEFORD, NC—The Thanksgiving, there will be no victory to celebrate in the homes of Raeford's 1,000, mainly Black, workers.

On August 1st, most of the plant's 1,000 workers spontaneously walked off the job, demanding a pay increase and more respect for the job.

Faced with the company's daily threats to close the plant, move across the South Carolina border, harassment and firings of union supporters, the vote for union representation lost by 30 votes: "vote No" 240 "vote Yes".

SLAVERY: 1980s STYLE

The United Food & Commercial Workers Union immediately filed objections with the National Labor Relations Board, charging the company with 30 different labor law violations. The Labor Board could order a new election. The Union is also pursuing worker allegations of sexual harassment, wage & hour law violations, and unsafe working conditions. But the legal process is slow giving the company even more time to organize against union representation.

Many of the workers complained of sexual abuse and harassment from supervisors. An average wage of 8.75/hour, long hours, mandatory 6-day workweeks, unsafe conditions, and finally Raeford owner, Marvin Johnson, calling the workers his "nigger slaves" sparked the walkout.

COMPANY ATTACKS VICIOUSLY

But the workers weren't prepared for the assault of the company, who hired a high-priced union-busting law firm to advise him. In the two months allowed by the Labor Board for a campaign, the company created an atmosphere of fear and intimidation.
DON'T BE A CRAZY REPUBLICAN OR BLIND DEMOCRAT - VOTE FOR SOMETHING, NOT FOR NOTHING

The current choice of presidential candidates for the Nov. 8th election makes it clear that Black and working class people have no real candidate at all. The political stance represented by the Jackson Campaign has no clear identity at all in the Dukakis/Bentson Campaign. In fact, Dukakis has played down, in the national media, any past association with the Jackson program. Certainly, no one, to our knowledge, has heard Dukakis mention a word about South Africa having been declared a "terrorist state" in his campaign. He has not associated himself, that we know, with or openly supported support for any Black candidate running for political office in November.

Dukakis has bowed to the conservative wing of the Democratic Party by limiting the amount of space and leeway given Jackson to build support for the November election. The problems of utilizing Jackson campaign staff in the Dukakis campaign reflect the control of the conservative wing over the political direction of the Democratic Party.

What Black and other oppressed and working class people are faced with in this election is either to be crazy Republicans or blind Democrats. People are made to feel that their political destiny rests with which candidate gets elected president. This is clearly a wrong way to view politics and it will forever have people first voting for who they believe to be the lesser of the two evils, and then saying, "what difference does it make?" Whomever is elected will do as they please anyway. To have this feeling must make people re-examine the actual power of the vote; that they have no control over any political direction.

The 1988 election should mainly seen in terms of electing key local candidates to school boards, city councils, county commissions, governors and state representatives. Black people should not be made to carry the burden of electing unaccountable candidates. If Dukakis loses, Black people should not point fingers at one another, nor allow the Democratic party to point the finger with the false charge that Black voters did not carry their weight in this election.

Already some African-Americans and white people are saying that the anticipated voter apathy is the result of "Jackson's expressed dissatisfaction with Dukakis failure to notify him of the selection of Bentsen as vice-presidential candidate." Some columnists have written that Jackson's strong showing and projection at the National Democratic Convention cost a Black image too strongly over the Dukakis campaign for whites to support a Democratic ticket this fall.

Organization of the black masses and the working class is the central question in this period, no matter who is elected.

It seems unpopular to stand on principles in this election. If you ignore or criticize Dukakis, people say you are hurting the Democrats and helping the Republicans. If you criticize or oppose then people think you are for the Democrats, is it not possible to stand on principles, criticize both candidates and parties, or say that none represent your interest? It's a person's right to decide without fear of rocks being heaped upon their heads.

If there is a candidate running on an independent ticket the expresses the interest of everyday working class people, they should be voted for—over Dukakis or Republicans who do not express or represent relevant issues. And if you don't see a candidate running on this ticket, you don't vote for any of these—or else you are not taking your interest at all. We don't see anybody in the presidential elections.
HALIFAX CONTINUES EDUCATION FIGHT

Halifax Co., NC—black progressives continue to organize in the town of Weldon for the Nov. 8th school board elections. Edith Jenkins is being supported by the Halifax County Black Caucus in her bid to become elected to the seven-member Weldon school board. Sources indicate that Weldon's school population and its school board are majority African-American; the current superintendent, however, is white. Jenkins' election is hoped to inject a progressive thrust into Weldon school board activities. Halifax County sits in northeastern NC and in the northern end of the Black Belt South region.

The Caucus is also closely watching the activities of the Halifax Co. School Board. Reports indicate that Kenneth Brantley, the current school superintendent, who is white, has offered his resignation citing health reasons. Brantley's resignation comes only four months after he was appointed to replace former superintendent Joyce Perry Edwards. Perry was the first Black Superintendent in the history of the Halifax school system. Sources indicate that the Halifax white power structure was shocked and outraged by Perry's resignation. They had hoped to keep the head of the school board white. (Halifax County's school population is majority Black; its 7-member board has only 1 Black member.) It is now widely thought that a local Halifax County school principal, whose children are enrolled in a white Christian academy, is being secretly encouraged to replace the outgoing superintendent.

SHILOH COMMUNITY EDUCATES, OUTREACHES ON TOXIC CONTAMINATION

Shi1oh, NC—On Oct. 11th, 1988, members of the Keepers Workers Committee of the Shiloh Coalition for Community Control and Improvement (SCCI) along with other supporters handed out educational flyers at the Unit Structures in Morrisville, NC. Unit Structures owns the former Keeper's Wood Treatment Plant where wood products were treated with cancer-causing and toxic chemicals. The flyer informed the workers of the dumping, for several years, of the dangerous chemicals pentachlorophenol (PCP) and Isosoranol (IPE) at the worksite. This could mean the possible contamination of the current workforce at the site.

Also outlined were the health risks for the workers and plant for a health screening for employees and community being organized by the Shiloh Coalition.

Workers were urged to get organized, join the SCCI Workers Committee in the fight against Toxic Terrorism. For additional information, see Justice Speaks 18/88 edition.

CDC ISSUES NEW POLICY - RESPONSE TO WORKER'S PRESSURE?

Bloomer Hill, NC—The management of Consolidated Diesel Company has issued new plant standards on working hours that limits the amount of forced overtime that workers can be required to work. The policy, effective October 18, 1988, covers the following hours per day:
- "no more than 12 hours per day"
- "no more than 50 hours in 1 week"
- "no more than 12 consecutive days worked"
- "no more than 2 full days off"

The standards also instruct that "all employees are responsible to ensure compliance with these standards. Directors and managers are accountable for their execution." By this, technicians should feel free to audit the performance of managers in following these standards. Violations of these standards by managers should be addressed by technician teams as issues requiring corrective action.

POLITICAL POWER IN THE BLACKBELT

on the job and in conditions and "response to the action of all workers and national oppressed nation powerless of all national and all oppressed"
been some layoffs of hourly workers made only to supervisors. It has been reported that there have been some layoffs of hourly workers at those plants.

Many Burlington workers are also hesitant to leave Drapery before the closing date to accept other jobs for fear that they may lose the benefits promised by Burlington. If this happens, workers could be "black-mailed" into accepting bad deals.

Many Burlington workers feel that the days are numbered before all of its Rocky Mt. plants close. Burlington owns two other plants in Rocky Mt., Sheffield Finishing and Rocky Mount Weaving. There are over 40 Drapery workers with more than 20 years seniority who haven't been offered jobs at the other Rocky Mt. plants. There are about 20 positions available at the other plant and most pay less than Drapery workers now earn. Transferring workers will lose their plant and department seniority because they will be going to a different plant even though in the same company. Jobs offers in the Mt. Olive and Reidville plants have been made only to supervisors. It has been reported that there have been some layoffs of hourly workers at those plants.

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COMING TO AMERICA: TRY AGAIN, EDDIE

by D. Mowie Mann

Eddie Murphy’s new release, Coming To America, is a real stinker. D. Movie Mann realizes that this is a strong thing to say about a very popular Black American entertainer. But let’s speak truthfully here. This man is Hollywod. And Hollywood, by and large, portrays Afro-Americans in less than favorable ways. The problem, though, is that it is difficult to get the truth out when Eddie Murphy is presented as “entertainment.”

To be specific, what did D. Movie Mann not like about Coming to America? Well, the movie started off with some real bad props. Something resembling aluminum foil and plastic trees were used to construct an African jungle. Then there was the depiction of Africa. Elephants running wild in the royal palace. (Where were the wild monkeys?) This setting came right out of Tarzan. If the movie is set in Africa, why not shoot it in an African location?

Eddie Murphy plays Prince Akeem, whose mother, Queen Aoleon (Madge Jaffe Jojfer [James Earl Jones]) rule over the Kingdom of Zamunda. The prince comes of age and, as tradition has it, he is to wed a pre-appointed bride. The movie gets the freedom to create its own reality. And it is here that Coming to America falls short of the mark.

One of the good things that this movie and other recent releases featuring Black actors or Black themes has done is to increase the dialectic between the movie actor, the producing/releasing company, and the Afro-American audience. Coming to America has generated this dialogue around the country.

BWPPC con’t

September 1987, but the important steering committee was reestablished and many new resolutions to quide the focus and work of the campaign were adopted. (See Justice Speaks 10/88).

The steering committee will be convened twice in 1989. The first session will be held in Kevsville, Georgia in the spring of next year. A system of dues was also established for membership organizations in the campaign and a plan to set up local Platform Campaign Committees was also adopted.

News articles, letters to the editor and community calendar events are welcome in JUSTICE SPEAKS. They must be received by the 20th of each month.
1200 WOMEN CONVENE IN CUBA, EXPRESS SOLIDARITY AND CONDEMN U.S. INTERVENTION

From Oct. 3-11, 1988 the III Continental Women’s Front, composed of women from Latin America and the Caribbean, convened in Havana, Cuba. The conference theme was US intervention into Latin America & the Caribbean. As observers/participants, more than 60 women from the US deliberated key political questions, as part of the over 1,200 delegates from 39 countries. Each month Justice Speaks hopes to present a report from the conference. Here are some brief excerpts from the solidarity statement presented to the conference by women of color from the US:

Havana, Cuba—We, women of the United States delegation representing various oppressed national groups, are extremely pleased to be here. To the Continental Women’s Front and the Federation of Cuban Women, we, women of Indigenous, African, Asian, Latin American, Middle Eastern and Pacific descent in the United States —express our sincere gratitude and thank you for allowing us to participate in the Third Continental Women’s Meeting Against Intervention. We are deeply honored by the opportunity to express our solidarity with women of Latin America and the Caribbean as we all struggle for liberation.

As anti-imperialists, we condemn the interventionist foreign policies of the US government and the International Monetary Fund. All workers in the United States are negatively affected as our national resources are diverted from housing, health care, education, and child care. This has resulted in the closing of hospitals, cuts in and elimination of social service programs, the laying off of civil servants, an increase in homelessness—and a threat to life itself — for all working people in the US. Your struggle is our struggle.

US POLICE BRUTALITY & POLITICAL PRISONERS

The US has launched an attack on our communities through police brutality—psychological manipulation by the media and sophisticated programs such as COINTELPRO (Counter-Intelligence Program) which is aimed at destroying political individuals and organizations of movements which support anti-imperialist and self-determination. Among them are the Black Liberation movement, the Puerto Rican Independence movement, the Indigenous People’s movement, the Asian-American movement and the North American anti-imperialist movement.

As a result, there are over 100 political prisoners and prisoners-of-war in the United States, many of whom are suffering gross human rights violations designed to destroy their will to struggle against imperialism, intervention, racism, and sexism. We will use our words, ideas and bodies in defense of national sovereignty, in defense of nations against intervention, in defense of democratic rights, in defense of human dignity in defense of the air, sea, animals and forests in defense of life!

VIVA LA SOLIDARITY INTERNACIONAL DE LOS PUEBLOS (DEL MONDO) Long live international solidarity of all the peoples of the world!

VIVAN LAS MUJERES EN EL MUNDO Long live women’s struggles!

VIVA LA LUCHA ANTI-IMPERIALISTA DE LOS PUEBLOS (DEL MONDO) Long live the people’s anti-imperialist struggle of the world!
NC ACCUSES SHILOH OFFICIAL - COMMUNITY SUSPICIOUS

NC INDICTS TIMOTHY & EDDIE; BRITT SEEKS VENGEANCE

In the second trial the Two Tuscarora Indian freedom fighters will be forced to face because of their efforts to expose the corruption and oppression leveled against Native Americans and African-Americans in Robeson County by Hatchers and Jacobs. After the trial, the two activists were convicted, both Hatcher & Jacobs could be sentenced up to 450 years each.

Political Attack by State: Personal Vengeance by Britt

This will be the second trial the Two Tuscarora Indian Freedom Fighters will be forced to face because of their efforts to expose the corruption and oppression leveled against Native Americans and African-Americans in Robeson County. Hatchers and Jacobs won a major people's victory in November when a federal jury convicted both Hatcher & Jacobs and sentenced them to 450 years each.

Shiloh, NC - The first Black Town Commissioner, who was elected under the Robeson County Government, has been arrested on Monday, December 26, 1988, charged with accepting a $5,000 bribe from an undercover FBI agent, J. W. Bryant. The bribe was supposed to be payment for Scott to support and influence other town commissioners to support, ordering of property located in the Shiloh community. Scott was arrested on Monday, December 26, 1988, charged with accepting a $5,000 bribe from an undercover FBI agent, J. W. Bryant. The bribe was supposed to be payment for Scott to support and influence other town commissioners to support, ordering of property located in the Shiloh community. Scott was arrested on Monday, December 26, 1988, charged with accepting a $5,000 bribe from an undercover FBI agent, J. W. Bryant. The bribe was supposed to be payment for Scott to support and influence other town commissioners to support, ordering of property located in the Shiloh community. Scott was arrested on Monday, December 26, 1988, charged with accepting a $5,000 bribe from an undercover FBI agent, J. W. Bryant. The bribe was supposed to be payment for Scott to support and influence other town commissioners to support, ordering of property located in the Shiloh community. Scott was arrested on Monday, December 26, 1988, charged with accepting a $5,000 bribe from an undercover FBI agent, J. W. Bryant. The bribe was supposed to be payment for Scott to support and influence other town commissioners to support, ordering of property located in the Shiloh community. Scott was arrested on Monday, December 26, 1988, charged with accepting a $5,000 bribe from an undercover FBI agent, J. W. Bryant. The bribe was supposed to be payment for Scott to support and influence other town commissioners to support, ordering of property located in the Shiloh community. Scott was arrested on Monday, December 26, 1988, charged with accepting a $5,000 bribe from an undercover FBI agent, J. W. Bryant. The bribe was supposed to be payment for Scott to support and influence other town commissioners to support, ordering of property located in the Shiloh community. Scott was arrested on Monday, December 26, 1988, charged with accepting a $5,000 bribe from an undercover FBI agent, J. W. Bryant. The bribe was supposed to be payment for Scott to support and influence other town commissioners to support, ordering of property located in the Shiloh community. Scott was arrested on Monday, December 26, 1988, charged with accepting a $5,000 bribe from an undercover FBI agent, J. W. Bryant. The bribe was supposed to be payment for Scott to support and influence other town commissioners to support, ordering of property located in the Shiloh community. Scott was arrested on Monday, December 26, 1988, charged with accepting a $5,000 bribe from an undercover FBI agent, J. W. Bryant. The bribe was supposed to be payment for Scott to support and influence other town commissioners to support, ordering of property located in the Shiloh community. Scott was arrested on Monday, December 26, 1988, charged with accepting a $5,000 bribe from an undercover FBI agent, J. W. Bryant. The bribe was supposed to be payment for Scott to support and influence other town commissioners to support, ordering of property located in the Shiloh community. Scott was arrested on Monday, December 26, 1988, charged with accepting a $5,000 bribe from an undercover FBI agent, J. W. Bryant. The bribe was supposed to be payment for Scott to support and influence other town commissioners to support, ordering of property located in the Shiloh community.

Shiloh residents were shocked when they learned of the arrest and believe that Ms. Scott had been "set up" by FBI agents. They feel that this action is part of a plot to disrupt the strong, independent stance the Shiloh community has taken to preserve its community and gain services. The Shiloh Coalition for Community Control and Improvement of which Scott is a leading member, has been involved in a struggle with the Koppers Co., state and county governments, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over poisoning of area groundwater by Koppers Co. with cancer-causing and toxic chemicals such as PCB. (See JS Oct. and Nov. ' 88 articles.) The Coalition recently held a press conference condemning the tax-supported installation of water lines passing through the community, the Research Triangle (business) Park while community residents suffer without clean water.
SUPPORT ILGWU 302
COATS WORKERS OUT SINCE JULY

Coats, NC -- Workers at Terryhill Manufacturers (THM) in Coats, NC have been on strike since July 19, 1986. The 80 mostly woman workforce are members of Local 382 of the International Ladies Garment Worker Union (ILGWU). The plant, located off Hwy 55 between Angier and Dunn, manufactures women's lingerie for Avon, J.C. Penney, Sears, Brandilyn, K-Mart, Calvin Klein, Private Treasures and Interlude, among others.

The employees were forced to walk out when the company attempted to impose take-backs on the employees in Coats as well as at its Blue Bell plant. The owner, Arthur Price, Jr. demanded that the workers give back four holidays and lose holiday pay for those that fall on Saturday. He also sought a profit sharing program instead of the retirement system, and to drop the health and welfare benefits including a much needed cancer benefit, something essential for garment and textile workers.

ILGWU locals across the US have fought and won the 35-hour work week. It is now an industry standard. Price proposed a 40-hour week in Coats and 37 1/2 hours for the 70 Blue Bell workers. THM did not offer the union's position and tried to make it appear that THM workers are greedy, selfish and lazy for not wanting to work 48 hours or more as do most other workers in the area.

The 35-hour standard does not restrict workers from working overtime. They simply receive overtime pay after 35 hours. During the three month dispute, the union has made it clear that they are flexible on this demand.

From the outset the only thing that the company offered was an increase in the starting pay from $4.25 to $4.50. The union's original proposal did not include a wage increase.

The company is stubborn and is resisting the good faith bargaining efforts of the union. They have hired the union-busting attorney, Robert Valois, an associate of Tom Ellis, Jesse Helms' political pally. They have hired scabs to run the plant, including the wife of the mayor of Coats. The new people lack the experience of the strikers who average 18-20 years at THM, have to do work over and over. A number of customers have withdrawn orders because of the poor quality of the sewing. This is also a result of Local 302 members going to plants in South Carolina and spreading the word about the strike.

In the meantime, Price's methods have forced the filling of numerous unfair labor practice charges. The first of these will be heard in court in Harnett County very soon.

Nothing has deterred the workers from walking the picket line. They start at 6am and end at 4pm. Through the heat of the summer they kept their spirits up and still welcome supporters and friends on the picket line.

At the beginning of October, Price finally sold the Blue Bell plant.

BLACK POLITICAL POWER BRINGS HEALTH CARE TO KEYSVILLE

Keysville, GA— November 19th was a great day for Keysville, GA, a small majority black town in northeastern Georgia. That day saw the first health services ever in the community by and for the people of Keysville. With the assistance of the Burke Co. extension service and health department as well as doctors and technicians from the Medical College of Georgia, Keysville was able to sponsor its first health fair. The health fair offered free screening for such common yet devastating health problems as cancer benefit, something employees of THM, have to do work over

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Before, part of the 178,000 sq. ft. plant was rented out to another manufacturer. The main space has now been sold to an employer who has a commitment to an IBM contract. Production will be transferred to the 78,000 sq. ft. Coats plant. This recent development should help the workers, considering that the scale can barely keep up with what they have now. The added production from Pennsylvania will not add additional pressure on the company.

The workers feel that the company is not only working close but each time a settlement appears in sight, Price falls to come through. They have received support not only from the local white-owned community, but also from the NC AFL-CIO and local union affiliates who have decided that a strong relationship with the community, and with people holding elected offices that are sympathetic to labor will help their efforts. Their struggle highlights the need for a working relationship between labor, community organizations, and progressive politicians, and in areas of Black political power to the success of the event, continued on page 8.

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For the past five years, the Black Workers for Justice (BWJ) has held an annual "Martin Luther King Stands With Labor" Banquet around the time of his Jan. 15th birthday. The banquet is a time when the BWJ members and friends come together to highlight key struggles affecting Black people and workers and summarize the key questions raised by them locally, nationally, and internationally. This is our way of commemorating the life of Dr. King. It is also a major fundraiser for the BWJ's ongoing work. Commemorations held for Dr. King around his Jan. 15th birthday are very important activities for highlighting the issues which he stood firmly upon. The various activities have projected the achievements of Blacks over and called for Blacks to "Keep Dr. King's Dream Alive." The BWJ slogan has always been "Honour Dr. King Through Political Action." What has been lacking in the general atmosphere surrounding these commemorations, is a real indictment of the U.S. political and economic system which caused the assassination of Dr. King. The government agencies that hounded Dr. King, tapped his phone, read his mail and tried to get him to commit suicide, have never been abolished by any US administration. Watergate under Nixon and Oliver North & company under Reagan are clear evidence of the continuing existence of the same illegal and corrupt forces that killed Dr. King. The 1968 attack by the Memphis City Council on the AFSCME union representing Black sanitation workers is the same kind of attack we have seen in the 1980s under the Reagan administration against the Black sanitation workers in Keaysville. The racist hysteria against that strike also caused Dr. King's assassination. That hysteria has been sharpened again in the past 8 years by the Reagan administration.

The April 4, 1968 assassination of Dr. King, highlights 4 main concerns of this period:

- Poverty
- White Supremacist Att. on Labor; and
- Government Repression;
- Ethiopian Repression; and
- Political and Economic Repression Abroad.

These issues and problems should be protected and discussed in remembering Dr. King to politicize the thinking of African-Americans, other oppressed nationalities and workers about the need for mass direct and independent political action.

Except for Jesse Jackson, none of the presidential candidates had a real program or symbolized the hopes of Dr. King. We all know what the Republicans will do, but let us not be fooled by the Democrats. Remember, Dr. King's Dream Continued on page 5.

MLK BANQUET APRIL 1: FOCUS SHARPENS

KEYSVILLE cont'd

was to identify the health services that are valued the most by area residents. The survey, administered by community volunteers, showed special services for seniors and women as well as first aid to be the highest priorities.

At the end of the days' events a group of community volunteer health workers met to assess the health fair and plan for the future. All were pleased with the outcome and committed to moving forward. Plans to develop regular health services in Keaysville are now in the works.

Once again Keaysville is providing valuable lessons for communities throughout the Black Belt. First, through their struggle for political power, the people of Keaysville have shown us how to take hold of the reins guiding the future of our communities. Now, through their struggle for peoples' health facilities, they show us some of the fruits of that power.
CALL TO JUSTICE
Analysis, Views & Demands From the BWFJ

PUT ON YOUR BOXING GLOVES
FOR AN INDEPENDENT FUTURE YOUR ONLY FUTURE

Where We Stand!

- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor
- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
- FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops"

BLACK WORKERS FOR JUSTICE is an organization of Black workers organizing to build the African-American workers' movement as a central force in the struggle for Black Liberation and Worker Power.

- FOR health and safety on the job and in the community
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and "kill shops"

- FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities
- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racist repression of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities.
2541 WINS CONTRACT

Wilson, NC—During October and November, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) Local 2541 negotiated with Ogden-Allied Company for the Maintenance Mechanics Bargaining Unit. Until Nov. 21st, no agreement was able to be reached.

But in further negotiations on Nov. 21 and 22, Ogden-Allied management agreed to union demands for maintaining Cost of Living Allowances (COLA) every three months regardless of contract wage increases. In addition, the company agreed to the long sought contract wage increases. With the COLA formula received by Firestone workers: one cent for every .3 % rise in the CPI which amounts to less money. On Nov. 29 and 30, the maintenance mechanic members of Local 2541 voted to ratify the company offer and settled the contract.

This contract, which contains many improvements in language and benefits, represents a real victory for the small, but tough union local. It comes one year after the union withstood intense efforts by Allied and Firestone to take away COLA altogether.

The next JS for more on the contract and the history of IAM Local 2541.

LOCAL 465 NEWSBRIEF

From the Local 465 Union News......

WHEN ASPIRIN WON'T HELP, THE UNION WILL!

Brother Lewis Askew, at Rasco Aluminum in Winton, NC, was injured at work last April 21. Twenty-two stitches were needed to close the cut on his arm. Lewis delivered a doctor's certificate to his foreman. His foreman then talked him into working on light duty to avoid paying Worker's Compensation. A few weeks later Askew was fired for refusing to perform his assigned work.

The facts, as the union found them were, that he had not been released by his doctor for any work at all. So how could he be fired for refusing to work when he wasn't supposed to work at all?

UNION RANK & FILE PLEDGES SUPPORT

Sunday, June 5th and told his story to the members. The membership pledged to support him.

On Monday, June 6th, the union representatives met with his boss. The company agreed with the union and Brother Askew was reinstated to his job, placed on Worker's Compensation and told to stay at home until the doctor released him. During the time he was off he was paid his Worker's Compensation. The company asked for an extension of the thirty probationary period. The union committee agreed.

Good luck to Brother Askew and thanks to the members of Local 465 for their support.

Remember, if you have job related problems, don't sit back and complain. Take your job related problem to your union shop steward.

If Local 465 union members in the Ahoskie-Winton area have any news for "Local 465 Union News," call 332-6309.
The Schlage Lock plant closing struggle still has life even though the official campaign is over. Workers have been receiving their pensions and stock plans in time for the Christmas holidays.

The formation of the Schlage Workers For Justice (SWFJ) as a permanent coalition following the plant closing campaign, is a very important development for workers in the Rocky Mount and surrounding areas.

Many of the Schlage workers have gone to work at other workplaces and have taken with them an awareness of the need for workers to have organization. The SWFJ will enable former Schlage workers and others to find ways of addressing problems they face on their new jobs.

Schlage workers recently took a letter from the Employment Security Commission in charge of unemployment claims. Another requirement has been added by Reagan for workers to qualify for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA). Schlage workers were qualified for TAA by the US Department of Labor effective August 1, 1988 because of international competition when Ingersoll-Rand moved the plant to Mexico. Reagan's bill was signed August 23, and became effective on November 21, 1988.

In order for workers to be eligible they must attend an approved training program, unless the local employment office waives this. Schlage workers were able to get a 4-week waiver because of the short notice of the new provision. It is likely that there will another waiver after the current one expires.

The Citizens Commission on Plant Closings (the panel that heard testimony from Schlage lock workers and experts) met with Joe Monyer, former Rocky Mt. plant manager and now a representative from the Schlage Lock headquarters in San Francisco, CA. The meeting addressed the plant closing and views on industrial policies. No specific outcome has been recorded.

Meanwhile the San Francisco Chronicle Newspaper recently informed a Schlage worker in Rocky Mount that Schlage Lock is planning to close its Santa Clara, CA, plant, and that workers in Santa Clara need information about the types of chemicals that Rocky Mt. Schlage workers were exposed to and their related health effects.

News articles, letters to the editor and community calendar events are welcome in JUSTICE SPEAKS. They must be received by the 20th of each month.

WORKERS' LEGAL CLINIC OPENS

Plants are closing, workers are being injured and discriminated against, there is much overtime. Yet, there are very few if any unions to help workers challenge these injustices.

There are very few laws which protect the rights of workers. Without organization, it is very difficult to get existing laws enforced.

The Black Workers For Justice is sponsoring a Workers Legal Clinic which began on Thursday December 1, 1988 and will be held every first and third Thursday from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the Ainer-Berry Freedom Library and Workers Center, 216 Atlantic Avenue in Rocky Mount, NC.

2-PRONGED WORKERS LEGAL CLINIC OPENS

There will be an attorney present to advise on employment related problems. The clinic will also have a legal workers committee, that will study specific labor laws, forced history and strengths and weaknesses; learn how laws can be used to serve rank and file organizing.

The Committee will also learn how to interview workers and identify their legal issues. They will also learn how to write and file basic administrative complaints and grievances.

The goal is to train a body of rank and file legal workers' advocates, that will function at the workplace as a committee, union to increase their capacity to struggle against worker injustices. For more information call: Workers Legal Clinic, 977-8162.

SHILOH cont'd

aroundwater contamination necessitating a Superfund (therefore massive) cleanup. Even though Shiloh wages already are below the county-run water line.

Shiloh has been told that its community activist must pay an additional $350,000 to get access to the lines.

The Coalition feels that its community activism and the reason for the attack by the state. It believes was further confirmed with the arrest of the community organizers, residents about producing water, and the activities of the Shiloh Coalition. As to whether, Coalition leaders were money to receive certain benefits; Washington, D.C. money held with EPA officials, with community organizations with similar contamination and officials.

All of these are examples of how the (the wealthy elite who are in power) use their influence to silence communities and approve nationalities struggles for political power. Shiloh, land speculators and investment realty corporations are the main standing to gain the most at Shiloh's victory.

It is to discredit eliminate the leaders, they did King and Malcolm in hopes of making people lose sight of their real issues.

The first step to write a movement in a community is to disrupt the leadership. Without a strong social base, they will have to shut down the lines.

Shiloh residents are still focused upon the demands: 1) Water for community residents; 2) PROOF of the Health screening former Koppers employees and community residents. All wells in the community tested and 4) Class action suit for the contaminated water. They know that without the contaminated water there is no change. The people must determine community's own future.
HALIFAX CASE SETTLES

HFX, NC-- The convictions of five Black school board activists from Halifax County's Black Caucus were overturned. Ms. Briley's conviction was overturned. Ms. Briley, a mother of two children in the school system, also participated in the peaceful protests. She was charged with slanderous accusations—denying real property and disrupting a public meeting.

In Weldon, Edith Jenkins, a Black candidate supported by the Halifax County Black Caucus, was narrowly defeated in her bid for a seat on the Weldon School Board.

TRINADADIAN TRADE UNIONIST SPEAKS IN N.C.

The Black Workers For Justice along with Twenty First Century Books and Freedom Books co-sponsored the North Carolina leg of a speaking tour by Brother David Abdullah, National Director of the Oil Field Workers Trade Union and the Committee for Labor Solidarity from Trinidad, a nation in the Caribbean Islands.

Brother Abdullah spoke at the Aiken Berry Free Press Library and Workers Center in Rocky Mount, St. Augustine and Shaw Universities and the Freedom Book Store in Raleigh.

The similarities in the history of oppression of the people of Trinidad and Tabago with African Americans were striking.

The building of plants abroad by U.S. corporations in search of cheaper labor, has made international labor solidarity very important in the strategies of U.S. workers. Unless workers find ways to unite, the corporations will make workers from different nations believe that they are stealing each other's jobs. When the real blame lies with the corporations. There was talk after the Rocky Mount forum, about a possible delegation from the South going to Trinidad in 1989.

SHILOH cont'd

groundwater containing (necessitating a Superfund Cleanup)..

Even though this tax was already paid for the construction of water lines, Shiloh has been told it must pay an additional $238,500 to cover the costs of the lines.

Coalition leadership with the contaminated water was further questioned when the after the arrest, $238,500 was used to cover the costs.

Agents fanned throughout the community questioning residents about their water, and the activities of the Shiloh Coalition. Agent's focused upon the contended with the Summer '87 attack on Shiloh because of their support for Black Workers For Justice.

While Shiloh Coalition had already paid several thousand dollars for Black Workers For Justice, the Coalition focused upon the夏mond on the Schools.

Coalition leadership with the contaminated water was further questioned when the after the arrest, $238,500 was used to cover the costs. The Summer '87 attack on Shiloh was due to their support for Black Workers For Justice.

The first step to victory was the August 1987 demonstration at Halifax School Board meeting.

BLACK RANK & FILEERS MEET - BWJF, SWFJ

The Southern Black rank and file union activists from mid-Western states met at a conference held in Detroit November 22 and 23 sponsored by the Black Rank and File Exchange (BRFE). Representatives of the Black Workers For Justice (BWJF) and the Schlaege (SBJU) members of the Black Coalition of Leaders met.

Conference attendees were thoroughly convinced of the power of their unions to help improve the people's lives, particularly in the areas of health care.

They know that without a struggle, the people will not be able to determine their own future.

The Coalition is seeking to hire a full-time community organizer to work in the development of powerful community health organizations and community controlled health institutions. The Coalition is a ten year old non-profit organization working to help people in North Carolina claim power over their lives, particularly around health care.

To Apply: Call 919/893-5805 or write PO Box 2376 Durham, NC 27708 for an application. Application deadline February 15. Job starts March 1.
ON THE LIBERATION FRONT
IRELAND: 800 YEAR POLITICAL STRUGGLE
by Michael Stodder

On November 29th, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that a British law allowing Britain to detain suspects for up to 7 days without charging them is a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights. The court's decision is a blow to Britain's attempts to crush the 800-year-old Irish national movement. While the British government portrays this movement as a religious conflict, in reality it is a political struggle for national liberation and independence from British rule. Recently, Britain banned the Sinn Fein Party from being given publicity by the media and searched the centuries-old presumption of innocence for defendants in Northern Ireland who remain silent during questioning by British occupational forces. The following is a report sent to Justice Speaks from a fact-finding tour this past summer.

When we hear about Northern Ireland, it is usually reports of violence committed by the Irish Republican Army (IRA). We are told that the British army is there to fight terrorism, and act as peacemaker between warring Catholic and Protestant communities.

Last August, I was among a group of North Americans who went on a fact-finding tour of the North of Ireland sponsored by the Sinn Fein Party. What I witnessed was a far different reality than that invented by the British propaganda machine.

The Sinn Fein (pronounced shin fein) Party wants the British to leave so that the Irish nation can be reunited. Its ultimate goal is a democratic socialist Irish republic.

On August 11, our contingent arrived in British-ruled Strabane, an impoverished city of 12,000 just inside the Northern border. Less than a mile to the west an Irish government is in power.

POVER AND ECONOMY ARE THE ISSUES, NOT RELIGION
Strabane's population is 90% nationalist. Nationalists too want an end to British rule and a united Ireland. They are not necessarily in favor of a socialist Ireland.

The unemployment rate in Strabane is officially 35%, but is 80% for young people. Many are forced to emigrate in search of a future.

We stayed with families at the Innishfree Gardens housing estate. Similar to US "housing projects," families with low income occupy tiny, cheaply built homes. Colorful wall murals supporting the people's struggle for freedom enliven an otherwise bleak environment.

HOUSING DESIGNED FOR MILITARY OCCUPATION

One road leads in and out of Innishfree Gardens, and it is surrounded on 3 sides by steep hills. Such housing is designed with British army input in order to be more swiftly and easily militarily encircled.

That afternoon, one such display of British imperial power took place. Our bus drove into the estate only to confront a British army foot patrol in full combat gear. The four surprised soldiers quickly withdrew up the hill to huddle behind a wall at the top of the estate. Soon a large number of Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), Northern Ireland's paramilitary police force, appeared out of nowhere to surround the estate.

BRITISH OCCUPY ESTATE
We gathered outside of the local community center. Another British foot patrol came up the road by us. At this point, small boys, some as young as 4 years, began throwing stones at the soldiers. The children aimed their automatic weapons at these children.

About the same time, British troops in camouflage were spotted deployed in the green hills above us. Both these soldiers and those in the estate trained their weapons on us.

More British troops and RUC kept arriving, some on foot and others in armored cars. During all this time, except for sporadic rock throwing by young boys, there was no aggression directed against the British forces.

After an hour we anxiously went into the community center for sanctuary and an evening meal. But just a shout alerted us to more danger outside.

PEOPLE'S PRESENCE CREATES STRAND-OFF

We hurried out to see a dozen RUC and British soldiers arresting a young man. But when they saw us they immediately let him go. The main arresting officer arrogantly faced us, brandishing a wide-barreled plastic bullet gun. Plastic bullets have caused international outrage through their use by Israeli soldiers in killing protesting Palestinians. But they have been used in Northern Ireland since 1970 where 16 people have been killed under the age of 14 - and hundreds maimed.

One of our Sinn Fein guides identified the arresting officer as the same RUC who smashed another guide's fingers the night before. This tense standoff went on until the soldiers piled into their armored cars and roared off. Back doors open, so they could hold their weapons on us. The children pursued them and threw more rocks.

From here on the British operations intensified. A group of youth raced recklessly around the estate, screaming, "We hate and tear off the cars and then again. Foot patrols saturated the area, harassing people at the center.

This reign of terror went on for another hour. Finally the soldiers in the hills ran down into the estate and calls were heard reminding the British forces from the area.

PEOPLE DEMAND INTERNATIONAL BRITISH VIOLATION RECOGNITION

Their evidence was that some people of Innishfree Gardens, and to show to visitors who was the bus through the exercise of brute force. This attempt failed. At dusk, we; and most of the local people, gathered outside the center to hear the Strabane Memorial Marching Band. The band, named in memory of 3 285 martyrs murdered in 1985 in a nearby valley by a British death squad marched proudly with Sinn and liftling flutes. The RUC watched menacingly, weapons drawn.

At 2:30 am, the British troops began to arrive in numbers. Those close to the local community center could hear the band playing "The Star Spangled Banner" and "The British Grenadiers." A "British occupy estate" appeared.

When we left this area the next day, we were very surprised to see how many people inside the paper were moving around in man-made spaces. The soldiers had tried to arrest everyone. They took him into an interrogation center notorious for its use of torture.

BREAK THE CHAINS

Today's military police state in Northern Ireland is the modern expression of the 300 year of tyranny the British have inflicted upon the Irish. It used to be said that the sun never set on this empire that we remember that the British also sold Africans from their slave ships and shackled them in death ships, and sold them into slavery in the Americas.

We observed that at the British abortion clinics in the area:

During that period, the Irish were locked in a "peaceful" 307 years in Ireland.

BURLING

Rocky Mt. -- The Irish government announced Thursday that it would start a new program to "socialize" the British soldiers. The order calls for the soldiers' integration into the Irish military. The soldiers will be trained in the use of Irish weaponry and will be sent to various parts of the country.
KEYSVILLE PROGRESSIVES WIN!

MARRIAGE OF BLACK POLITICAL & WORKERS POWER

In 1988, when the first Kevsive Black majority government was elected by default, the opposition against State Superior Court Judge Albert Pickett to issue an injunction against the all-Black Candidates—elect. This nullified the election.

Nearly 3 years later, Judge Pickett again ruled against Kevsive with a second injunction against holding the scheduled January '88 election. Right after this infamous ruling, the federal court overturned Pickett allowing the election to proceed. These highly public legal maneuverings were based upon well established voting laws.

After the January 4, 1988 election, the white opposition again forced the new Kevsive government into both the state and US Supreme Court. Both efforts failed.

The reactionary efforts of the opposition seem fanatical. Now they have begun a constant campaign of "watching" the Kevsive government, needing it for documentation on its every move. Former Councilman James Poole reportedly has been extremely uncooperative within the city council, voicing opposition and dissatisfaction with everything. Efforts to complete the promised annexation of the Black populated area north of Kevsive (historically considered part of it but cut out by the county in setting '88 election boundaries) were delayed several times because of the "boundary dispute."

PROGRESS IN SPITE OF...

In spite of the many obstacles faced by the new government, its progress in one year has been remarkable. Besides setting the basic infrastructure for daily operations, it undertook three major projects in 1988:

*Annexation of the area north of town, securing its pre-clearance, making at least 30 new voters eligible to vote in town elections;

**Development and official adoption of a new Kevsive city charter to be taken before the Georgia annals: continued on page 3
PCA WORKERS FACE "PLANTATION" CONDITIONS

SPRINGHope, NC—No paid vacations! No health insurance! No pension! No respect! And low wages. These are the conditions owners told workers that they are not there to "make the workers rich." Workers were also told that they would be "cornered" when they returned from the bathroom and publicly questioned about what they were doing that took so long.

PCA workers are sick and tired of these conditions and are determined to struggle for improvements. Each act of company mistreatment will be publicly exposed and challenged in some way from now on. Unless PCA workers band together and get organized, slave drivers Dickens and Scott will pick them off one at a time. Get Organized! Get Organized! Get Organized!

SUCCESSFUL HEALTH AND SAFETY SCHOOL

RALEIGH, NC—Trade unionists and labor activists from North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina, attended the 2nd Annual Health and Safety School sponsored by the North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Project 1 (NCOSH). December 2-4, 1988, in Raleigh, NC.

Participants in the school attended workshops on chemical exposure and respiratory motion injuries. Other workshops examined various approaches used by union and non-unionized workers to challenge employers about working conditions and the injuries they cause. There were also discussions about needed legislation for worker health and safety.

Eric Frusin, Health and Safety Director of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union was the keynote speaker at the Banquet on Saturday evening. He was the AFL-CIO and other unions as the Rocky Mount area. In memory of all the workers who have been injured or lost their lives at work.

The School allowed labor activists to meet one another and to figure out ways to directly mobilize the rank and file. Congratulations NCOSH for a follow up.

BURLINGTON LAYS OFF 200

ROCKY MOUNT, NC—On December 22, 1988, the Burlington Industries closed its Rocky Mount, NC plant, leaving over 200 workers unemployed.

Several workers were interviewed by the local newspaper about their future employment prospects. Most workers expected to be out of work for a while. None immediately will find work starting at more than $4.50 per hour. Plant closings are becoming expected in the Rocky Mount area. For information about the early warning signals for a possible plant closing, call the Workers Center at 977-8162.

SHILOH HOSTS KING FUNDRAISER

The annual BMJF King Dinner is held on the birthday of Dr. King, January 15th, 1989. The BMJF is holding a "King Support for Labor" Community Forum and Fundraiser January 14th, 1989, at the Masonic Lodge Fellowship Hall in Shiloh.

Shiloh is the small Black community in western North Carolina, now struggling around contamination of its water wells. For years the community, has been dumped toxic and cancer-causing chemicals in Shiloh. [see Justice Speaks, 10-12-88] The program will be a potluck, "Birthright Dinner." The program will feature poetry, singing, Shiloh Update, and guest readers.

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS: $35.00 per bundle of 10 per month - $6.75 bundle of 25 per month

The "Birthright Dinner" is a Raleigh-Shiloh BMJF chapter fundraiser. If you are unable to attend, but want to support a Black labor rights organization, your contribution is greatly appreciated. Call 813-5275 to find out who she will receive your contribution directly to the Raleigh-Burlington chapter. The money raised will be allocated, "Most North Month of the Year."

To celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday, BMJF chapter plans a "King for Labor" event. The money paid for the dinner, will be the first money raised. The event will be held in Shiloh. The event will be held in Shiloh. [see Justice Speaks, 10-12-88] The event will feature poetry, singing, Shiloh Update, and guest readers.

Subscriptions are available at the address below.

Justice Speaks

* Justice Speaks is the newspaper of Black Workers for Justice. Justice Speaks is a vehicle to organize and build the African-American workers' movement as a central force in the struggle for Black Liberation and Workers Power.

P.O. Box 3367 - Durham, NC 27702

* Please insert name and address below.

* Subscription rates:
  - One year: $6.00
  - $3.50 bundle of 10 per month - $6.75 bundle of 25 per month

* Justice Speaks is available through the mail and local distribution points.
BIRD LIVES!: STORY OF JAZZ LEGEND CHARLIE PARKER

By Akil Jones & Almasheh Ju C. Ola

We have to say that Clint Eastwood does a very sensitive piece of work with the Bird movie. It surprised many who have known Charles "Yardbird" Parker's work for years. This is not a pleasant surprise, the movie lacked a portrayal of the historical role of "The Music," very importantly, the relationship with other musicians. That he and Dizzy Gillespie created "bebop," developing the music to a new stage.

Shot in the reverse sequence style, we are confronted with Bird after his death. Then, he is seen as "Albino Red" during a tour of the South. "Bird" is based on Chan's fourth wife, Addie Parker. Conspectus missing is the theme of the life, which was the real life. The story of Bird's life as a domestic worker is not a topic of Bird's adult life.

The movie looks particularly at Bird's personal relationship with Chan, his fourth wife. It also focuses on Parker's losing battle with poor health, caused by heroin addiction, his family. The struggle against racism is muted, his white, had to be billed as "Albino Red" during a tour of the South.

BIRD LIVES!

Forrest Whitaker gives an excellent performance as Bird. In this, his first feature role, Whitaker walked away with Bird's Actor's Award of the 1988 Cannes Film Festival for his performance.

Verona was also very good as Chan Parker. The two actors develop a relationship on-screen that is fascinatingly close to real life.

Many viewers have complained that the coloring of the film was too dark, or that too many scenes were shot in the rain, but these aspects of the movie enhanced the dark mood and reality of Parker's life.

The dramatic passion between Whitaker for Bird is unyielding any of the shortcomings that may be attributed to Bird.

The movie should be seen in hospitals, in its painfully well done, and it gives us a glimpse of what can be a legend, something that doesn't happen too often.

MLK PAID HOLIDAY FOR ALL WORKERS!

January 16, 1989, will be a paid holiday for many workers throughout the US in honor of Martin L. King's birthday, which actually falls on January 15. However, there will be millions of workers in various industries throughout the Black Belt South who won't be paid. Yet, we are told that this is a "New South." The sick and dangerous disease of white racism does everything to make sure that the sick and dangerous disease of white racism does everything

KING cont'd

Kings response, while beginning to understand some aspects of Black (political) Power, was to develop the "Poor People's Campaign." He was led by the growing militancy of the movement, and its developing international perspective. The government was a real government.

KING, THE US GOVERNMENT & THE BLACK LIBERATION MOVEMENT

The most important conclusions we come to in studying Dr. King are based on the necessity of carrying forward his work from a dream to reality and concrete plans. The conclusions we come to in studying Dr. King are based on the necessity of carrying forward his work from a dream to reality and concrete plans. The conclusions we come to in studying Dr. King are based on the necessity of carrying forward his work from a dream to reality and concrete plans.

From the 1985 BMUJ King Supports Labor Resistance,

The recreation against King and other sections of the movement was orchestrated by the government. King was under constant FBI surveillance. They潮湿 hundreds of thousands of dollars on it that could have been spent on social programs. They潮湿 hundreds of thousands of dollars on it that could have been spent on social programs.

LEARNING INTO SELF-DESTRUCTION

Parker's musical career began when he was 16. Amidst some in Kansas City, Missouri, nightclub (where he was laughed off the stage). His real life began much earlier, when he was born on August 29, 1920 in Kansas City, Kansas.

Bird is definitely a talented musician in profound throughout the film. But there is nothing about Parker's youth, another omission weakening the movie considerably. It may be true that Bird's musical career began when he was 16, additional in a Kansas City, Missouri, nightclub (where he was laughed off the stage). His real life began much earlier, when he was born on August 29, 1920 in Kansas City, Kansas.

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From the Cooperative Research Network's Martin Luther King Study Guide & the 1965 BNFJ Kim Support Labor Banquet Keynote Address by Gordon Dillahunt

Everyone should understand and appreciate King's contribution to African-Americans, working people, and all humanity. More importantly, however, is the need to realize that Dr. King's agenda of economic justice, human rights, and peace has not been completed. In fact, Black people have lost ground and continue to lose ground as we head into the 1990s.

The main contribution of Martin Luther King, Jr. was to lead the last great reform movement possible to save 40%. Though he saw as legitimate the basic US economic and political system, he disagreed with parts of it. This same system killed Martin Luther King brutally as he stood with the black sanitation workers of Memphis, TN, as they struck and forced economic justice and human rights. His experiences revolve around the issues of race, class and exploitation and oppression.

Dr. King developed as a leader through three ideological struggles, each stage necessitating a new challenge: in concrete campaigns of struggle, each summed up in a...

ON THE LIBERATION FRONT

KING'S LIFE: ACTION WITHIN THE MOVEMENT

"Freedom has always been an expensive thing. History is fit testimony to the fact that freedom is rarely gained without sacrifice and self-denial."

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The Black experience has gone through three basic economic phases: the slave experience, rural sharecropping, and the urban industrial experience. In political matters, each phase posed a unique set of challenges. In the three phases, the Black church has focused on its own goals. In this sense the Civil War and Reconstruction were revolutionary shifts in the political status of Black people from slave to free, but freedom in degrees. This is the context of the Civil Rights Movement.

The African-American people have faced the multiple problems of race, nationality and class. And there has never been a period when Black people failed to protest against...
"THE BATTLE FOR DEMOCRACY"
BLACK RECONSTRUCTION
IN THE BLACKBELT SOUTH

PART 1

Editors Note: The last 125 years might be looked upon by wise observers as the Reconstruction Era of the Black National Liberation Movement. That is, the hope of the African American people in the fight for democratic rights, justice and economic and political power. In recognition of Black History Month, we thought we would examine this historic period particularly the years between 1861 and 1880, for our readers. Since our main purpose is to highlight both the reality and the legacy of this period and because of the historical complexity, we will run a two part series for this month and next. We will examine:

*The Civil War
*Black Reconstruction
*The Black Governments
*Historical Weaknesses

The Civil War

Black Belt South: Between 1861 and 1865 the "second American revolution" was fought in the United States. It was centered in the Old Plantation South and enveloped the entire country, including all border territories. In the years just prior to the beginning of the war, it's issues undermined the tric peace across territorial expansion of the United States. Tragic because as soon as the war was over, while Southern Reconstruction efforts were raging in the South, the victorious federal government turned its guns upon the Native American peoples of the westward territories. (More on this later.)

This "war between the states" was actually a war between two competing economic systems attempting to grow within America. One system was the Capitalist Industrial economic system of the North and the other was the Southern Agrarian or Plantation based chattel slave system.

The northern Capitalist system was based upon industry and factories, employing wage workers, mostly peasants who immigrated to the United States primarily from Eastern Europe. The southern Plantation system was based upon the enslavement and brutal oppression of African peoples, primarily stolen from West Africa. Both systems were economic systems of exploitation that benefitted only the ownership classes (those who owned the factories and those who owned the plantations and the slaves).

The war between these two systems was fought to determine which system would prevail and expand throughout the United States and throughout the world.

This war was also the historic juncture -- the long searched for opportunity -- through which the enslaved African people would end over 300 years of brutal chattel slavery. It was the fight of the African people to end slavery that decided the war in favor of the North.

continued on page 7
US FOOD POLICIES HIT SOUTH THE HARDEST

from Peoole's Tribune

Cuts in food stamps hit hardest in Mississippi, Kentucky, Louisiana, and West Virginia. Southerners are more likely to be poor than Northerners. Levels of assistance are lower in the South than in the North. Administrations for benefits are more often denied in the South. Nationally, 45 percent of welfare benefit denials occurred in the South. Although only 35 percent of all denials on such applications are made in the North.

The Southern Cooperative, Inc., reports that "all Southern states have income eligibility levels for AFDC/Medicaid at or below 50 percent of the poverty level. Alabama has the lowest eligibility level at 31.4 percent annual income for a family of three." This is followed by Louisiana, with an eligibility level of 33.9 percent annual income for a family of three.

Southern senators help to keep things that way. These political fat cats formed a voting bloc against a national benefit level. They have voted for every cutback in social programs, affecting every worker who's poor.

Hunger and poverty in the South drag down the living standard for the whole country. After all, if the South can't pull itself up, who can?

Ending hunger has to involve breaking the chains of poverty that pull down the South. Raising all benefits for every state to a livable level is a first step.

Hunger will end when the victims say enough is enough, and organize to fight in their own interest. This is the first stage in re-organizing society.

BLOOMER HILL ORGANIZES OWN PEOPLE’S HEALTH CLINIC

BLOOMER HILL, NC—Bloomer Hill will own the third community clinic in the northeastern NC Black Belt to house an area-wide People’s Clinic. Joining Fennor (Wayne Co.) and Tillotv (Henderson Co.), Bloomer Hill soon will offer basic medical services to area residents. All three communities are members of the Community Health Collective (CHC), an organization of Black Belt communities involved in health work.

Bloomer Hill has a long history of taking community health issues into its own hands. Through its struggles to gain healthy drinking water, its ownership of a health fair in 86, its efforts to secure safe and sanitary housing for all residents, and its support of health and health workers' demands for a cleaner-up of the land and water it polluted, Bloomer Hill has been a shining example to communities seeking justice and self-determination.

Preparations are now underway by the Health Committee to renovate a section of the Bloomer Hill Community Center for clinic use. They are also seeking volunteers—both with medical skills and without—to help staff the clinic. The N. Student Rural Health Coalition is organizing to provide the necessary technical support. Representatives of the Bloomer Hill Community Association and the Health Committee are visiting other CHC member communities and informing.

As a member of the CHC, the Bloomer Hill People’s Clinic will be a part of a growing network of people’s Health institutions providing basic services to hundreds of working people, children and elders that are being squeezed by the U.S. medical “system”—or worse, being denied any part of it to begin with. Since most of us do not have access to basic, affordable health care whenever we need it, we are forced to seek medical help only in emergencies. But small problems should not have to grow into big ones before they are tended to. The CHC believes that health care for all people is a right. Because of this belief and the fact that the clinics are owned by people in the community, the CHC clinics are called People’s Clinics.

The Bloomer Hill People’s Clinic is scheduled to open Saturday, March 4th and every 1st Saturday of the month. Most services at the clinic will be free with small fees for some special tests. The clinic also will serve Battleship, Drake, Whitakers, and other neighboring communities.

continued on page 3
STATE STOPS 1500 FROM ROUTING RIGHT WING MARCH

ATLANTA. Ga.—Between 1,700 and 1,800 demonstrators were prevented by almost 2,000 law enforcement officers from entering a white-supremacist, anti-King holiday march here Jan. 21.

More than 1,700 anti-King demonstrators and 100 police were mobilized to prevent a march by the Ku Klux Klan and the so-called Christian Nation, an offshoot of the neo-Nazi movement. The marchers had planned to proceed through the heart of downtown Atlanta, where the Civil Rights Movement was energized in the early 1960s.

Two sets of organizers mobilized to prevent and/or ston the Atlanta KKK march which marched through the Little Rock-styled march against black civil rights. The KKK had planned to march down Peachtree Street and into downtown Atlanta, where the Civil Rights Movement was energized.

Residents of the area mobilized to prevent the march by the Ku Klux Klan and the so-called Christian Nation, an offshoot of the neo-Nazi movement. The marchers had planned to proceed through the heart of downtown Atlanta, where the Civil Rights Movement was energized in the early 1960s.

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Shiloh to Get Some Waterlines, Fight Not Over Cleanup

SITfsf, N.C.—Recently EPA officials have said that the KKK is not responsible for the contamination of the water supply in the Shiloh community located in western Wake Co., N.C., adjacent to the renowned Research Triangle Park.

Residents' well water was contaminated with cancer-causing perchloroethylene used in a wood treatment process by the company that owns the site. The contamination occurred in several cases and was not limited to the Shiloh area.

Local residents complained about the smell and taste of the water, and several community members called for action. The EPA was asked to investigate and take steps to prevent further contamination.

The EPA has taken steps to prevent further contamination and has ordered the company to clean up the site. The residents are now working with the EPA to ensure that their water supply is safe and free of contamination.

In the meantime, the residents have been asked to remain vigilant and to continue to monitor their water supply. They have been given a list of steps to take if they suspect contamination, including testing their water and reporting any concerns to the EPA.

Justice Speaks Radio

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Raleigh, NC

Interviews—News

Music—Culture—History

Commentary—Community Calendar

Check out the views & opinions of Black Workers
ROBESON COUNTY: A HISTORY OF RESISTANCE

EDITORIAL

The other Indian Nation is that of the Tuscarora. Originally with a population of roughly 1,000 people, the Tuscarora are said to be mixed with people of African descent. It has been said that during slavery, the Tuscarora were great resisters to the Slavocracy and like the great Creek-Kimnole Peoples of Georgia and Florida, helped the slaves of the Carolinas to escape and refused to turn them back to the bounty hunters and slave masters. Because of their unity and identification with the slaves, the Tuscarora were officially recognized by the Planter class. Such was the reason that many Tuscaroras had to evade identifying themselves as Tuscarora. Finally, many Tuscaroras fled the Carolinas and escaped to New York where they joined the Tuscarora and other who had become the sixth Nation of the Five Nations Indian Federation. Today, there are six Nations which include the Tuscarora. Today, the Tuscarora of Robeson County appear to have an Afro-Christian culture mixed with Indian survivals. Because of these exposures, the Planter classes sought to divide and destroy the relationship between the Indians and Black nations.

The white rulers of the Carolinas seemed to be preoccupied with the need for a police, as one of them put it, "to make Indians and Negroes a docile mass upon which other acts by their vastly superior numbers we should be crushed by a few on the other. And so laws were passed prohibiting free blacks from traveling in Indian country. Treaties with Indian tribes remained clauses requiring the return of the fugitive slaves. Governor Heath of North Carolina wrote in 1738, "It has always been the policy of this government to create an aversion in these Indians in Negroes." Part of this policy involved using black slaves in the South Carolina militia to frighten the Indians.

Such a policy of "divide and conquer" still exists in Robeson County. Through bounty hunters, the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI), attempts are constantly

Where We Stand!

- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor
- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
- FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops"
- FOR health and safety on the job and in the community
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
- FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities.
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BLACK WORKERS FOR JUSTICE is an organization of Black workers organizing to build the African-American workers' movement as a central force in the struggle for Black Liberation and Worker Power.
OPPOSITION SEEKS TO SECEDE FROM KEYSVILLE

In the absence of a clear mandate from the people of Keysville, the opposition forces continue to challenge the existing political order. The recent election has apparently been settled by both the courts and the U.S. Justice Department (which monitored the 1988 and 1990 elections).

But in a new twist, the minority white faction announced that it would appeal the Georgia State Legislature for help in seceding from Keysville, although the remnant is a laughable throw-back to the new-civil War South. They seem to be quite serious about it. "What we are going to ask the Legislature to do this year is to declare us an independent state," Ken Daniels, lawyer for the opposition, said. "That is how the border line so as not to include the lower end who have been forced to relocate...they have their towns. That would surely seem to be a solution that would work well to everybody," he said. However, Daniels and his clients held meetings about this with Rev. Bill English Jr., a Baptist minister, and Rev. Henry Harper at his home in Louisville, when the legislature convened this year. No word at press time as to what happened.

Meanwhile, Keysville officials were sworn-in and held a powerful Musical Ceremony during the Martin Luther King Holiday weekend.

Ceremonies were also held that weekend for the remnant of a road in Keysville. Martin Luther King Jr. Jr., Dr. efforts to expand the MLK Drive road into the county (by County Commissioner Herman Lobeck) were hampered by a flurry of controversy. A small group of white county residents refused to move the way by force even though the remnant had already been passed by the entire county commission. Several county commissioners are "old fashioned" and refused to accommodate the demands of the remnant county and county governments to "adoe the King holiday as a paid holiday. We will win this struggle against the racists who claim the holiday is too expensive for government or who support proclaiming King's birthday or Roberts L. Lee's birthday or the Confederate Memorial Day."

KING HOLIDAY ROUNDUP: STRUGGLE CONTINUES FOR PAID HOLIDAY

In Shiloh, the Black Workers for Justice and Shiloh Coalition for Community Control and Improvement hosted MLK Labor Support Forum. The program highlighted the connections between Black workers' struggles in Keysville, GA, Shiloh and Robeson County, NC. Guest speaker Alan Griffin, gave the keynote presentation illustrating our peoples' struggle for political power and the resultant government repression. Keysville showed how Black political power in Keysville was a natural ally in the struggle to unionize the area and the South. The Keysville Council supported the nursing home workers' successful union drive.

During 1988, local NAACP chapters from Gastonia, Salisbury, Shelby and other areas have been challenging their local
There is concern by area residents, charges ofKennethBradley, former superintendent of the Roanoke Rapids public schools, would lead to an even worse situation for the school district's Black students.

Bradley, who resigned from his post in December, cited "health reasons" for his departure. His former assistant, J.J. Ray, an African-American, was an assistant superintendent prior to acceding the temporary position, Weldon, and the Halifax County high school on the northern end of the Black Belt South, are focal points in the struggle for a viable, quality education for African-American students in North Carolina.

Abilene, NC—The 500 Black working women at the Purdue furniture plant in Abilene, Virginia recently have been organizing for a union. The strikers are receiving assistance from the Center for Economic Awareness, based in Abilene, NC.

The Purdue milltry plant is like many of the others found in the chicken picking belt of North Carolina speed-ups, an unsafe workroom floor, and unceasing noise and monotonous Black labor. Many of the workers at the plant were aware of what was going on, but they were afraid to meet in the streets. "You'd be lynched," said one worker, AiPia-Davis, Executive Director of the Women's Center. "I've helped to counter this fear."

The union has uncovered that many workers at the plant suffer from repetitive motion unatures such as tendinitis, carpal tunnel syndrome, and chronic fatigue Syndrome. The workers' efforts to receive occupational health and safety relief for their diseases and their organizing activity were given some coverage by the Virginia Workers' Compensation Law. The state places the burden of proof on the worker, saving the company from having to prove the cause of any of these diseases often crippling in nature.

Robeson Co., N.C.—In the weeks immediately following the remarkable and just decision of the U.S. Supreme Court on April 14, 1988 of Tuscarora Indian People to Picters, Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs, a community campaign was launched against County Sheriff Hubert Stone.

Hatcher and Jacobs are both local native North Carolina host age-taking charges and brought to trial for the first time in the history of the Tuscarora Nation on April 11. Most of the white workers, held under guard and being taken the county, announced the demands issued by Merrick. The Sheriff's office was investigating into the death of a man who was found dead in January. The investigation into the death of a county sheriff's deputy was launched against County Sheriff Hubert Stone.

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Meanwhile, in the county, a counter campaign of harassment and intimidation was launched by Hubert Stone and his sheriff's deputies. A 3 jade of deaths of Indians revived in the county, US investigators who, among various Indian leaders, activists involved in the petition campaign in an effort to isolate and discredit Hatcher. Routine notice protection was pulled back from events such as highschool ball games in the county. Community members reported for more attacks on the workers, savs state and local officials.

The Department of Labor, under Secretary of Labor Robert Martin, has asked the state's labor department to launch a petition drive. The state's labor department will be asked to open an investigation of the death of a man who was found dead in January. The investigation into the death of a county sheriff's deputy was launched against County Sheriff Hubert Stone.

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SAMSONS & DELILA

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LIBYA SCAPEGOAT FOR US DOMINATION OF MIDEAST

The US government has been accused of lying about its involvement in the Libyan chemical weapons program. According to the Libyan Press, the US attempted to mask its involvement by blaming Libya for the chemical weapons attacks.

The Libyan Press reported that "spokesmen have the very next day to address the US-Libya controversy over the Rabat Bank..."

The US government has denied any involvement in the chemical weapons attacks.

Despite bitter opposition, including from the American Chemical lovely's bank, the US government continues to maintain its stance on the issue.
**JUSTICE SPEAKS**

**BLACK WORKERS FOR JUSTICE**

**SPECIAL WOMEN'S ISSUE: HONORING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH 8**

**GOLDEN POULTRY LAYS BROKEN EGG: 300 LAID OFF**

Durham, NC—In what many believe is a move to bust the United Food & Commercial Workers Union local 525 and undermine its workers' wages and working conditions, the Golden Poultry Company announced it is shutting down its 35-year old plant in East Durham.

Golden Poultry Durham plant. [photo by Jerry Savage]

About 300 workers will be put out on the street when Golden Poultry (owned by Gold Kist Inc. and formerly known by that name) moves its operations to a new 65,000-foot, $10 million plant in Sanford, NC. Some workers have been at the plant for years but management says it will guarantee them no jobs, but will "allow" workers to apply for jobs at the Sanford plant. Management appears to be concentrating on trying to make sure none of the unionized Durham workers show up at the Sanford, nonunionized facility. According to some Sanford area residents, government officials there have been known to turn away corporations because production workers' pay was expected to process 43 million chickens a year. The company says it also is cutting costs of transporting poultry to the plant. According to the Durham Morning Herald, the company's distribution center at the Durham plant will remain open with about 15 employees to serve the [Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill] area.

In 1978, Gold Kist workers, members of the United Food and Commercial Workers, held a powerful and militant strike. For the first week, union members armed with baseball bats surrounded the plant and searched all management vehicles that had to pass the union picket lines. It lasted three weeks in the intense heat of a Carolina summer. nltk

**DUKE WORKERS OPPOSE SERVICEMASTER**

DURHAM, NC—Housekeeping workers, members of AFSCME local 77, have been holding a series of strategy meetings to respond to a recent move by Duke University to contract ServiceMaster, Inc. to manage its university housekeeping department. ServiceMaster is a notorious union-busting national corporation whose "dog-the-worker" methods take the veal off workers' management relations.

On January 16th, just after the contract was signed, ServiceMaster called a meeting of university housekeepers, on one-half hour notice and with no advance notice given to the worker's union. Union members present reported insulting and racial derogatory comments by ServiceMaster manager Ed Jones. According to workers, Jones criticized their appearance and hairstyles, banned hats for men on the job, and said uniforms would be changed to blue because "brown & beige don't look good on black people." Jones several times threatened firings for rule infractions and said workers would be watched by [undercover] ServiceMaster managers.

According to persistent rumors ServiceMaster will change work hours for the last shift. Workers, many single parents and/or with no transportation, would have to come in from 2:00am to 10:30am instead of the current 7am - 3:30pm.

In the first of a series of three meetings called for by AFSCME 77, Jones was forced to issue a grudging apology for his comments but didn't back off from the potential of policy changes.

Duke students have given active support to the workers. Students have posted, leafleted, held pickets and sent letters to temporary marker commemorating 1968 Duke workers struggle to stop the editors of the school newspaper. Reportedly a Labor Support Group coalition has been formed.

**THE DUKE PLANTATION**

Duke University and Medical Center has a long history of racism and paternalism toward African-American workers thereby earning its traditional nickname among black employees, The Plantation. Black workers at Duke and Duke Medical traditionally have been kept in the food services and housekeeping departments, the lowest paying jobs. Duke is Durham's largest employer. While some professors may make more than $70,000, some jobs in housekeeping start at $4.53 an hour.

**LOCAL 77: RICH HISTORY OF STRUGGLE**

The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees union local 77 has a long rich history of struggle. As in the past challenges from Duke anti-union management, its use to the rank & file membership to stop union-busting at The Plantation.

**INSIDE**

Dixon in Shiloh Wells 2 Raleigh Independent Runs 2 Twelve Hour Work Day 3 12XW Women Win Contract 3 Correction 6 Editorial 4 Community Calendar 5 Women in Mozambique 8
CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE CHALLENGES

RALEIGH, NC—"As citizens do you question your future in the United States? Will this country remain a major industrial power with high standards of living for us or future generations? What does this have to do with us?" Raleigh, NC city council candidate Doug Fulford questioned a standing audience. Observers quickly have noted that this is not "a politics as usual" speech.

INDEPENDENT, NO "POLITICS AS USUAL."

This unusual political campaign is developing for a city council at-large post. This African-American's campaign has no base in the local Democratic Party. It has no origins within the "Traditional Black Establishment." Its young, independent, fresh and creative council-at-large candidate Fulford makes it clear that he is seeking to build a broad based coalition among the people in the City. Fulford is reaching out around their expressed concerns. Human services advocates, young folks, union activists, small business owners, grassroots activists, religious community, housing shelters, and the working people, progressives, student fraternities, are being reached out to based on an agenda collectively developed by representatives from those sectors of the community, so stated a core staff member.

"On October 18, 1989, you will be faced with an important choice. You will decide who will serve as your representative on the Raleigh City Council...I'm a native of Raleigh...I'm concerned with its future and the decreasing federal funds and its impact on its citizens," said Fulford, long-time activist & production jobs. He must bring in higher paying manufacturing and production jobs. We must develop low cost mass public transportation. We must have an affordable and flexible housing program so that all can have decent housing. We need to improve and develop human service programs for the homeless, elderly, and those in need (i.e., medical facilities, mobile housing shelters, daycare care). We must get neighborhoods and entrepreneurs to work together towards developing creative ways to increase employment, cultural and business opportunities so that our citizens may have more choices and opportunities. We must continue on page 7.

Shilo Finds Dioxin, Plans Hearing

Shilo, NC—The recent revelations of contamination of community wells with dioxin, another cancer-causing chemical, and the proposal by the Beezer Company (former Koppers) to install water lines into Shilo, has its residents more concerned than relieved. The Shiloh Coalition for Community Control & Improvement held a press conference February 28th to get this message out.

During the second week in February, the State Human Resources Director, Dr. Levinne, told media that some community wells have now been found to be contaminated with dioxin. Dioxin is another carcinogen which can be traced as a possible byproduct of the wood treating process used by the Koppers Co. This is in addition to the previously reported isopropyl ether and PCB (pentachlorophenol) contamination of this western Wake Co. Black community's wells. Residents became aware of the dioxin contamination by reading about it in the newspaper. And, although requests for more information have been made, they still do not know, specifically, which community wells are contaminated with dioxin.

Too Many Unanswered Questions

In response community pressure on Beezer Company (formerly Koppers) presented a proposal to the Morrisville Town Board February 13th to install water lines into Shilo. While it is possible that the company responds to community demands, they are still quite a few unanswered questions.

"How can we get the water lines up to date? Will we have to do this anyway? Will the residents be able to vote? Will the residents be able to vote to reject the plans? Will the residents be able to vote to select the contractors? Will the residents be able to vote to select the materials? Will the residents be able to vote to select the design? Will the residents be able to vote to select the financing? Will the residents be able to vote to select the construction? Will the residents be able to vote to select the operational plan? Will the residents be able to vote to select the maintenance plan? Will the residents be able to vote to select the standards of living for us? Will the residents be able to vote to select the future of Shilo?"
TLWELVE HOUR WORKDAY BECOMING REALITY

From People's Tribune

A twelve hour day is becoming a reality in California. The California Industrial Welfare Commission is considering increasing the work day from eight hours to 12 hours with no overtime pay.

The Commission has already instituted this work day for workers in the following categories: office, professional, and technical; recreation, housing which includes hospitals and health care. These workers will have to work 12 hours, six days a week before they can collect overtime pay.

Workers may figure that this can't affect them, but this is not true. There is a major reworking of the American industrial system. The key word is competitive. One of the leading ideas for making work places more effective is to cut the 24 hour day into two 12 hour blocks.

12 hour day gives employers more

Workers are paid for all the time they work. Workers create all value that is created. Value is measured in hours of human labor. It is converted into money — dollars and cents — when goods are bought and sold.

Wages paid to workers by capitalists are, on average, just equal to the amount workers need to survive. Falling wages force workers to work overtime (if they have any choice). It means two family members have to work to make what one used to make.

TWO MEN TO WORK TO PRODUCE THE VALUE OF ONE

The value workers create goes to the capitalists. The value is in the goods produced, which capitalists own. When the goods are sold, the part of their value "reaped" by the capitalists for the wages paid workers.

The rest of the value created becomes capitalist profits. Some of that profit goes to investors as interest, some goes to retailers as their profit, etc.

The unity of the working class is required to change the industrial system. The drive by the California Industrial Welfare Commission helps protect and increase that profit.

The drive by the capitalists for a 12 hour day can only be stopped by a coordinated fight.

Through their unions, churches, and other organizations, workers must apply pressure on the elected officials to rescind the Commission to rescind this.

ECONOMICS OF THE 12-HOUR DAY

Shifts, instead of three eight hour shifts.

The 12 hour day is a step backward in history. It is part of the drive to lower the standard of living for both union and non-union workers.

The capitalist system runs on certain laws of economics. Although we may think this system is messed up because of a few greedy people on top, it's more than that.

The capitalist system is based on companies seeking maximum profit.

The action by the California Industrial Welfare Commission helps protect and increase that profit.

The drive by the capitalists for a 12 hour day can only be stopped by a coordinated fight.

Through their unions, churches and other organizations, workers must apply pressure on the elected officials to rescind the Commission to rescind this.

NEW WOMEN TRIUMPH IN CONTRACT FIGHT

From New York People's News

New York City, NY—The November issue of [Working People's News] contained an interview with a sister from Non-Traditional Employment for Women (NEW) here whose staff works to help women and the construction trades and other traditional unions win jobs. She told us that "NEW" is a non-profit agency, funded by the state, unions, and private donors. Its purpose is to break down the barriers of sexual and racial discrimination in the building trades specifically to get minority women into construction, building maintenance and so forth.

"It is the only organization of its type and has played a vanguard role as an advocate for women workers. 98% of the women served by NEW are women of color and single parents who have moved from welfare to $7 - $25/hour skilled jobs."

"NEW" is a women's organization, one of the things we want is an on-site day-care, not only for us, the workers, but also for the participants. It also provides for a three month, unpaid parental leave, during which health insurance benefits will be continued. The benefits still fall short of working women's needs, they are a positive step in the growing movement to organize employers and the government share the family burdens of workers.

The drive by the capitalists for a 12 hour work day to create the value of their wages. It may take workers, for example, 2 hours out of an 8-hour day, 6 hours to profit.

The goal of the organizing the workers, the militance and the bargaining unit, the desire of workers to organize should be welcomed by those who aim to revitalize the union movement. The District 65/UAW was the election, responding to their struggle and helping win the contract victory.

WAGES AND FAMILY BENEFITS WON

All the members of the newly formed bargaining unit worked together so that the negotiating team truly represented their collective desires. In this first contract they won substantial increases in wages and benefits over two years and increased minimums. For many of the staffers, this will mean that their salaries will be increased twice — once to raise them to the new minimums and again for contractual raises. Not only is this significant in terms of money, but it also narrows the gap between higher and lower paid workers — a victory that fosters solidarity.

Childcare and parental leave were also key issues in the negotiations. "Knowing that NEW is a women's organization, one of the goals of the organizing committee was to revitalize and help women enter the workforce. We wish to congratulate the NEW women on their victory that fosters that."

"NEW" WOMEN TRIUMPH IN CONTRACT FIGHT

Justice Speaks

RADIO

7-8 pm—Every Thursday

WSHA FM 88.9

(Shaw University Radio)

Raleigh, NC

Interviews, News

Music, Culture, History

Commentary

Community Calendar

Check out the views &
opinions of Black Workers

DIOXIN, RING

In response to community pressure, the Company (formerly Pulp Corp) has presented a proposal to the Morristown Board of Directors to build two water treatment facilities.

While it is possible the proposal is designed to maintain the company's profitability, the residents still quite a few questions.

Can extension of the project be justified? How will the company be affected? How will the residents be affected? These are a few of the questions which residents are raising.

The company responds: "The community demands there be a coordinated effort. And they raise — council reaction."

Residents are now considering the proposal "too small to tap into the water systems are also to redeveloping the property."

With the proposed new facilities, a" tvation and allow a new trial park in the city. And they do. It flows through the public pool and into the middle of the city. The new community will be built. This will attract more residents. And the proposed facility would be continued on page 4.
This past year has been a very busy one for Black Workers for Justice. That’s tied to the fact that the past year has seen an increased number of pitched battles by the African-American national freedom movement and the trade union movement. (Black workers, organized and unorganized have their feet in both.)

PITCHED BATTLES EVERYWHERE, LED & Fought BY WOMEN

The Schlage Lock plant closing & health benefits campaign; the Standard Products workers' union drive; the battle for power in tiny Keysville; the Rainbow Coalition, Jesse & Super Tuesday (The African-American "referendum on self-determination"; the 10/60 strike in Charlotte, NC; the Samours & Delila union drive & current struggle for a contract; Black's continuing battles; the Durham City Workers, the Justice for Janitors campaign, the loss at the House of Raeford...We are sure our readers could name many more.

One of the many lessons these struggles are making increasingly clear to us is of the consistent, concrete, demonstrated leadership and activism by Black women workers — as workers and as activists and organizers in the struggles for political power. Time and again, from Schlage to Keyville, across the Black Belt, women have stepped forward building organization, deciding direction and strategy, and carrying it through to keep households organized, children in line, singing in the choir and trying to mobilize their church to picketline and ballotbox.

There is no question, as has been raised in other countries, about how much African-American women are part of the workforce. African-American women are workers, always have been workers, from slavery in the fields until now in the plants and behind the typewriters. Their labor force participation has consistently been among the highest in the world. They are workers, not merely the relatives or mates of workers.

continued on page 5

Where We Stand!

- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting for democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
  - AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor
  - AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
- FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops"

BLACK WORKERS FOR JUSTICE is an organization of Black workers organizing to build the African-American workers' movement as a central force in the struggle for Black Liberation and Worker Power.

- FOR health and safety on the job and in the community
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
- FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities
- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racist national oppression of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities.
WOMEN WORKERS

YET, another lesson we are grappling with is "How to get both the Black Liberation and Trade Union Movements to adequately & seriously address the demands, needs and aspirations of women workers, African-American women workers?" Affordable health care, affordable childcare, confronting and ending rape & the domestic violence that are rampant, paid maternity (a parental) leave, underemployment are some of the initial needs and are politically legitimate demands. Addressing these issues will concretely improve the quality of life of all sectors of the population. It is also politically legitimate and necessary to make as priority the development and strengthening of women's departments, caucuses and organizations to give leadership to their groups and movements. The United Food & Commercial Workers attempted to address this when they called in their Women's Dept. and asked the Center for Women's Economic Alternatives to give assistance when House of Raeford workers (predominantly Black women) walked out and demanded a union. Thankfully the days will be gone of sending white male organizers who look and act exactly like the supervisor to win over a plant made up predominantly of Black women workers.

It is politically legitimate, and more importantly, facing reality, for these organizations to exist both in our unions, as well as by Black women in organizations in the African-American community. Black organizations must support this unequivocally. National oppression (US state institutionalized white supremacy/racism) of the Black community makes male supremacy act and look differently within our community and liberation struggle. And to say that male supremacy does not exist in the Black Community is like saying rape and domestic violence don't exist there either. One of our hardest lessons is facing, squarely and honestly the amount of abuse going on in the Black national community.

Our movements need organizations that recognize the Triple Jeopardy that Black women workers faces National Oppression as African-Americans, Class Exploitation as workers AND Male Supremacy (Patriarchy) as women.

And we need African-American women workers' organizations that will search, through organizing and study, the best way to shoulder the responsibility of leadership in fighting for the development and training of women, against male supremacy, against exploitation and for workers' power and Black national self-determination. Women have primary responsibility to make this process grow - but the other workplace, community and political groups we belong to have the critical responsibility to assist this process, providing time & making this work priority, space, assistance in organization and skills. That is recognition of Triple Jeopardy/Triple Oppression. Black Workers For Justice is seriously grappling with this one. Women play major roles in the leadership of BWFJ, its organizing and its newspaper. In 1986 a Women's Commission was formed to raise these issues. And now women, and men, find ourselves forced to relearn how to carry out work in a more organized way, to set and hold the organization to priorities in order to consistently support and strengthen the work of the Women's Commission.
MOZAMBIQUE WOMEN

for example. Ploving the fields, particularly if they are a piece of land that is a part of the inheritance of the woman's family, is the responsibility of the woman. The work is repeated throughout the year, regardless of the season. This is a fact of life for Mozambican women. 

But when she returns home from the fields, the woman's work is only partially done. The food she has just harvested must be processed—hours of pounding fills the air with rhythmic thumping that is almost like music. Food must be cooked. Leaves must be ground to a fine meal. The sound of pounding fills the air at all times of the day, a rhythmic thumping that is carried across the African veld. So is the smell of wood smoke from each family's cooking fire. The lighting of the fire comes only after a few hours of searching for fuel, often traveling long distances, as the supplies nearer home are depleted. 

Dinner is eaten, for cooking, for washing dishes, for solutions, must also be collected. In some dry areas of Mozambique where water is scarce, women spend hours or days fetching it from a stream or river. They wear the water on their head, so heavy that they can barely walk. 

Laundry is often done at a river's edge or other water source, again a journey of greater or lesser distance. The house and living area must be swept and cleansed. Food must be cooked. Leaves must be gathered from wild plants to be used as supplements in cooking. And throughout the day, as a backdrop to all the other work, there is the never-ending responsibility for childcare. 

All these tasks are performed with little if any help from the men of the family, who could shorten the time involved by sharing the physical strain. And all the while, unless the woman is fortunate enough to have her children in the bearing age, she is virtually constantly pregnant or breast feeding.

MOZAMBIQUE: SHINING EXAMPLE OF STRUGGLE TO INTEGRATE WOMEN INTO POLITICAL & ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP

Given this unrelenting reality of the productive labor of Mozambican women, it is sobering that Mozambique is one of a handful—if that—of African countries that give it any weight in economic planning or social policymaking. Fewer still are leaders who are as articulate and emphatic in the need to integrate women into a development process that takes this into account so that they may play an equal role in society. A prime way of achieving this, according to the plan to develop Mozambique, is through involving women in the communal villages and the setting up of cooperatives in the villages to form the economic basis for the women. There were high hopes for these villages (just after independence).

Picture the Mozambican landscape: dispersed homesteads, each with its own family machamba, dot the length and breadth of the country. Each family works in isolation, far from water sources, health services, or schools. A sense of community is hard to develop when your nearest neighbor is at best half a mile away, maybe a number of miles to lift the two of you.

STRENGTHENING IDEALS INTO REALITY

Then picture theideal communal village. Water on tap at a centrally located pump. A school for the children with attendance compulsory. Literacy and adult education classes for their parents. A diminished workload with time to learn to read and write, to participate in the political life of the village. A small health clinic serviced by a health agent trained in the basic medical needs of the village. An agricultural cooperative provides a surplus for the village that is not used in the usual taxes, so that more services can be provided. Electricity and television are available. How about transport? Tractor? Bus? A village where anachronistic traditions, particularly those that women find oppressive, no longer hold place. A village where women are outspoken and where their demands are heard. Where they are considered equals. Where development projects benefit women, are designed to benefit women who have an equal say in how they are carried out. A village where peace this remains theoretical.

US-BACKED CONFLICT WRECKS ECONOMY, BLOCKS WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT

Looking at the small, impoverished village—under siege in Nancete District, the three watchwords of the UN Decade for Women fell into my mind: Equality, development, Peace. It was here, almost more than anywhere else in Mozambique, that I really appreciated in my gut the interconnection of these three words. But it almost hurt, as such realizations can do, when I walked around Eduardo Mondlane village, talked to the women, looked at their faces, felt the microcombination of the bandits of South African-backed Mozambique National Resistance) I found myself making that switch from intellectual sense to emotional sense.

The absence of peace makes that potential for equality and development elusive. The war could put an end in this process, not only for this village, but for the communal village programs in Mozambique with it, the improvements for women.

[Part II will run in future edition of Justice Speaks]

Saturday, April 1, 1989 - 6:00 P.M.

ANNUAL COMMEMORATION BANQUET

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s SUPPORT FOR LABOR

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Dance Following Banquet

Donations: $10

Candidate in support of non-smokers' rights

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There should be open lines of communications to discuss problems and work conditions. Should the City of Raleigh label workers willing to "check-off" employee organization dues from paychecks? Yes!” stated Doug.

At a time when we can expect more attacks on workers, more budget cuts, attacks on affirmative action, "Pro- Big Business” Neogammonics from Bush/Gauley there are few if any politicians or campaigns addressing our real concerns and needs.

“Pullford repeatedly talks about our future despite the political realities at Shiloh. To give it a shot, everyone should go to the hearing and stand up in their support of our platform.”

 Sly

If we move closer to October 10, 1999...Council Election Day...workers, particularly Black workers, must measure each candidate that runs by our own political platform. Our platform reflects our own needs and interests as Black workers. As others get ready to run in an election, council let's remember our past record and make sure they stand with us and in support of our platform.

SHILOH can’t make a major business in the community if people don’t agree with accidents and put the community at unnecessary risk just as Koopers/Keeper has done before. Residents urged the board not to allow this to happen.

PUBLIC HEARING PLANNED

To bring out these facts and issues along with the health concerns of the community and former Kooper employees, the Shiloh Coalition for Community Control and Improvement will sponsor a Public Hearing on Saturday April 8, 1999 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge located in Shiloh. The hearing will include state, county, and local officials; health care leaders; labor leaders; and community activists. All concerned residents, Kooper former workers and all interested parties are urged to attend.

SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK is a cappella singing group of six African-American women who performed in Durham, NC Feb. 28th as part of their annual Black History Month Tour. "Pullford boldly talks about our future despite the political realities at Shiloh. To give it a shot, everyone should go to the hearing and stand up in their support of our platform.”

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ON THE LIBERATION FRONT

WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT IN WAR-TORN MOZAMBIQUE

excerpted from the Guardian newspaper

Justice Speaks Editor's Note: Mozambique is a country in southern Africa and borders the illegal settler regime of South Africa. In the 1970s, the Mozambican people, led by women, villages and organizations. This time their rebellion was far more sober, with the early enthusiasm tempered by bitter experiences of Mozambican's contra war. But Urdang also found that the revolutionary hopes and projects for women in that shattered Southern African state had not been extinguished. Following are two excerpts from her new study of Mozambican women, "And They Still Stand: Women, War and the Struggle for Change in Mozambique," published this month by Monthly Review Press.

THE UNEQUAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

In other words, men have the political power within the family. The women have little political power despite their fundamental role in the family economy. Their work does not bring with it commensurate rights to decision making.

The unequal relationship between men and women is a relationship that has been well articulated in official documents expressing concern for women's role in the rural sector and the oppression it gives rise to. A text from the Second Conference of the Organization of Mozambican Women (OMM) describes the woman peasant as the 'hope oppressed and exploited woman in Mozambique.'

"Most agriculture," notes the text, "is for subsistence and is done by women." According to the 1980 census, 78% of the economically active population worked in family agriculture. Ninety-three percent of these workers are women. Family production goes beyond the household and is performed by groups of women, often in conjunction with men. The most challenging tasks are performed by women, who typically work in fields two to three hours a day, with a baby on her back. Sometimes this work is done with clear skies and hot sun. Other times it is too harsh to work under such conditions.

The setting up of communal villages throughout Mozambique in southern Africa was envisioned as a major mechanism for insuring the liberation of women. Collective living, combined with the provision of new technology, services and other resources, could transform women's heavy workload. Because of women's predominant role within the household and in family production, they potentially stand to reap greater benefits from the communal village program than the men. One of the most challenging problems confronting the program is the realization of the commitment of the party (MPLA, which led the struggle for state power), the state and the women's organization (the Organization of Mozambican Women) to the emancipation of women—how to effect transformation of the sexual division of labor and insure that women are as prominent as men in all facets of the village life.

REVOLUTIONARY COMMITMENT TO WOMEN BY PARTY, GOVERNMENT & NATIONAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

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DURHAM, NC—Workers here are well aware of the extent to which Golden Poultry will go to make big bucks while the employees suffer. And it’s no secret that closing its plant in Durham and moving it to Sanford, NC is a way to destroy the union.

The owners, who care nothing about the devastation to the families of the workers and the community will not even guarantee employment for the displaced workers in Sanford. Thus, the company is forcing out its organized workforce and hiring a new unorganized, and therefore vulnerable one in its place.

Word from workers at the plant is that they are being discouraged from even applying at the new plant and that the workers there will be paid even less than the $5-6.50/hour paid in Durham.

Without Active Organization, You Will Be Abused, Misused and Walked On

Employees are forced to labor under inhuman conditions, in constantly cold temperatures at break-neck speeds. Injuries, illness and exhaustion are the plight of poultry plant workers.

Gold Kist is one of the largest companies in the poultry industry. The workers have created tremendous wealth for Gold Kist, yet (or because) many of the plant workers live below or near the government “poverty level.”

Schlage lock workers in Rocky Mount, even with no union, forced management to pay one half week’s severance pay for every year worked. By Picketing, Leaflets, organizing public hearings, the Schlage workers forced the company to pay their pensions early and to begin to take responsibility for injuries and illnesses stemming from the job.

Across the Black Belt, Gold Kist Attacks Union

Golden Poultry workers in Durham are not alone in their hardship and struggle. The owners, under the name of Gold Kist, operate plants in Trussville, Guntersville and Boaz, Alabama as well as facilities in Georgia and Arkansas.

Workers at the Gold Kist plant in Trussville have been waging a very determined strike since February 9th. The 600 strikers, members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFUW) Local 442, are fighting for a living wage, decent working conditions and the addition of Martin Luther King’s birthday as a paid holiday. The Gold Kist owners have refused to raise wages for more than 3 years and they are trying to do away with the union bidding and seniority system.

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Local Government Used by Management

Gold Kist has used its flabby judge to issue piddly restraining orders. They have dispatched the police and sheriffs to escort scabs into the plant and to arrest and harass the strikers. The company

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MISTREATMENT AT ENFIELD APPAREL

ROCKY MOUNT, NC—A group of victims of the 1984 gas leak from the Union Carbide pesticides plant in Bhopal, India, will be the focus of a rally and ministerial breakfast at Ebenezer Baptist this month. The visit will give the injured workers a chance to tell their own story and publicize their demands: for justice in several southern U.S. states, Britain and the Netherlands. The rally is co-sponsored by R.I.R.O., the Rocky M. based community organization, and the Schlegle Workers for Justice.

UNION CARBIDE MURMERS MORE THAN 2,000; REFUSES RESPONSIBILITY

More than four years ago, the deadly chemical Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) spewed from the Carbide plant in Bhopal, initially killing at least 2,000 and injuring 280,000. According to local government statistics, victims are still dying at the rate of one a day. The tragedy remains the worst industrial disaster in history.

The lack of adequate safeguards in Carbide’s Bhopal factory is similar to the situation at many hazardous industrial facilities in Europe, North America, and elsewhere in the Third World. Equally lacking are procedures to assure prompt relief to the victims of reckless corporate and government behavior—for example, asbestos poisoning, Agent Orange, and the Balkan Shield.

Recognizing the victimization of poor workers pitted against a large, irresponsible but powerful corporation, a Bhopal trial judge ordered commitment to struggling against the injustices of the company. Unless the workers take a stand now, the company will pick them off one by one.

THEY WILL FIGHT BACK; STAND, THEY WILL FIGHT THEM! THERE IS SUPPORT TO STAND WITH THEM!

The issue of mistreatment is an issue the Enfield community, Enfield Apparel workers are underpaid, then the workers contribute less to the company.

Enfield workers can work with dignity and decent working conditions, they will not have a chance for their children to grow up in an healthy human being.

UNION CARBIDE BHOPAL VICTIMS TO SPEAK OUT

Justice Speaks is a vehicle to organize and build the African-American workers’ movement as a central force in the struggle for Black Liberation and Workers Power.

P.O. Box 3307 • Durham, NC 27702
CALIF. WORKERS, COMMUNITY FIGHT HOMELESSNESS

ENCINITAS, CA - "Justice, not repression," we demand equality not discrimination. "The people are present!" These chants shook the coastal town of Encinitas where racial tensions have flared in recent weeks. Two hundred people gathered outside city hall to denounce the eviction notice by city council to hundreds of homeless Mexican farmworkers who have small shacks in the surrounding hills and canyons. Their houses, often made of cardboard and plastic, provide the only shelter that many of these workers have ever known while living in the U.S.

The economy of Encinitas, like other small communities, was once based on vegetable and flower production. Labor camps existed there for decades, but now find themselves surrounded by upper-class homes where prices are commonly above a quarter-million dollars. Meanwhile in San Diego County alone, there are more than 14,000 migrant workers living outdoors in handmade caves ("spider holes") and rickety little huts made of scrap materials. Many of these workers are legal US residents, but because they may only work a day or two a week, they are unable to afford the skyrocketing rents.

Recently these camps have come under increased attacks by the immigration police, which regularly raid, AND by government officials who want voters to think they are "cleaning up their cities." During his last two election campaigns, Congressman Ron Packard made racist statements, scapegoating "illegal" Mexicans for the area's problems. Immigrants have been blamed for everything from the rising crime rate to "spreading disease".

BWFJ member Gordon Dillahunt visited a migrant labor camp to investigate the conditions of Mexican workers in Encinitas and other parts of San Diego County. Mr. Dillahunt was accompanied by several members of US Comiteo Cívico Popular, a local Mexican/Aztec Indian organization.

"The conditions are shocking, about what we'd expect 100 years ago," said Dillahunt, also president of the Railligh N.C. American Postal Workers Union chapter. "It's the worst I have ever seen." We stood around in a circle in a quail hidden by large oak. Close by was an open shack with only a roof and two walls. It was a communal kitchen area with a portable camper's stove and a makeshift table. A three-foot round hole in the creekbed served multiple purposes: dish sink, bathtub and wash basin. There were no sanitary facilities or drinking water within one mile and those who are not normally available to these workers.

The labor camp Dillahunt visited had continued on page 7

EASTERN WORKERS STAND FIRM, STRIKE SUPPORT STRONG

In what could be the opening of a new stage of working people rebuilding the strength of the labor movement in the US, the International Association of Machinists (IAM), with the overwhelming solidarity of unions across the country, has virtually shut down Eastern Airlines. Picketers line up in airports all over the US, including Raleigh-Durham, Greensboro and Charlotte, which were passed originally at Eastern but later extended to Texas Air and Continental Air. In addition, the IAM has passed a resolution speaking out against a half billion dollars of wage cuts down workers' throats. (See ANP, 1.2.1.)

MYTH OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT... REALITY

Sympathy and solidarity for the Eastern workers appears to be universal among workers in this country. And workers in other companies and industries have been willing to honor the strike by not handling any goods etc. shipped through Eastern as well as engage in a sympathy walkout. The US Supreme Court long ago affirmed the right, according to US constitutional law, to "secondary boycotting," that is, pickets at railroadss across the country. The point of this recent round of attacks on Eastern is to force the US president to step in and save Eastern, now facing a cooling off period which could be set by the US Congress which the Eastern unions support.

But a court injunction was filed and upheld, blocking railroad workers from walking out to support the Eastern workers. The workers and their lawyers are very angry and frustrated. "Legally, we're absolutely right on this. But we can't win anything - the law is being blatantly ignored," said one attorney.

But PAN AM union members said they might walk out in sympathy. The PAN AM air shuttle has picked up a lot of business from Eastern. A shuttle shutdown would intensify the pressure for a cooling off period which could be set by the US Congress which the Eastern unions support.

Meanwhile outside the transportation industry, clerical workers and other unions, students and teachers at Columbia University forced the school to cancel plants to give "contra" workers a $4.60 an hour. And so, it seems that the economy can no longer afford the skyrocketing prices of the US, including these half billion dollars of wage cuts down workers' throats.
Every year more than 10,000 U.S. workers are killed on the job as a result of traumatic injuries. On April 28th thousands of workers across the U.S. will be observing Workers Memorial Day. The purpose of the observance is to mourn workers killed, injured or made sick on the job. This nationwide event, with activities planned in cities where safety and health catastrophes have claimed workers' lives, has been initiated by the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) in connection with the anniversary of the creation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

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This needless waste of workers' lives is because of unprotected machinery, ditches cave-ins, electrocution and vehicle accidents among other things. Statistics show that craft workers, transportation workers, laborers and farmers have the highest numbers and ratios of job fatalities.

From 1980-1985 194 workers were killed in the state of North Carolina. This was also 7.9 fatalities for every 100,000 workers in non-governmental employment. In this same period the average yearly number of job fatalities for the U.S. was 6,757. This amounted to 7.9 fatalities for 100,000 workers in the private sector.

In addition to paying tribute to our fallen fellow workers, the Federation wants to take the occasion of OSHA's anniversary to strengthen it by:

1) Mandating workplace safety programs and expanding worker participation and rights.
2) Strengthening OSHA enforcement.
3) Addressing construction safety and health hazards.

In N.C. these concerns are especially important. In Rocky Mount, for example, the former Schlage lock company workers are still dealing with the deaths of 17 fellow workers from what were probably work related cancer. Black Workers for Justice will display 17 coffins for the Schlage lock workers and one coffin for the unknown worker murdered by Schlage's (and other companies') greed and recklessness on April 28th in Rocky Mt.

Unsafe work places are also related to increasingly unsafe conditions in our communities. Communities all over the Black Belt are the subject of Toxic Terrorism. The owners of industry have no problem dumping their waste on small and currently powerless communities.

On Friday, April 28th at noon, union members and workers will lay flowers down at the U.S. Capitol in Raleigh for those who have lost their lives. Everyone who can should attend the event. Their will also be a press conference.

The main way that we can take part is by wearing a black arm band or ribbon on that day. Wear it to work and wherever you go that day.

MOURN FOR THE DEAD. FIGHT FOR THE LIVING.

Where We Stand!

- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers.
- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers.
- FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes.
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism.
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor.
- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer.

Black Workers for Justice is an organization of Black workers organizing to build the African-American workers' movement as a central force in the struggle for Black Liberation and Worker Power.

- FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers.
- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "run-away shops".

- FOR health and safety on the job and in the community.
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and "kill-er shops".

- FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities.
- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racial national oppression of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities.

Mourn for the Dead. Fight for the Living!
WORKERS' POLITICAL AGENDA

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
by Shelita Balentine

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a fighter. He fought for guns and bombs against him. But he did not use a gun; he fought with words and ideas. He believed words and ideas could beat guns. He fought for all Americans. Thousands of people knew he was right. Thousands followed him, too. Slowly America began to change.

Martin Luther King lost his life in the fight to change America. But his words and ideas still fight on.

Shelita Balentine, 11-year-old activist in Shiloh, NC, helpedleaflet and distribute Justice Speaks there. She is the daughter of Ray & Rita Balentine, and wrote & recited this essay for a Black Workers for Justice Forum in Shiloh.

BHPAL can't

Carbide over a year ago to pay interim relief of $278 million. Carbide refused to pay. Two months ago, a final settlement of $478 million was agreed upon. This amounts to $2350 for each injured or murdered victim.

This tour will emphasize the need for immediate relief to victims of industrial disasters. It will also underscore the importance of the creation of a more humane and effective system for providing justice to such victims and for deterring reckless behavior.

SOLIDARITY WITH SHILOH US SISTER PLANT

In the U.S., the delegation will visit community and worker groups exposed to hazardous industrial facilities in Institute, West Virginia, some of Bhopal's "sister" plant making MIC, as well as other communities in Tennessee, Louisiana, Texas, California, and other states. Similar visits to victim communities and workers are planned in the Netherlands and Britain.

The visit of the delegation is being organized by the International Coalition for Justice in Bhopal, a network of seven consumer, public interest groups in America. Coordinating the delegation is the Bhopal Action Resource Center. For more information, call 971-8162, 83-1361, or 446-2378.

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AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

WORKERS BUILD LABOR LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGN

From January through April 1989, the North Carolina Labor organization, I.C.A.F.C.O. (American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations) placed the issue of public employees right to bargain collectively as an association or union with management before North Carolina state legislators.

THE RIGHT TO A CONTRACT

North Carolina, like most Southern Black Belt States legally prohibits any government entity (i.e., state, county, local municipality, etc.) from bargaining collectively with its employees. Although there has never been a public referendum on this issue before N.C.'s working people, 382,384 N.C. public service workers have been denied this democratic right. This is why North Carolina's public sector workers are ranked 50th of 50 states when it comes to monthly wages.

WORKERS WANT A LIVABLE WAGE

Consumer prices have increased 38% since 1980 but wages have either been frozen or outright slashed. This is why militant workers in the 1938's fought for the passage of the Wagner Act (National Labor Relations Act -- NLRA) against tough "profit before people" companies and government opposition. However, this fight was only won with rank and file involvement of hundreds of thousands of workers.

N.C. public service workers desperately need the right to organize the workplace for mutual protection from company abuse, improved working conditions, free speech, free association, collectively bargain for improvements, the right to withhold their labor, protest strike, and specifically stop company bosses' coercive anti-union activities.

While federal budget cuts continued in the 1980's, N.C.'s public sector grew from 363,988 to 382,384 workers. These governments also kept wages down with wage freezes. Forty percent of public employees across the US had suffered wage freezes in 1988. Governments also implemented other new policies that hold wages down. For example, Durham's new "Pay for Performance" makes it difficult to advance each year. In addition, management "tries to make do" with old, worn out or inadequate safety on the job and in dangerous conditions and "-warden" the job by enclosing and locking work areas.

Durham City workers, members of the Durham Central Labor Union, actively support the legislative thrust of the NC AFL-CIO. New AFSCME 1194 Executive Board members are: (front row) Theresa Reyes, president; Joseph Upchurch, vice-president; Julia Harrelson, recording secretary; (back row) Herman Whitaker, trustee; Janet Mayo, Anguza Laughhouse, chief shop steward and Gary Owens. Reading the oath of office is AFSCME International NC/VA Area Director Charles Smith.
DUPLIN CO. : FIGHT FOR BLACK POLITICAL POWER ...AGAIN

DUPLIN CO., NC—"EPA came through here some years ago and said that our water was not fit to drink," stated Mrs. Beatrice Carter of Bowdens, N.C. "These are signs of a small mostly Black community in Duplin County. It is environmentally unaware of the health hazards that these health problems have. Water is always an issue. The water problem is definitely a problem." The EPA is monitoring the water quality in Bowdens, N.C. Bowdens is a small mostly Black community in Duplin County. It is environmentally unaware of the health hazards that these health problems have. Water is always an issue. The water problem is definitely a problem.

Residents upset by City’s broken promises

ROCKY MOUNT, NC—Citizens from the "Round the Y" sector of the city are upset by broken promises by the city to build low income single family homes in their community. In 1974, citizens from this predominantly Black neighborhood, signed their properties over to the city on the condition that the area would be developed for low income families. Instead of building single family homes, the city began building apartments. There is still a lot of empty space in need of development. The citizens are being told to agree to the building of a park, which many feel is a way of cooling them off and getting them to forget about the housing crisis.

Citizens in Action, the community organization comprised of citizens from the neighborhood, is building a campaign for justice in their community. They have been calling on the city to give them some answers without success. Several residents who signed over their properties have since died.

ROCKY MOUNT MAINTAINS IMPROVEMENTS IN "BLACK SIDE OF TOWN"?

"Round the Y" is located on the Edgecombe County side of Rocky Mount, and is the least developed side of the city, with the majority of the city's Black population. There are many issues showing the inequality between the two counties in Rocky Mount. The other being Nash County. There is long standing fight around the control of the city schools.

Housing, streets and recreation are the poorest on the Edgecombe side. Black citizens have had to bring a law to create a ward voting system, which enables them to elect 3 Black city council representatives. Hopefully these and all their minded Councilpersons will act jointly for these citizens. However, it has been proven in Rocky Mount, that only a strong battle is necessary for real progress. Citizens need to be prepared to wage a tough battle. If they investigate and pressure, pressure, pressure, pressure, skeletons will come out of the closet.

Miss Evelyn Mason, "Social Security and Welfare checks don't take you too far."

"There are too many water lines have been extended to the town line of Warsaw, the County's most populous town. Duplin Co. Concerned Citizens have organized a petition drive for the County Health Services to extend water service to the town line of Warsaw town line, down US 117 to Bowdens. Currently there are no plans for this and the residents in the predominately Black community are under no illusions that the racist white-ruled Duplin County government has any great concern for the health of Black citizens. They realize that it will be a struggle just to get services that others take for granted. To this end there is some talk in the community about incorporation, which would mean that Bowdens would become a town. If incorporating, Bowdens could apply for federal and state grants to build and perfect their own water system. "We could get all sorts of things that we need," said Mrs. Carter. Incorporation, in North Carolina is a rather involved bureaucratic procedure that requires approval of the Carolina General Assembly. The Assembly is loaded with white racist politicians. Incorporation of Bowdens would certainly be a move towards empowerment of Duplin County's large Black community. (Duplin County is about 43% Black.)

ONE STEP AT A TIME, EVERYTHING TO WIN

However the Duplin County Concerned Citizens choose to deal with the water problem first, they are aware that it will be a struggle. The gross power organization, in existence for about 3 years, has organized a number of victories, including a campaign against the Duplin County Health Services, a campaign against racism in the school system and numerous protests by the local community. The group running in the November elections, including the two candidates for the seat of County Commissioner, have included a campaign against racism in the school system and numerous protests.

The Black people in this area are frustrated with what they feel is the power structure's failure to listen to the people. They feel that the people have the power to make the changes that are needed.

EASTERN can't

Workers consider ownership

There are reports elsewhere in the federal government that the media about Donald Trump and former Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich. They are buying out Eastern, the most interesting thing was that the PAM AM unions, reportedly, has been trying to vote in a new board of directors to which one of those who is the subject of this article is a Republican politician, is trying to get Eastern to sell the airline. However, the filing has been put on hold pending an end to the investigation.

For more information, including where to buy tickets to the March 19 Strike Fund, the strike schedule, and where the strike funds are going, you can contact the PAM AM union office at 202/720-2390. For jobs with Justice Speaks, please contact them at 720/720-2390.
calif. workers can't

righteous movement.

the Klan Is a tool of the ruling class.

of the four Klaasmen in the Viola Liuzzo murder by the Klan in 1965, Gary Thomas Rowe, was an F.B.I. informant. Years later, it is believed known that Rowe, while he was working for the F.B.I. from 1959-65, led many of the most violent attacks on civil rights demonstrators, including the beatings of Freedom Riders in Birmingham. In 1978, Rowe was indicted for the murder of Viola Liuzzo, based on eyewitness testimony and his own boasting about it to two Birmingham cops. However, the courts dismissed the case, ruling that Rowe could not be prosecuted for the killing.

in November, 1979, an anti-Klan march in Greensboro, North Carolina, was violently attacked by the Klan and Nazia. Five of the demonstrators were killed, and another two were wounded. The carnage with the Klan and Nazia was led by Ed Dawson, an informer for the F.B.I. and the Greensboro police.

One of the aims of movies like "Mississippi Burning," "The Klansman," and "Driving Miss Daisy" has been to change the public perception of the Klan. In the words of an attorney who represented a Klan member in the Viola Liuzzo case, "The Klan is a tool of the ruling class."

workers can't

Discussion: MOVIE REVIEW

HISTORY DISTORTED

taken from a much longer article contributed from a regular reader.

"Mississippi Burning" is a new distroction of history of the liberal bourgeois variety. It is based on the murder of three civil rights workers, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, by the sheriff's department and Ku Klux Klan in Neshoba County, Mississippi in the summer of 1964. The subseuent effort to find and convict the murderers. What gives the film any sense of reality is its portrayal of one aspect of the South before the bourgeois democratic reforms forced on it by the civil rights movement and the breakdown of black and white people's struggle in general. It shows scenes of the reign of terror inflicted upon blacks and progressive whites by the local ruling class in the form of cross burnings, lynchings, burning of schools and churches used for meetings, etc. But the film uses this truth to put forth a false argument in the federal government, and the F.B.I. in particular, that put an end to this terror.

the F.B.I. did not fight the Klan.

During most of the struggles of the civil rights movement, the F.B.I. and other federal agents stood by and watched as the Mississippi police clubs and clubs and by attacking demonstrators or arrested people trying to help them. The F.B.I. made no move to stop the lynchings and firereburnings carried out by known Klansmen. Most of the Klansmen were members of the police and sheriff's departments and who took off their blue uniforms for the day to wear their white uniforms at night. Civil rights leaders were told, as in this reply to a recent request in early 1963 by the Reverend L. Martin Luther King, Jr., that the protection of civil rights leaders was the responsibility of local authorities. This is the responsibility of local authorities. That is, the federal government gave free reign to the police and Klan against the civil rights movement.

campaign can't

At these legislative meetings, local and national activists met with state lawmakers in Wake and Durham along with Wake and to discuss the divesting of public school retirement funds and pension funds from all companies doing business in North Carolina (even those located outside the state). A task force is being formed to develop an international perspective, understanding that the Comproses of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) fight for democratic rights and against all oppression.

worker's solidarity also means revenues appropriated.

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Black workers for Justice is launching a legislative petition campaign to let NC lawmakers know workers are organizing for their own interests.

Sign a petition! Circulate a petition! Join the BWJ petition campaign!

justice speaks

RADIO

7-8 pm—every Thursday

WSHA FM 88.9

(Shaw University Radio)

Raleigh, NC

For more information, including where you can buy "Freedom Road" contact: WSHM-FM 88.9, Raleigh, NC, or call either of us at 222/728-2390.
INT’L WORKING WOMEN’S DAY CONFERENCE

Photo-Report

Domestic Violence and Abuse proved to be one of workshops with the highest degrees of participation. Women grappled with issues such as fear to speak out by women being abused, the effects upon children, the necessity to address emergency, short-term, and long-term needs of women as well as male supremacy/sexism and the exploitative nature of this society as root causes of abuse. Maxine Alexander (left) of the National Child Rights Alliance and Qiyama Rahman (right) of the Georgia Network Against Domestic Violence raised both practical and longer-term political issues.

Conference Coordinator Sulami Sunni Ali read the keynote speech written by BWUJ member Ashaki Rinta who was unable to attend.

Sister L.C. Dorsey, long time activist in the Mississippi Black Belt health care and political power arenas, lent valuable insight on organizing around health care and life.

Mayee Crispe, of the Nicaragua Network, lent sharp analysis of the situation of Nicaraguan women, the Nicaraguan national situation and internationalist solidarity.

Zakiyyah Ghafoor (left), 12 years old and Ayanna Sunni Ali (right), 10 years old, welcome and give conference call to women assembled. In their presentation, they reminded women to take responsibility for the world and the condition under which it will be left for future generations.

Join the
Justice Speaks team!

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NC WORKERS OBSERVE WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

COFFINS SYMBOLIZE VICTIMS OF UNSAFE CONDITIONS

ROCKY MOUNT, N.C.—Members of the Black Workers for Justice and the Schlage Workers for Justice built 17 coffins and displayed them in front of the now-closed Schlage Lock plant here. The April 28th action joined workers throughout the US in observing Workers Memorial Day.

Schlage workers for Justice is a newly formed workers association of former Schlage Lock workers. The two groups also held a press conference outside the BMU Workers Center as a memorial protest against unsafe working conditions.

Seventeen of the coffins were for the 17 former Schlage Lock workers who died of cancer. The 18th coffin was for the unknown worker. Area workers, going to and from work, blew their horns in support of the action.

Those Schlage workers, like so many others in the Rocky Mount area and around the country, worked with known cancer-causing chemicals without adequate safety equipment, ventilation or procedures. Today, many former Schlage Lock workers suffer from respiratory, liver and other problems, early symptoms displayed by many of the now deceased workers.

Joe Mahoney, a Schlage Lock official, told the Rocky Mount Evening Telegram, "A degreaser used in the plant has been found to cause liver damage in rats."

Workers Memorial Day in a day observing the memory of the thousands of workers who have died or been critically injured because of unsafe working conditions. It was called by AFL-CIO unions and supported by rank and file workers' organizations, churches and community groups.

Through a six-month campaign, Schlage workers demanded and won severance pay and benefits. Workers are also demanding the company pay for complete medical examinations of those workers still alive. Schlage Workers for Justice also made a call to all workers in area workplaces to organize themselves to struggle for safer working conditions "before it is too late."

The BMU Workers Center is setting up a Hazardous Workplace Information Center. It will include a Hazardous Workplace File for workers to research the effects of chemicals and unsafe working conditions; a Workers Hotline for workers to call for research and organizing assistance; and a file for workers' complaints and accident/injury reports against companies.

For more information, call the BWJ Workers Center at 977-8162.

Raleigh Unions Lay Wreath

RALEIGH, N.C.—Fifty workers gathered outside of the North Carolina Legislative Building on April 28th to pay tribute to workers killed, injured, or disabled on the job. This particular event, sponsored by the N.C. AFL-CIO, was in conjunction with similar activities held across the country.

A wreath was placed to the 125 N.C. workers who died from job-related causes during 1988. Communications workers, machinists and postal workers wore black ribbons to work that day to show their solidarity. Many wore buttons with the slogan "Fight For The Living" as a call to fight for stronger legislation and enforcement of current safety and health regulations. It is a take off on the Mother Jones slogan, "Pray for the Dead and Fight Like Hell For the Living."

The Raleigh action included representatives of the American Postal Workers Union, Communications Workers Association, International Association of Machinists, and the executive board of the N.C. American Federation of Labor—Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), several legislators, and members of the clergy. They were joined by staff from North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Project (NCHSHP).

This first observation of Workers Memorial Day coincided with the continued on page 4.

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ENFIELD APPAREL: IT’S UNION TIME!

ENFIELD, NC—Management at the Enfield Apparel Company called a meeting of workers to question them about a workers’ petition, a Justice Speaks article and their complaints.

The company was upset by an article in Justice Speaks about the unjust firing of Wilma Bryant, a Black sewing machine operator, and the petition signed by a number of workers. The article also mentioned unsafe plant working conditions.

Evelyn Hunter, a former worker at Enfield Apparel and the sister of Bryant, initiated the petition. Hunter was later fired as she reported to work, for allegedly refusing to follow the instructions of a supervisor. This was clearly a frame-up to make it appear that Hunter’s firing had no connection to the petition.

Firing Hunter for getting a petition signed, thereby acting on behalf of those workers, is against the law under the National Labor Relations Act. Workers have the right to make group representations to the company by signing petitions and asking to meet with management. Firing, under these circumstances, is a violation of the law.

The workers at Enfield want a change. They have the right to job security, decent wages and benefits and protection to challenge the management when they are unfairly treated. Many workers are quitting because they have no confidence in the company. Some workers are talking about the need for a union. This is just the type of challenge that Enfield Apparel needs.

BLACK TRUCKERS FIGHT S.T. WOOTEN FIRINGS

WILSON, NC—On April 19, 1989, Black truck drivers at a division of the S.T. Wooten Construction Company on Black Creek Road in Wilson acted on their concern about company denials of promotions to Blacks to higher paying positions.

Two of the truck drivers, Dwight Davis and Jimmy Wells requested a company division meeting with the workers regarding promotions of Black workers. There had been some White workers hired off the street with less experience but given positions above Black workers with more experience. Davis and Wells were fired late that day.

The workers have filed complaints with the National Labor Relations Board charging wrongful firing for concerted activity.

S.T. Wooten Black truckers Dwight Davis and Jimmy Wells fired for questioning company promotion practice.

JIMMY WELLS UNFAIR DISCRIMINATION CHARGES

WILSON, NC—Jimmy Wells, a Black truck driver, filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission charging S.T. Wooten Black truckers Dwight Davis and Jimmy Wells were fired late that day.

The workers at Enfield want a change. They have the right to job security, decent wages and benefits and protection to challenge the management when they are unfairly treated. Many workers are quitting because they have no confidence in the company. Some workers are talking about the need for a union. This is just the type of challenge that Enfield Apparel needs.
UNFAIR DRUG TESTING AT CDC

BLOOMER HILL, NC—Since January 1, Consolidated Diesel Fuel Company in Bloomer Hill, has been implementing a drug and alcohol testing policy that many of the plant's 1,100 workers feel is unfair. Under this policy, any worker who suffers a OSHA-recordable injury on the job must submit to a mandatory drug and alcohol test, refusing to submit to the urinalysis is grounds for termination, according to the policy.

In January, a worker on the Block Line was terminated after he testified positive on the urinalysis following a severe injury. He suffered a cut on his arm requiring 10 stitches while working on his machine on a Friday night. When he reported for work the following Monday, he was made to take the drug test.

It appears that impairment is not the issue for CDC management. How can a test on a Monday prove impairment on Friday? Diesel company by its very nature covers a wide range of drugs, including some over the counter pain and cold remedies. Under CDC policy, workers have no right for a second test and no right of appeal.

On April 1, a woman worker in the Test Dept. suffered multiple injuries when the hydraulically-operated lift platform on which she worked collapsed. She was rushed to the hospital. Unable to get a urinalysis on her at the plant, CDC management insisted that the hospital perform the drug test. However, her state of mind at the time had nothing to do with the collapse of the platform.

CDC's stated intent is to reduce the level of alleged "impairment" of workers on the job. However, the real effect is to deter workers from reporting injuries on the job. Workers prefer to treat their injuries at home if possible rather than put their job on the line with a test of unsure reliability: a test where the worker who suffers an injury is forced to submit to a test that may be unfounded, or a factor in the accident. On paper at least, CDC's safety record will look much better. Reduction of workers' compensation insurance premiums are a likely result. CDC's drug test policy is a threat to a responsible health and safety program at the plant.

On the other hand, it is in the interest of everyone that workers impaired by drugs or alcohol not endanger themselves or their co-workers on the plant floor. However, the linkage of drug testing to simple occurrence of OSHA-recordable injuries is unfair and a violation of their right to privacy.

Reduction of reliability of drug tests is a subject of much debate among physicians, drugists, and health workers. Some studies have shown that sickle cell trait found in the blood of many Black people makes them more prone to positive drug test results. This leads some to say that drug testing discriminates against Blacks.

Another policy that links drug testing to on-the-job accidents discriminates against production workers. Company management and office workers have little chance of suffering on-the-job injuries. Therefore, the burden of this policy is borne by the very production line workers who are often the backbone of the Company's success.

Legislation now before the N.C. General Assembly would regulate the ability of companies like CDC to impose this kind of drug test policy. House Bill 12, sponsored by Rep. Milton "Toby" Fitch, Jr., who represents parts of Rocky Mount, as well as Wilson and Edgecombe counties, would outlaw random drug testing. Under HB12 and its sister bill Senate bill 1112, companies would have to establish a "reasonable suspicion" test on specific, objective and articulable facts. The suffering of an on-the-job accident simply would not qualify as "reasonable suspicion".

The proposed law would challenge the CDC's drug testing program and severe injuries. Therefore, the burden of this policy is borne by the very production line workers who are often the backbone of the Company's success.

UNFAIR DRUG TESTING AT CDC

News articles, letters to the editor and community calendar events are welcome in JUSTICE SPEAKS. They must be received by the 20th of each month.

Join the Justice Speaks team!

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News articles, letters to the editor and community calendar events are welcome in JUSTICE SPEAKS. They must be received by the 20th of each month.
Three years ago, women workers from Shoney's Restaurant South contacted the BWFJ for assistance in challenging racist and sexist discrimination and poor workplace conditions such as low wages, unsafe conditions, and no paid sick leave or holidays. The BWFJ assisted workers from five Wake restaurants to organize a Shoney workplace committee to address these issues. The BWFJ also carried out union education—why we must have them in the Black belt and in particular—and job discrimination complaints were filed.

Workers, a $782 million per year restaurant chain in the South, had a policy of a maximum quota of 30% Black workers at its stores. It fired Black workers to ensure this, states the complaint. Workers must organize to change this and other poor conditions.

In April 1989, the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund filed a 30-state class action lawsuit against Shoney's. "The suit, which is the largest job discrimination action ever brought against a private employer, states that Black employees were fired and denied promotion solely because of their race," stated the Charlotte Observer, April 5, 1989.

The suit also seeks money for compensatory and punitive damages for employees who lost their jobs and for applicants denied employment because of their race.

Although this complaint was brought by employees of just four Florida restaurants, the BWFJ has been informed that the NAACP Legal Defense Fund is encouraging any affected worker in any state to call 1-800-950-1550 to join the law suit. Please call the Black Workers for Justice Center in Raleigh (919) 977-8162 or (919) 977-2810 for more information on the struggle of Black and women workers at Shoneys.

Workers at Shoneys must stay organized, get unionized, and keep fighting in light of Rush's anti-worker, so high minimum wage, anti-union and racist policies.

Durham, NC—The Durham Central Labor Union, a council of labor unions in the Durham area, has added its name to the growing number of labor organizations adopting the petition campaign initiated at the BWFJ 6th Annual King Support for Labor banquet on April 1, 1989. The petition will be circulated throughout all those labor unions and organizations affiliated with the Durham CJU.

The petition urges legislators to support legislation for:
1) collective bargaining rights for NC state, county, municipal, and public employees
2) no firing of employees without just cause and
3) investment of state, county, municipal, and public service employees' retirement monies from all companies doing business in South Africa and from public utility companies associated with businesses in South Africa.

"I think it is good that direct action, mass support and education is being taken up and building the petition campaign," stated Andrews of the NC AFL-CIO. The petition will be collected and later presented to legislators.

If you need a petition, you may contact the BWFJ workers Center, Rocky Mount or Raleigh center at 977-8162 or 919-5269. Show your support for workers! Sign one today!

Raleigh Unions cont.
TILLERY, NC— On April 29, 1989, fourteen workers from Purdue poultry processing plants in Northeastern NC defined company scare tactics by attending a special medical screening.

The screening was organized to serve workers in the area who suffer from the often crippling results of the dangerous and harmful working conditions that exist in most poultry plants.

**COMMUNITY, WORKPLACE GROUPS JOIN FORCES**

The screening was held at the Tillery Community Center in Halifax Co., the site of Concerned Citizens of Tillery's monthly People's Health and Safety Committee meetings. The sponsors of the event were the Tillery Area-wide Labor Advocates (TALA) and the NC Student Rural Health Coalition (NCSRHC).

The screening was collected and later distributed by the Black Workers Center in Halifax Co., the site of Concerned Citizens of Tillery's monthly People's Health and Safety Committee meetings.

Among the most serious threats to the health of poultry worker is a disease known as Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. CTS is primarily caused by consistent, stressful overuse of the hand. It is a disease of the main nerve to the hand which causes intense pain, making basic activities such as combing hair, driving a car, or picking up a child impossible.

Surgery is one — usually temporary — remedy, but experts agree that the best way to eliminate the problem is to change the type of work motions that create the problem. For the line workers this would mean job rotation.

Purdue claims that, with doctor's note, it will rotate a worker through different departments. However, workers tell a different story. "Purdue just dogs them," said another worker and health committee member. "Doctors' notes don't do no good — they'll just switch you temporarily. It can't get no better this way," she continued, looking at her hands. One worker who attended the clinic because of extreme pain in her hands said that when she told her supervisor of her troubles he just "laughed it off."

**PURDUE ATTEMPTS INTIMIDATION, FAILS**

Some of the organizers of the screening got a chance to experience the "slavery" conditions under which people are forced to work — the intimidation, threats and sexual harassment. They are also known for their unhealthy environment, the cold, the strong fumes, and the furious pace of the work.

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Workers register for Poultry Workers Screening at Tillery.

All seemed pleased by the outcome of this first Poultry Worker's Screening. Because of the good response, and in spite of the company's attempts to stop workers from participating or even knowing about the event, the Tillery Health Committee as well as CWEA and NCSRHC are planning another screening to be held this summer. They are urging all who attended to tell their friends and coworkers and to be on the lookout for more leaflets announcing the date, time and place. With more participation in the future we can really affect conditions at the plant... We all need to act on this together — they can't fire all of us!"
That the South, is and has been, along with the Southwest, the most backward region inside the US, has long been an "established truth." People just expect it.

What many haven't discussed is the effect of this state of affairs on all strata of the entire working class within the US. The pivotal role discussed is the effect of Black workers within the US. Witness public education, land reform, the 1960s, and current pitched battles around political control, for unions and contracts, against concessions.

It is in the interest of all rank and file of all the various unions to push their union to commit to organizing the South, UNITE THE SOUTH!

But not in the "business-as-usual" way. The struggles for a union is a critical aspect is workers' fight for control over their own lives. One aspect. The union must play a positive role in the struggles for political power in these counties. After all, it is the industrial commission of these counties that promise no union, no challenge. That promise comes the sun, moon & stars. It is in the interest of all workers to lobby for their union to make the long term commitment to organize the millions of the unorganized.

UNITE THE SOUTH!

Where We Stand!

- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor
- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- AGAINST democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor
- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
- FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "run-away shops"
- FOR health and safety on the job and in the community
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
- FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities
- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racist national oppression of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities.
BLOOMER HILL, NC — Citizens of North Whitakers and nearby communities are rallying to stop the plans of the all-white Nash County School Board to close the North Whitakers Elementary School. This school serves this predominantly Black community in northern Nash County.

In May 1989, the School Board voted unanimously to close the school.

On April 27, the North Whitakers Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) led a delegation to a public hearing at the School Board meeting in Nashville. There, angry Black parents voiced their opposition to the school closing, which the School Board claims is necessary for racial balance and more efficient operation.

The student population at North Whitakers is 92% Black and consists of 150 students in a building designed for 350.

However, North Whitakers is one of three predominantly Black schools in Nash County. This year, a new Black principal, Mr. Hartsfield, has taken over at North Whitakers and instilled a great deal of hope and encouragement among both students and parents. But now the school board has scheduled North Whitakers for a possible shutdown.

REAL QUESTIONS ABOUT HUBBARD'S SAFETY

The Nash County School Board's plan would move North Whitakers' students to Maude B. Hubbard School. Hubbard, located in the Black community of Drake, also had received inadequate resources from the school board until the influx of white students in recent years from the new subdivision of Northgreen and High Meadows. Hubbard is now 72% white.

With the advent of these new white students, the school board moved to upgrade Hubbard's facilities, including the addition of cafeteria facilities. North Whitakers already has two cafeterias. Students' meals are transported daily. Some parents have complained that often, in the warmer months, lunches are sour by the time they reach the school.

Deficiencies in the facilities and resources at North Whitakers are the result of years of discrimination against the predominantly Black schools in Nash County. This year, a new Black principal, Mr. Hartsfield, has taken over at North Whitakers and instilled a great deal of hope and encouragement among both students and parents. But now the school board has scheduled North Whitakers for a possible shutdown.

CONTINUING FIGHT TO KEEP COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS OPEN

North Whitakers school was opened in 1957. It is one of the three predominantly black schools in Nash County that has been targeted for closure by the School Superintendent Cecil Stroud. The other two are Spaulding (in Spring Hope) and Swift Creek. The residents of the Swift Creek community rallied together three years ago and stopped the closing of that school at that time. The North Whitakers PTO has been learning lessons from their neighbors in Swift Creek about how to organize successfully against the Nash Co. School Board.

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North Whitakers school was opened in 1957. It is one of the three predominantly black schools in Nash County that has been targeted for closure by the School Superintendent Cecil Stroud. The other two are Spaulding (in Spring Hope) and Swift Creek. The residents of the Swift Creek community rallied together three years ago and stopped the closing of that school at that time. The North Whitakers PTO has been learning lessons from their neighbors in Swift Creek about how to organize successfully against the Nash Co. School Board.

North Whitakers is 92% Black and consists of 150 students in a building designed for 350.

However, North Whitakers is one of three predominantly Black schools in Nash County. This year, a new Black principal, Mr. Hartsfield, has taken over at North Whitakers and instilled a great deal of hope and encouragement among both students and parents. But now the school board has scheduled North Whitakers for a possible shutdown.

REAL QUESTIONS ABOUT HUBBARD'S SAFETY

The Nash County School Board's plan would move North Whitakers to Maude B. Hubbard School. Hubbard, located in the Black community of Drake, also had received
SHILOH COMMUNITY, NC— On Saturday April 8, 1989, the Elks Community Lodge was full for a community sponsored public hearing on "Toxic Terrorism in Shiloh." One of the goals of the hearing, organized by the Shiloh Coalition for Community Control and Improvement(SCFCI), was to present a full picture of the specific conditions that the majority of former Koppers workers and Shiloh community residents face because of the toxic waste dumping by the Koppers Co., which is now owned by the Beazer Co.

The workers and community members testified about their exposure to the cancer-causing chemicals, PCP and dioxin, in the workplace and drinking water from their wells. Nathanette Mayo, chair of the Shiloh Coalition opened the proceeding with a call for all participants to honestly put forth their experiences, and called for accountability of the many elected officials present. Some of the elected officials included Wake Commissioners Vernon Malone and Robert Heather, U.S. House Representative David Price, staffer Bill Windley, N.C. Senator J.K. Sherron, N.C. House Representative Peggy Stamey, and the sole Morrisville town commissioner (out of six) present Delores Scott.

Governor Martin, U.S. Senators Jesse Helms and Terry Sanford staffers all responded that they felt the issue was resolved by Koppers/Beazer agreement to pay for water lines through half of the 958 Black community of Shiloh. "They stated beforehand they would not be present. We weren't disappointed because their view is consistent with their history of pro-real estate/corporate interests and anti-worker and Black attitudes," said Coalition member Angaza Laughinghouse.

The hearing panel included: Durham Central Labor Union leader Mark Nielson; Raleigh Citizens Task Force activist and City Council candidate Doug Pulford; Rainbow supporter and Raleigh-Wake Citizens Association member, Dr. Thompson; Durham City Workers Union Local 1194 Health and Safety Coordinator Noble Swan; Ms. Powel of the United Church of Christ; N.C. Student Rural Health Coalition's Rick Losada; Reginald Smith of the Conference on Minority Public Administrators; Gordon Billahunt, President of the Raleigh American Postal Workers Union; and community lawyer Victor Boone.

As the panel of inquiry listened, questioned, and clarified testimony, the workers and residents quickly and sharply drew the battle lines. Government agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), state health divisions of the Dept. of Human Resources, and the Wake County Health Department, and the town of Morrisville are lining up with a water system plan to "accommodate big real estate investors and corporate development."

Former Koppers worker Vassy Barbee testified to experiencing burning eyes and nose from direct contact with the toxic PCP liquid, fumes, and sawdust in the workplace. International Brotherhood of Carpenters Union local President Bill Hicks, presently employed at Unit Structures (the union busting firm that now owns part of Koppers Co.'s former operation), testified. He made it clear that a lack of strong active and informed rank and file union membership made it difficult for workers to respond to the toxic crisis.

With a pitcher of cloudy toxic water displayed before her, Coalition member Linda Lyons explained the irresponsibility of the EPA and government agencies. Through official letter, she was notified that she and her toddler son should not drink the water, and it was not advisable to bathe in the toxic water from her well. "Kopper/Beazer has been supplying bottled water to "some" homes but not all... and they have not immediately remedied the need for transport water tankers to supply water for bathing and other needs... this is not an acceptable response" said one of the panelists.

Seventy-two year old Rev. Nathaniel Mayo, a former Koppers worker and the associate minister of Shiloh Baptist Church, stated that fellow workers and church members have been in ill health. Many of his neighbors have died untimely deaths. This supported the Shiloh Coalition's request for a comprehensive health survey of his neighbors have died untimely deaths. He and church members have been supplying bottled water to "some" homes but not all... and they have not immediately remedied the need for transport water tankers to supply water for bathing and other needs... this is not an acceptable response" said one of the panelists.

The hottest exchange in the hearing centered on the view of workers and residents alike that the Morrisville extended this Shiloh water crisis to advance its "pro-development, pro-real estate investors' agenda to force annexation and broaden its tax base. As community opposition mounted, the panel began to aim questions at the Morrisville Town Commissioners and its Administrator Phil Norton after he presented a plan outlining the new water system.

"Why did the water line stop in the vicinity of the rich Everett family 52 acre property [known to be outside real estate speculators]... Why must Shiloh residents have to annex to Morrisville when they tap into this new water system?" Norton responded. "The town is in the business of providing much needed service to those that annex."

"It's Blackmail!" said Johnny Monroe.

Morrisville's plan only provides water for some workers, not all. The accessible water lines to investors and corporate developers.

The Coalition will continue its struggle for political accountability of all government agencies and representatives. However, other immediate alternatives should be considered also. For example, developing a "water association" to provide water services without annexation, buying out the water lines over a period of time, or creating a community-controlled water sanitary district.

Regular Coalition meetings will continue. Plans continue for SFCCI's 5th anniversary during which the Findings and Recommendations of this hearing will be announced. We are resolved not to give up... as long as necessary until victory is won.

For assistance, financial support, or further information write: Shiloh Coalition for Community Control and Improvement c/o N. Mayo Rte. 2, Box 77, Morrisville, NC 27560.
The hottest exchange hearing centered on a view of workers and residents alike that the village government used high water crises to force its "prop-" present pro-real investors agenda to annexation and its tax base. A unity opposition panel began to questions at the Lville Town Hall meeting. Phin Horton presented maps showing the new water main line. "We did the water map in the vicinity of the Rich Everett family property (known to some real estate agents).... Why must residents have to move to Morrisville when you have this new main line?" Horton asked. "The town is in the business of providing pal service to those on the outside."

"Blackmail!" said McCrimm. His rich Everrett family provided water for residents and corporate interests. Blackmail was a key issue in the district's Blackmail! program. Horton asked. "Why did the property (known to some real estate agents).... Why must residents have to move to Morrisville when you have this new main line?"

The audience was encouraged to join the country preparing for a national celebration of Malcolm X's birthday May 19 next year. There is no desire to make it a federal holiday but rather a Peoples Holiday.

**BLOOMER HILL SCHOOL cont**

active social and cultural center of the white minority in Whittakers after the Black community loses its school, should North Whittakers close. Such is the political maneuverings in this predominantly Black area of Nash County. Six Hundred Black residents live in the unincorporated community of Bloomer Hill, just outside the town limits of Whittakers. On the other side of Bloomer Hill is the Consolidated Diesel Company, an engine manufacturer of 1,180 workers. It is Nash County’s biggest taxpayer. Recently, in an effort to support the North Whittakers PTO, a number of CDC workers signed a letter to the Nash County School Board in opposition to the school closure. CDC workers took the position that they could not ignore actions that adversely affect the community in which they work everyday.

**JOIN THE JUSTICE SPEAKS TEAM**

**BLACK POLITICAL POWER**

**TWO GENERATIONS SPEAK ON MALCOLM X**

For the last 25 or so years the name, Malcolm X, has been on the lips of Black people inside the US, particularly in the North. Along with Dr. King, Malcolm X was the symbol of Black national agenda. He provided sharp answers and to critical political questions. He defined our true political status as a colonized nation inside the US, explained the priority of our inalienable human rights over US-granted civil rights, made clear our struggle was and continues to be for self-determination. He was respected in the international arena as our representative. He stood on the side of the working man and woman.

Malcolm went through many transitions in his life: from innocent to criminal to religious minister to politically conscious revolutionary. He always spoke the soul and essence of the oppressed Black millions. He was born May 19, 1925 and was murdered February 21, 1965.

NC TRIBUTE TO 'OUR SHINING BLACK PRINCE'

There is a renewed interest in Malcolm X among young people thanks to some of the better and more progressive rap groups like Public Enemy, Boogie Down Productions (BDP) and the Steetasonic. Malcolm X posters, T-shirts and rap music have become part of the panoply of African American Youth. An April 29 program paying tribute to Malcolm X highlighted this interest by young people through poetry, a dramatic presentation and speeches. Elementary, Junior High and University students represented their generation.

Nearly sixty people attended the program sponsored by Freedom Books, House of the Lord Church and the Black Workers For Justice who have held such observances in past years. They were joined in solidarity by representatives of the South African and Namibian Students Information Center (SANSIC) and the All African Peoples Revolutionary Party (AAPRP), giving the program a truly international dimension.

Malcolm’s impact on other nationalities was addressed by two white activists who spoke on how Malcolm X's views shaped their thinking. They then became involved in anti-racist work and the support of the African American struggle for self-determination in the Black Belt South.

One high point of the night was the performance of the reggae band "Broken Roots & Culture". Their use African and Caribbean rhythms in their tribute to Malcolm X were well-received.

Rev. James Williams, representing the House of the Lord Church and the Black community loses its school, should North Whittakers close. Such is the political maneuverings in this predominantly Black area of Nash County. Six Hundred Black residents live in the unincorporated community of Bloomer Hill, just outside the town limits of Whittakers. On the other side of Bloomer Hill is the Consolidated Diesel Company, an engine manufacturer of 1,180 workers. It is Nash County’s biggest taxpayer. Recently, in an effort to support the North Whittakers PTO, a number of CDC workers signed a letter to the Nash County School Board in opposition to the school closure. CDC workers took the position that they could not ignore actions that adversely affect the community in which they work everyday.

**JOIN THE JUSTICE SPEAKS TEAM**

**ALL CLINICS**: 11am - 3pm (except Tillery: 11-3:30pm)

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**MAY 19**: MALCOLM X BORN, 1925.

**MAY 19-21**: LABOR NOTES NATIONAL CONFERENCE, Detroit, Mich. National conference of progressive trade union and labor activists, labor supporters. 43 Workshops including Organizing the South. Clerical worker organizing, beating concessions, health & safety issues, team concept and much more. Registration: $45. For more information: 313/842-6262.

**MAY 20**: FREEDOM COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC For more information: 242-5110.

**JUNE 3**: BMFU ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC Raleigh, NC. For more information: 833-5908.

**JUNE 3**: "BLOOMER HILL COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC For more information: 247-1891.

**JUNE 16**: TILLERY COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC For more information: 242-5110.

**JULY 7-18**: NATIONAL 90705 SUMMER SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE (clerical workers association) Washington, DC. Registration varies. For more information: 985-9685 or 493-6189.

**JULY 28-23**: BMFU ORGANIZE THE SOUTH WORKERS SCHOOL Rocky Mount, NC. Workshops, plant leafletting, training sessions and more. For more information: 977-6162 or 833-52-A.

**THE TECHNOLOGY SPEAKS TEAM**

**ALL CLINICS**: 11am - 3pm (except Tillery: 11-
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON BHOPAL DISASTER

The death of more than 3,500 people from Bhopal, India, in December 1984, and the destruction of their communities, families, livestock and the damage caused to their physical and emotional well-being, because of the chemical leak from the Union Carbide Company operating in their community, was a great tragedy to all humanity. The Rocky Mount Area Miniterial Conference joins clergy and people of goodwill throughout the world in supporting the demands of the people of Bhopal for reparations and justice. We call on the corporate leaders of the Union Carbide Company to act responsibly, timely and fairly in acting upon the demands of the Bhopal people.

We furthermore call upon our government to require that all U.S. corporations operating overseas and within the United States, have proper safety equipment and measures to protect the people who work and live within the area of those companies.

We admire the courage of the members of this delegation, especially those whose bodies have been damaged by the tragedy, for their willingness to fight for justice and to share with the citizens in the Rocky Mount area their experiences.

This visit has made us more conscious of the need to have greater laws which protect our workers and communities from such a tragedy. We pray that such a tragedy never happens again - any place in the world.

We call upon all members of the clergy, regardless of denomination or race, to unite and become active around issues which address the well being of the people in their workplaces and communities.

Documents Reveal Secret 1962 JFK Plan to Invade Cuba

by Marta Herasande

In the late 1960's and early 1970's, as the war in Vietnam raged on, with U.S. bombs, napalm, Agent Orange and other weapons of death and destruction raining down, the Cuban people proclaimed a fierce militancy and deeply felt solidarity with the Vietnamese. Many Cubans volunteered to fight on the side of the liberation forces, although the Vietnamese declined their offer. The Cubans strongly believed that the U.S. war raging against Vietnam was the war the U.S. government had planned to launch against Cuba in 1962.

Secret documents, recently made public because of a lawsuit by an independent research center, National Security Archive, reveal that the U.S. government indeed had a detailed plan for the assassination of Fidel Castro and for full-scale invasion of Cuba. The plan was called "Operation Mongoose," and involved an alliance with the Mafia for the assassination plot. The Mafia was eager to overthrow the revolutionary government in Cuba because their drug traffic, gambling, and prostitution activities had been thrown out of the country by following Bataan's lead.

The newly released documents confirm that the invasion plan provided the October 1962 "Missile Crisis" which brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. As part of the agreement ending the crisis, President Kennedy promised the U.S.S.R. that the U.S. would not invade Cuba.

Pressure for an invasion had been strong, both from the military and from the right-wing in general. After the defeat of the Cuban version of the Castro at the Bay of Pigs, JFK was eager to prove himself a staunchly anti-communist leader, and(argvin it to the mounting pressures. It is clear that the invasion plan was not more than three-quarters of the newly released documents. "Guidelines for Operation Mongoose," was written by General Maxwell Taylor, who was Chair- man of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the time. He wrote: "In undertaking to cause the overthrow of the target government, the U.S. will make maximum use of indigenous resources, internal and external, but recognizes that final success will require decisive U.S. military involvement on the ground..." 

Sallenger Admits Invasion Plan was Real

At a recent meeting in Moscow of former Russian and U.S. officials to discuss the 1962 missile crisis, former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara admitted he had planned an invasion of Cuba. But on October 6, 1962, McNamara himself had sent a memo to the Joint Chiefs directing them to start drafting contingency plans for an invasion of Cuba. ("Directives 314 and 315," according to a report by Admiral Robert Denison, one of the recently released documents.)

Kennedy's press secretary, Pierre Salinger, challenged McNamara's denial with an Op. Ed. article in The New York Times, on February 3, 1999. He wrote: "It seems clear, for instance, that the Ken- nedy Administration, under heavy political pressure, was indeed planning to invade Cuba in the fall of 1962, and that the Ken- nedy sent the missiles to Cuba to forestall an attack..." He points out that the invasion threat was quite real, and that on October 29, 1962, Kennedy did not end when the plans toward a military intervention on the ground..."

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entire country. The "upper class" sent their young to private institutions. Medical care was virtually nonexistent, except for the wealthy. There are stories of people in the Sierra Maestra mountains walking down to the sea, hoping to catch a boat to Havana, hundreds of miles away, to find a doctor. It is said the coast was littered with dead bodies.

On December 30, 1958, Fidel Castro and armed forces of liberation rolled into Havana, the capital. Fulgencio Batista, the hated, brutal dictator and puppet for US government and business, including mafia interests, had already fled. The people were out cheering in the streets. As a coordinated action to force Batista out, a general strike by the workers had put the country at standstill.

From that time, the first priority of the Revolution has been the improvement of the people's standard of living and the holding of power in workers' hands to ensure and maintain it. This has been one of the major accomplishments of the Cuban Revolution.

There are housing shortages in Cuba, but no homeless. This is unlike its rich neighbor to the north. Rent or mortgage is, by law, no more than 10% of a worker's income. The difference is socialism.

All medical care, from pregnancy to organ transplants are free in Cuba. Infant mortality stands at 11.6 deaths for every 1,000 live births. This is the lowest of all of Latin America. While it matches the US overall figures, the rate of infant death in Cuba is less than the Black Belt in the southern US.

Education, from child care beginning at 9 months to university, is free. To close any gaps in resources that might exist between classmates, boarding schools at the junior and senior high levels were established. Food, room, books, medical care, school uniforms are all provided free. Students go home on weekends.

Everybody works! There is so much work to do! Because everyone participates in some way in production, everyone understands there is a direct relation between increasing the standard of living and increasing production, whether for local consumption, export or national distribution. There is no "middle man." Children know where milk comes from and the processes used to get it to them. It doesn't just come from a carton!

All workers have unions and regardless of what kind of workplace or institution, worker representation is required and active in the direction of that site. The difference is socialism.

POPULAR CULTURE, WORKING CLASS DEMOCRACY

There is little room to be isolated or alienated from society. Every kind of organization exists to speak to a human need. Workers have their unions and the Congress of Cuban Workers. Women have the Cuban Federation of Women of which 93% of all women over 14 are a part. The small farmers have their own association as well as cooperatives. Students and youth have several organizations. The organization leading the entire country is the Communist Party of Cuba.

In 1962, after Fidel had just visited the United Nations and stayed in the Hotel Theresa in Harlem, New York, he made a "report-back" speech to a rally of thousands in Havana. While making the speech, reports came in that a dozen or so bombs were going off around the country and they seemed to be timed while people attended the rally. There was very little doubt in anyone's mind that the US had some involvement. In the middle of his speech, Fidel made the call for Committees to Defend the Revolution. Today, more than 90% of Cuban adults, 14 and over, are members. Today, besides carrying responsibility for mobilizing their neighborhood in case of invasion, the CDR mobilizes for health vaccinations, neighborhood watches, neighborhood clean-up and more.

Dance, grandparents', musicians, writers, organizations and more, national to local, abound.

The strength of Cuba's workers' democracy lies in its organization, led by the workers. Great emphasis is placed on participation in decisions, production, participation in follow-up.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The United States projects the myth that Cuba is a dangerous, militarily offensive nation, wandering the world imposing socialism on all Latin American, Caribbean and Third World countries.

What Cuba does do is export and train teachers, doctors, and road builders. Irrigation and other kinds of technicians are in numerous Latin American and African countries as well as inside Cuba. Unlike the US, emphasis is also placed on respecting and preserving the cultures of the visiting peoples.

The cost of this aid is based upon the economic status of the country — not on turning a profit. Cuba, with its few resources, receives great assistance from the Soviet Union. Cuba, in turn, provides assistance to countries economically poorer than it.

This is international solidarity and is a mainstay of Cuban society.
BHOPAL VICTIMS SEEK CARBIDE JUSTICE,
TOUR SOUTH

ROCKY Mt., NC—Survivors of the worst industrial accident in history visited Rocky Mount as part of their U.S. Tour for Justice. Victims of the 1984 Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal, India, demanded reparations for the deaths of more than 4,500, the permanent disability of more than 70,000 and the health damages to more than 250,000 of their people. The Indian government originally called for $3 billion in damages. On Feb. 14, 1989, the Supreme Court of India ordered Union Carbide to pay a paltry $470 million.

The delegation, including a teenager who lost both parents and five other family members, spoke out against its own government, calling it a “sell out” for its agreement with Union Carbide for an amount of money that will not begin to cover the people’s health needs.

The stories of the delegation brought people to tears showing their compassion for other peoples oppressed by corporations and their government.

Rocky Mount’s PRIDE organization and Schlage Workers For Justice hosted the visit. The Rocky Mount Ministerial Conference held a meeting and press conference with the delegation. The group of four, including two victims, then had lunch at the BWFJ Workers Center with local workers and attended a community rally at the Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Schlage Workers for Justice is hosting the tour to Southern areas including Rocky Mt., Shiloh, and Pembroke, NC, Atlanta, GA, Alabama, and Mississippi.

The delegation is determined to complete their tour. They will be going to England after leaving the U.S.

CUBA SIII BLOCADO NO!

Cuba is a poor island nation. It sits 90 miles away from Miami, Florida in the Caribbean Sea. Once colonized by Spanish “conquistadors,” Cuba’s original Indian population was exterminated and as with other Caribbean islands, Brazil and the US, millions of Africans were shipped here and forced to work under slavery. It is estimated that 70% of its population has African ancestry and its ten million people range all colors.

PART I

The image of U.S. economic so-called investment in foreign countries.

Economic Justice is hosting the tour to Southern areas including Rocky Mt., Shiloh, and Pembroke, NC, Atlanta, GA, Alabama, and Mississippi.

The delegation’s visit made clear that the U.S. media was not telling the real story about the tragedy created by Union Carbide, a U.S. corporation. The media does not want to tarnish the image of U.S. economic so-called investment in foreign countries.

The delegation was arrested in Texas for passing out flyers in a hotel lobby outside of a meeting of Union Carbide shareholders.

Despite their illnesses the delegation is determined to complete their tour. They will be going to England after leaving the U.S.

Until 1959, there were very few schools in the continued case.
ALL APPALACHIA BATTLES PITSTON

In the labor history of this country, the militancy and courage of organized mine workers has always been an inspiration to the workers' movement. This is true once again in the coalfields of Appalachia, where miners striking Pittston Coal have been fighting for three months.

Militancy among the mine workers has a connection to the terrible safety hazards inherent in their jobs. 120 years ago in the coalfields of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, 179 men died when the mine shaft collapsed from fire. Mine owners had refused to spend the few dollars to construct a second exit for emergency. As the bodies were carried by, thousands of workers mourned their dead brothers by joining the union (then the "Men's Benevolent Association") in response to a carriied speech from Irish John Siney. "Men," he urged them, "if you must die with your boots on, die for your families, your homes, your country, but do not longer consent to die like rats in a trap for those who have no more interest in you than in the pick you dig with!"

Today the Pittston Company has shown that it too has no interest in coal miners' lives and health. In the dead of winter, Pittston cut off health insurance for over 1,500 widows, retirees and disabled miners. Furthermore, the company demands "takeaways" in the form of weakened safety rights and cuts in health care benefits.

In the coal industry as a whole, the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) had negotiated concessions with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA), in exchange for certain job security provisions. The 1988 BCOA agreement would have provided Pittston with an immediate labor cost savings of 15% and a five year contract. Yet Pittston pulled out of industrywide bargaining and...
WILSON, NC—Since it was hostile to unions, participation and members leave work to Williams & Lorraine of "Bend in the Road" died. The union demanded the Firestone plant. These advanced the living Allied paid the leave. All organized the union's seriousness. This is the only non-union local's success. 2541 has raise wages & gain the Black mechanic then led the union in confronting Allied over a number of racist discriminatory practices. June 14 1980, charges were filed against Allied for discrimination in hiring, promotion and training, ending in victory for the workers. Black janitorial workers were no longer prevented from bidding on jobs in a higher paying maintenance division. The job actions and predominantly white nationwide support generated around this campaign put the union in a strong position going in its 1985 contract talks. The union has won more benefits for its non-union workers. It takes all the Black mechanics, 2541 Local president Chuck Bise also serves. The strike-barring the predominantly white maintenance mechanics unit. (The company contends the maintenance and janitorial divisions are two separate companies on paper.) In 1985, when a white supervisor called a Black "nigger," all the Black mechanics, backed by the entire union, demanded the firing of the supervisor. The next day he was terminated. The Black mechanics then led the union in confronting Allied over a number of racist discriminatory practices. June 14, 1980, charges were filed against Allied. The Strike-barring the predominantly white maintenance mechanics unit. The union won this test of wills. Black mechanic "nigger," the trade unionists' voice, the right to strike against great odds. The last year, it took the COLA from non-union. The union won this test of wills. Black mechanic "nigger," the trade unionists' voice, the right to strike against great odds. The last year, it took the COLA from non-union. The union won this test of wills. Black mechanic "nigger," the trade unionists' voice, the right to strike against great odds. The last year, it took the COLA from non-union.
UNIONS: WORKERS' STRENGTH ORGANIZED

LABOR NOTES CONVENES 1000 TRADE UNIONISTS

DETROIT, MI—Over 1000 trade unionists and labor activists converged in Detroit May 19-21 at the 3rd "New Directions for Labor" Conference sponsored by the monthly rank & file newsletter, Labor Notes. The Detroit-based Labor Notes is in its 10th year. The turnout at the conference reflected the continued effectiveness of Labor Notes to address the needs and concerns of labor activists working to build democratic unions that serve the interests of rank & file workers.

UNION DEMOCRACY, INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY, & THIRD WORLD LABOR SOLIDARITY

The conference highlighted three areas of labor activity: the struggle for progress, in which some way had been supported by Labor Notes and its readers network; development of links between US unions and the AFT-CIO, and the importance of independent foreign policy. Represented at the conference were AFL-CIO & non-AFL-CIO unions, including the Moveable Labor Party; the International Union of Allied Workers (AFL-CIO); the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers (OCW); the Steelworkers (AFL-CIO); and the International Union of Electrical Workers (AFL-CIO).

**GOLDKIST STRIKE MAKES GAINS**

Tallahassee, FL—Despite the efforts of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) to stop the strike, the Goldkist Poultry Company is over. It has been a bitter and grueling strike lasting nearly three months.

The black strikers, mainly black women, worked seven days a week in a plant that is a model of the worst aspects of modern society. They struck because they feared that their jobs were in danger and because they believed they were being treated unfairly.

Because of their determined actions, the workers prevented the company from scrapping their seniority system and won a small wage increase. They were able to win their paid leave on the Martin Luther King federal holiday.

**DISSERTION BELL CRIPPLES WORKERS WITH CARPET TUNNEL**

WILTON, NC—Scared hands, scared arms and unable to work. These are the realities for more than 150 of the 250 workers at the Dinner Bell Company in Wilton, NC.

Dinner Bell is a meat processing company. The work requires constant bending and turning of the wrist and pulling motions affecting the arms, shoulders, and often the back and spine. These actions are the main cause of carpel tunnel syndrome, which destroys use of the hands and arms. It is also the main disease developed by workers at Dinner Bell. Surgery is the only way to stop it.

The workers claim of pains in their hands, they are referred by the company nurse to see a Dr. Vanderheeg. Many feel that Dr. Vanderheeg is partial to the company and its demands.

**CONCLUSION**

The conference was an important gathering for labor activists at a time when the strikes of Eastern Air Lines workers and the Picketon Coal Company miners are breathing new life into a New Trade Unionism in the United States.

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BEAZER: FIRST SHILOH, NOW HOLLY SPRINGS

HOLLY SPRINGS, NC—Rural residents in the Sweetwater and Wilbon areas outside the Wake County town of Holly Springs are struggling to maintain their historic way of life, health and safety, and property values against the threat of a second crushed stone quarry being forced on their communities. The proposed site is less than a half mile from a Martin Marietta quarry site approved by the Wake County Commissioners this past March.

Holly Springs is and has been predominantly Black, with a white-controlled town government. For example the Judd family has been Black freehold landowners since the Civil War.

Holly Springs is primarily a farming area and has been slower to develop than most incorporated towns in Wake County, one of the most developed areas in North Carolina.

Sweetwater is a rural community three miles outside the Sweetwater and Wilbon town limits. Its 300-400 population is about one-third the size of Holly Springs and is 90% Black. It is in the middle of this rural community that Nello Teer/Beazer wants to locate its quarry.

Nello Teer/Beazerattemptsto manipulate town, SIDESTEP COUNTY

Nello Teer, a division of Beazer, applied for a special use permit from the Wake County Commissioners in March, 1988 to mine stone. The community immediately mobilized and proved to the county commissioners that the Nello Teer contention that the site was isolated and otherwise suitable was wrong. While the Martin Marietta site is in a wooded area and fairly isolated from the community, the Nello Teer site is in plain view and within a few hundred feet of over 500 people.

Immediately after the county's rejection of its proposal, the company appealed this decision through the state superior courts.

In a surprising twist this spring, Nello Teer requested Holly Springs to annex Sweetwater as a satellite so that they could circumvent the county's decision.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION FORMS

In response to this irrefragability, rural area residents of Sweetwater and Wilbon have organized the Southwest Wake Community Improvement Association. Members of this organization have been actively campaigning to inform Holly Spring citizens of the back room politics occurring in their highest offices.

Over the weekend of June 15-17, a rally and yard sale fundraiser was held within the city limits of Holly Springs. Over 95% of Holly Springs residents contacted voiced their opposition to the annexation and the quarry. A large percentage of the total registered voters have already signed petitions against this annexation.

MAYORAL COMPLICITY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST?

Nello Teer has offered to pay a million dollars toward a proposed parkway that would allow its trucks to bypass the center of town. According to legal experts, this type of "contract annexation" is illegal if it has actually been put in writing, and, if it's not written, then it is obviously only an empty promise.

Even though the state Dept. of Transportation has repeatedly denied that funds would be spent on this project, Mayor Gerald Hollemann and Town Manager Tom Taylor insist that financing is already in place. They also claimed that all of the right-of-way has been donated, and the generous landowners would even contribute money for road construction.

A member of SWCIA, contacted 90% of landowners whose property would be crossed by this road: all have unanimously condemned the proposal — except the Hollemann family. They would receive great financial benefit through the increased commercial access of a parkway because of its numerous adjacent holdings. Also involved are Nello Teer attempts to annex adjacent to the quarry site.

The mayor, who is white, has publicly defended his position by saying that a majority of the county has treated Holly Springs badly in the past, and that justifies his treating anyone else the same way. He and Town Manager Tom Taylor have made it very difficult for affected residents to even communicate with the town board members. SWCIA members continuously have been denied use of public documents vital to their fights. The town clerk claimed that there were no continued on page 9

SHILOH PUBLIC HEARING FORCES RESPONSE

SHILOH, NC—The April 8 Shiloh public hearing has proven a major impact on the Wake County and Martin Marietta governments, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Beazer residential community. The proposed gravel pit, to be located just across the county line from the town of Shiloh, would have affected residents to even the highest offices.

Approximately 100 community residents, panelless of race, occupation, or age, who were promised to be called to give their input to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), did not attend the hearing.

SHILOH continued on page 9

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As a result of the sharp and specific concerns raised about water contamination and government accountability at all levels, Morrisville has expanded its original contract and is now extending water lines to the Durham county line. The town has also asked Beazer to expand its well testing to include all wells in the community. This has been started but not completed.

Wake Commissioners, Vernon Malone and Robert Heater, carried community concerns about expanded testing, health effects and screening the poor state and federal agency accountability back to the Co. Board of Commissioners. That board has now set up a task force to research and address these issues. Malone has agreed to ask the county attorney to give a legal opinion regarding the forced annexation to Morrisville by the Wake residents in order to receive water.

Additionally, the EPA has suspended its process or examining and approving a Feasibility Study/Remediation Plan (FS/RP) for site clean up in Shiloh. The EPA also held a public hearing (in a predominantly white, upper-middle class Cary, of all places) June 22 to report agency progress on this plan, explain test results and "highlight concerns." The agency did include in its report that 48 more wells have been found to be contaminated.

In summary, with community organization and commitment, getting goals and following a plan of action, Shiloh has been made in Shiloh.
Since the 1973's, corporate flight has been a main aspect of the strategy of the big corporations to obtain super profits. Millions of workers in the North have lost their jobs because of plant closings, when companies relocate their operations to overseas countries, mainly in the Third World (Asia, Africa and Latin America).

THE 3RD WORLD INSIDE THE U.S.

The South has historically acted as the Third World within the U.S. national borders. It is the location of the cheapest industrial labor force in the U.S., for the lowest percentage of unionized workers, has the most repressive local and state governments and has many of the old racist structures still intact, including control of both the democratic and republican parties at the county and state levels.

The oppressive conditions of Black people, reinforced by racist treatment, places the Black working class in the South vulnerable to the effects of organizing unions. The demands relating to Black people's oppression must become a major aspect of an effective strategy to unionize the South.

Unless support for Black political power issues are openly shown as one of the reasons for organizing unions in the South, union drives will not effectively tap the deep and historic sentiment of Black workers. The Black community, 3rd World workers, see Black political power as being of necessity to challenge the power of the racist system which has historically oppressed and issued reprisals against Black people for their involvement in unions and civil rights activities.

BUSINESS UNIONISM CUTS THE THROAT OF LABOR

The decision to organize unions in the South cannot be made merely on the basis of cost effectiveness and other policies of business unionism. Organizing the South is even more of an economic issue for labor than it would like to admit. For unless it moves quickly to organize unions in the South, it runs the risk of losing more union members in the North to plant closings and concessions because of the threat of runaway shops.

INDEPENDENT LABOR POLITICS: BLACK WORKERS TAKE THE LEAD

By organizing more unions in the South, a larger concentration of Black workers will emerge as leadership within a region of the labor movement. The issues affecting Black workers in the South will thus become a major focus of labor, not only in the South, but nationally. This will force a realignment of labor away from the begging of the two political parties and in the direction of building a new political party around labor, Black and other oppressed people and progressive people within the U.S. Such a political realignment will at least be able to run and win elections in many Southern cities, counties, and states. This will certainly alter the current balance of power which exists in the federal government between labor and the big corporations.

The recent veto by U.S. President Bush of the minimum wage bill, is a specific, direct attack on labor in the South, which lacks the benefit of the union payscale setting standards as well as a general attack on all workers.

Conferences of labor's rank and file movements must address the issue of organizing the South. They must push their international unions to be conscious about labor's weak link. They must show solidarity with the campaigns of non-unionized workers and welcome the various forms of organizations of Southern workers into the labor movement as respected labor activists.

The South will be organized and eventually unionized, even if it means that the various workers associations and progressive local unions have to form a Southern labor federation to do so. Which ever way it has to be done, it is in the best interest of all workers throughout the U.S.
WHY A WORKERS SCHOOL ON ORGANIZING THE SOUTH?

In the face of all the problems facing the North American working class and the African American people today, one might ask how important is it to spend huge amounts of time and energy on studying and discussing a problem that has gone without a solution for no less than 50 years. There is a major strike going on in the coal fields; machinists, pilots and flight attendants at Eastern Airlines have taken a heroic stand against one of the worst corporate heads in the world. All of this demonstrates the intensity of the class against class conflict that is continuing to unfold. It also points to the tough road ahead for workers trying to maintain or achieve a decent standard of living. Black workers are further plagued with consistently high unemployment, Supreme Court decisions that erode civil rights protections and a racist climate that is a throwback to the 1950's. Precisely why the task of organizing the South has been sought by the oppressed section of the U.S. working class. This type of discussion has not taken place in the recent past and has been sought by many.

A variety of methods will be used to achieve the objectives. Reports, workshops, and a workers speakout, and site visitations will be offered to participants. Leaders and members of local unions and organizations will report on their experiences. Proposals for changing the situation will be offered and programs for long term support for Southern labor will be initiated.

The value of organizing the South school is immense. The possibility of attracting resources is exciting for everyone who understands the problem. At the same time it will provide another opportunity to facilitate the unity of the Black rank and file movement around the urgency of Southern organizing. This has been a part of the thinking of the Black rank and file for years but needs to become part of an action program. There are benefits that will be derived for local workers and the Black Workers For Justice. On one hand, workers who labor in a variety of workplaces will gain an understanding that the product they manufacture is part of an overall industry. Consequently, they will see that they have a great deal of work to do.

WHERE WE STAND!

- FOR workers control of the wealth from their labor, and fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
- AGAINST the exploitation of all workers
- FOR democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
- AGAINST racism, white supremacy, sexism
- FOR social programs for working people, youth, the elderly, handicapped and poor
- AGAINST wars and military spending to make the rich richer
- FOR jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, women and handicapped workers
- AGAINST unemployment, plant closings, "runaway shops"

BLACK WORKERS FOR JUSTICE is an organization of Black workers organizing to build the African American workers' movement as a central force in the struggle for Black Liberation and Worker Power.

- FOR health and safety on the job and in the community
- AGAINST dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
- FOR the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities
- AGAINST the political powerlessness of all working people, and racist national oppression of the Blacks and all oppressed nationalities.
ORGANIZE THE SOUTH! ORGANIZE THE SOUTH!

1989 WORKERS SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 27
10am - 7pm Registration
3pm - 7pm Orientation
5 - 7pm Dinner
7pm - 9pm Plenary

Friday, June 28
6:30am - 7:30am Workplace Canvas
8am - 9:30am Breakfast
9:30am - 11am Planning
11am - 12:30pm Workshop 2
12:30pm - 1:30pm Lunch
1:30pm - 3pm Breakfast
3pm - 5pm Workshop 2
5pm - 7pm Dinner
7:30 - 9:30pm Workday Speaking

Saturday, June 29
6:30am - 7:30am Breakfast
9:30am - 11am Workshop 3
11am - 1pm Workshop/Plenary
1pm - 2pm Lunch
2pm - 5pm Workshop Plenaries
5:30 - 7pm Dinner
7pm - 9pm Plenary

Sunday, July 1
8am - 9:30am Breakfast/Plenary
9:30am - 11am Breakfast
11:30am - 1pm Workshop 4
1pm - 2pm Workshop/Plenary
3pm - 5pm Workshop 4
5:30 - 7pm Dinner
7pm - 9pm Plenary

Sunday, July 2
8am - 9:30am Breakfast/Plenary
9:30am - 11am Breakfast
11:30am - 1pm Workshop 5
1pm - 2pm Workshop/Plenary
3pm - 5pm Workshop 5
5:30 - 7pm Dinner
7pm - 9pm Plenary

Plenary: Building industrial organizations from bench plants to multi-national plants and workplace movement, workers' health, and community involvement. Building support for workers organizing & negotiating in the South to fill the vacuum of a weak union base.

Plenary: Importance of Black Political Power in Organizing the South, Strategies, Tactics, Coalition Building.

Plenary: On Your Own

**Through the review of work over the years, this benefits us as well as organizers and those signed about the and the networking, it is that will turn the round and at foot end for black oppressed and to but all of labor.**

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Justice Speaks

page 6
FROM WHENCE WE'VE COME

Black Workers for Justice (BWJ) began in 1981 out of a struggle against the firing of 3 Rocky Mount Black women workers from K-Hart for petitioning against company discriminatory practices. Community and worker support brought the workers back to work in 1982. Although the workers were never rehired, the workers' personnel records were cleared, and the targeted store manager was removed.

BWJ has worked with workers from Edgecombe, Nash, Halifax, Wilson, Wake, and other counties; helping to build workplace committees and campaigns to better working conditions, fight for rights and unionization. We emphasize building of county-wide support of church, county, and civic groups and small businesses around their struggles on the job and in the community.

In 1984, BWJ helped block a request by General Bearing Co. (Genbearco) for exempt bond to finance expansion of their Wilson plant. Genbearco wanted the county to waive requirements that companies using bond money pay above average wages to workers mobilized pressure throughout the county. The county withdrew its "request" and conceded wage increases to workers at the plant.

In five months in 1986, the first Black Workers School Run for a weekend taught Black labor and trade union activists as well as the Black Rank & File Exchange. The exchange is a similar group of Black trade unionists, primarily based in the Midwest Auto plants.

In 1987, Black Workers Unity Movement held the first planning conference for a Black Workers Political Platform Campaign. Subsequently, more than 500 Black Primary Ballots were cast as a preliminary survey of Black workers views of key workers' issues, local and international.

INSTRUCTORS ORGANIZE FOR BACK PAY


Justice Speaks started out as a one-page newsletter in 1982. It then became a newsletter and in 1985 it developed into a newspaper. Last year BWJ assisted Standard Products workers in their campaign to organize their own union. Unfortunately, they lost by a slim margin. The struggle continued.

In 1988, Schlage Lock workers in Rocky Mount launched what was to be a successful six-month campaign for severance pay, extended health benefits and other demands. Workers picketed, demonstrated, petitioned, marched from the Schlage Lock contaminated plant, to the Rocky Mount city hall, to the White House, everywhere making their presence felt. This included showing up in New Jersey at the stockholders meeting of the Ingersoll-Rand Corp., parent company of Schlage. Schlage workers did win severance pay and other demands. Many are now in other plants and have since formed their own organization, Schlage Workers for Justice.

WAGEPLACE & COMMUNITY STRUGGLES: UNITED TO WIN

The Black Workers for Justice is part of the Black Workers Unity Movement, a network of Black labor and trade union activists as well as the Black Rank & File Exchange. The Exchange is a similar group of Black trade unionists, primarily based in the Midwest Auto plants.

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Excerpted from a 1986 Southern Exposure article, "The Black Belt"
COMMUNITY DEMANDS FULL-TIME BLACK POLICE

PREVIEW, NC— The Black community of Preview, NC, speaks out against the lack of black police officers in their town.

This small town in southeastern Wayne County has a history of discrimination in the police department. Several years ago, the part-time police officer, Ted Reid, supported by the Black community, filed a legal action charging the town with racial discrimination. The former police chief, M. H. Brown, had been known to refer to Black people as "niggers." However, the town maintained that Black and white police officers were treated differently, making them wear different colored uniforms.

The Black community calls for a Black full-time police officer "because of the insensitivity" by white in handling problems related to the Black community.

PRESENT HISTORY OF STRUGGLE:

Preview, with a population just over 3,000, also has a history of fighting against racial discrimination. This struggle is being led by the local Fair Labor Support Committee, originally formed in 1970, to support workers in a saw mill who were fighting injustice and organizing a union.

The Fair Labor Support Committee also supported the Black community's fight for a Black full-time police officer, with an auxiliary officer to fill in occasionally.

OFF-GOING POWER STRUGGLE

At each city council meeting, the issue of full-time Black police officers is raised. The city council is evenly divided between white and black members. The mayor, who is white, breaks the tie by voting against the Black vote. Community pressure must be increased.

In the recent past, the Black community had to threaten to sue the town for violations of the Voting Rights Act to force the city's at-large voting system to be replaced by a ward system. The ward system allowed Black residents to elect three Black council representatives. Before, there was only one.

The Fair Labor Support Committee is involved in an ongoing struggle for affirmative action in town hiring and promotions.

BLACK POLITICAL POWER

About 500 people took part in a variety of Juneteenth events June 16 & 17 in Charlotte, NC, sponsored by the Charlotte Equal Rights Congress and other groups. The Juneteenth Freedom Banquet on Friday night, Albert Turner and Rev. James E. Barnett, each received the Freedom Fighter Award and Christopher Lee was recipient of the Youth Service Award. Turner, keynote speaker and long-time political activist from the Alabama Black Belt, helped organize the 1965 Selma March. As a result of his and many others' efforts to gain Black Political Power in the Black Belt, he and 7 other organizers were falsely accused of voting rights fraud by the US government to smash that movement. He is currently a Perry County (Ala.) Commissioner. Rev. Barnett is a long time activist based in Charlotte.

Juneteenth also included a March for Human Rights. The emphasis this year was on South Africa and Somowitz. June 16th marked the 13th anniversary of the Soweto Rebellion by African (South African) youth against apartheid and national oppression.

At the Juneteenth Youth Talent Program, videos were shown on the Robeson Co., NC struggle, the west Alabama "voter fraud" case, the death penalty and South Africa.
NLRB RULES FOR WOOTEN WORKERS

WILSON, NC—The National Labor Relations Board recently found that S.T. Wooten violated workers’ rights, "precisely, concerted activity" by firing those labor organizers Davis and Jimmy Wells for speaking out. The former S.T. Wooten workers have filed a complaint by the company for the Justice to them a campaign to end its discriminatory practices. (See 5-6/89 Justice Speaks)

Several former truckers filed legal complaints against Wooten charging race and sex discrimination as well as violations of the National Labor Relations Act. This law is supposed to protect workers who act as a group for their economic betterment. The NLRB is issuing an official complaint against Wooten and is prepared to go to court if the company fails to make a voluntary settlement of the workers’ demands of Wall with back pay, full seniority, no harassment and the right to organize, full contract bids by Wooten and promote and pay raises.

PETITION CAMPAIGN AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

The committee for workers has distributed hundreds of flyers to educate the Wilson Co. public about the problems of workers receiving government-funded contracts. The committee will also call for the white executive to oppose all contract bids by Wooten and promote and pay raises.

INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

The miners tried to continue to bargain in good faith. Posing their "neutral" stance, they take a mile. No matter what sacrifices the workers made, Pittston stood them in the back and arbitrarily violated agreements. They clearly want to break the union or at least render it ineffective.

The official "neutral" position is in "betraying" the miners. The miners and their communities are learning is that a company can break its work with the miners. The state retains "neutral," yet, when the miners have the state troopers arrest for blocking mine lines. The state retains "neutral," yet, when the miners have the state troopers alcohol and car accident against the Wooten workers.

CUBA SHIP STRUGGLES

"FIRE AT THE DOC"

"THERE IS NO "NEUTRAL" POSITION"

Out on the picket lines, strikers begin to understand that their class interests as workers are in opposition to the interests of the capitalist class. Their allies come from other unions, workers, and the community: rich corporations, banks and the machinery of the state itself, stand against the strike. In this struggle, the battle lines are drawn more clearly, the entire coal communities are remembering the history of bloody armed struggles in the coalfields. Despite the state troopers and their hired agencies of strike-breaking goons, the coal miners have been growing stronger.

The persistence of the miners’ 13 mines scattered throughout the southeastern Virginia and West Virginia have picked lines. The men have blocked the transportation of coal out of the mines. By the "illegal" strike line that block coal out of the mines. By the "illegal" strike line that block the roads, striking miners have shut Pittston to a stop. Full capacity of Pittston uses over 150 trucks to haul coal; presently they are using only 35 trucks.

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Many small businesses and merchants in Clifton, Virginia, closed down their stores in support of the strikers. The local restaurants are refusing to serve scab coal and company goons.

All working people can learn from the struggle of the Pittston workers. The police, state troopers, and the hired agency of strike-breaking goons, the coal miners have been growing stronger.

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Charlotte workers and their families have been fighting for the rights of the state's miners for several years. The local community, which includes miners and their families, has been struggling to get the attention of the state and the company. The miners have organized protests and direct actions to draw attention to their plight.

In a recent protest, a group of miners tried to haul coal using their own equipment. This direct action has also been taken by the families of miners who have been impacted by the mine closures. The miners are fighting for their jobs and the future of their community.

The miners have organized a United Mine Workers auxiliary. Many small businesses have also joined the miners in their fight. Over 150 high school students from Clintwood, Virginia, for a day of action. They have been successful in getting companies like the Pittston Coal Group, based in New York, to agree to meet with the miners and their families.

In a related development, the top two officials of the Cuban Communist Party's provincial general secretariat, noted that these actions are part of a broader strategy to strengthen rectification in the Cuban labor movement. The party is committed to involving workers in the decision-making process and to strengthening the organization of the working masses.

CUBA SH (cont.)

Those of another. This system has allowed Cubans to gain more for their respective peoples. But all needs, especially those of developing heavy industry, cannot be met in that way. This attack by the US undercuts Cuba's access to parts, equipment, and technology that could help its economy leap forward. The US companies (etc.) are used to doing business with giants and are not used to doing business with Cuba. Travel to Cuba by people of the US is restricted and conditions are very difficult. For some categories of visitors US money cannot be spent or changed. All phone calls from Cuba to the US are very expensive. The US does not consider the attempted destruction of the Cuban nation's economy as a violation of human rights, national sovereignty or self-determination. It is does not want the information out of Cuba's stands for its people and oppressed people to circulate in the US.

There is a rectification process here.
CUBAN UNION LEADERSHIP CHANGES

HAVANA, CUBA--The new organizing committee for the upcoming congress of the National Union of Sugar Workers (SNTA) has begun to function, following the removal of the top leadership of Cuba's biggest union.

The SNTA's first and second secretaries, along with other members of the union's secretariat, were relieved of all responsibilities in the 59,000-member labor organization at a meeting of the union's national committee.

Results of the two-day meeting were announced by the union's Central Committee on March 24.

Speaking before members of the 23rd anniversary contingent of the Venceremos Brigade, a U.S.-based solidarity organization, Pedro Ross Leal explained that such changes are an example of "our democracy." Ross Leal is president of the organizing Committee for the 16th Congress of the Cuban Workers Federation (CTC).

"Some comrades," he said, referring to the SNTA leadership, "didn't use norms well. They violated norms established in union resources, and they were repudiated." Because their errors were "not those of principle, " Martinez Cruz said, the former leaders "more effective, not more powerful.

In a meeting the day prior to Ross Leal's May 4 remarks, the two top leaders of the SNTA at the 16th anniversary of the Sugar Mill in Pinar del Rio Province and the provincial general secretary of the union described both the changes and the importance of the SNTA's congress. The date of the gathering was moved up a year by the same meeting that removed the union's top national officers.

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