



THE HEARTBEAT

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PAYDAY - January 3rd

We don't make enough money to live decent lives anyway, but when our checks are shorted (right after the holidays, too) those responsible should be punished!

Under capitalism, our wages enslave us. That is, we make only enough to provide the bare necessities for ourselves and our family, in order to return to work the next day. This ensures maximum profit for the owner. In our case - that's the banks that control the Blues. And every year, as the contradiction between private ownership and the social character of our labor grows, we are less and less able to meet these bare necessities. Under capitalism we work to live. Under socialism we live to work because our labor serves us and our family's productivity.

Well, over a month ago, Ms. Brooks, a working supervisor in keypunch, gave notice that she was leaving. Torace, the boss, should have immediately posted a union opening. Instead, he waits until the last minute and proposes that

keypunch (they prepare our payroll) be subcontracted. His intent was to weaken the union and the fighting leaders we have in that department. Result -- Friday, January 3rd, nearly 50% of everyone in the hospital had errors and deductions on their checks.

What's worse, Fabilli told one woman who was short \$60 to take it or leave it! Damn him! Everybody has said "Somebody's gonna hurt that man!" That's no threat -- it is a statement of fact, unless management gets rid of him, Torace and other fascist types upstairs who treat people like they were undeserving dogs.

The CLP demands that these wrongs be righted. Yes, most of us got our money that same day, but do we have to be subjected to insults, arrogance, and security guards to get what's ours!-NO!

FIRE FABILLI AND TORACE!

Issue a written apology to those insulted or delayed in getting their money !!!

"The Heartbeat" would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year! We would also encourage all to make a New Year's resolution to read "the PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE", the political paper of the CLP.

Blue Cross Meeting - A Sham!

At this late date I'd like to give a brief run down of what came down at the meeting between Blue Cross and the MHP patients. Right from the start the meeting was a sham. Patients remarked that the meeting was stacked with Blue Cross officials, hospital management flunkies, and many of our supervisors, who had been ordered to attend. There was poor attendance of MHP patients which reflected a lack of publicity on the part of Blue Cross.

During the meeting the patients charged that since the Blues took over, thier health care has been going straight down hill. Most folks felt that they were purposely trying to make the Metro Health Plan fail. It was also plain to see evasive answers to all their questions. The displaced Hazel Park patients were told, in so many words, that their health care and convenience came second and the money Blue Cross saved came first.

Dr. Deshler stated that under the present social system (capitalism), only two out of the three necessary elements needed to keep a quality health program going could be attained. These three elements were quality, accessibility and low cost. We, of the CLP must ask why in a country as wealthy as this one can't we have all three?

The end result of the meeting exposed the fact that under the capitalist system in which we live there is no acceptable solution to the public around health care. It showed that money (profit) comes first and people second! It's real clear that the only answer is free and quality health care for all which will only be realized in a social system based on the needs of the people, not profit. That system is socialism.

The struggle is not over! Hazel Park is still closed and their 4,000 patients are coming to the rest of Metro with no additional staffing. Pontiac General is fighting for its survival. Detroit General will probably be transferred from a public to a private hospital. Clearly, the struggle for health care in Detroit is becoming a struggle for survival!

(Contact us if you've got a story about another hospital situation)

Busses Are Ready to Roll!

On January 26th the busses will roll in Detroit! It is no longer a question of trying to postpone or prevent the DeMascio plan from going into affect - now it a question of peaceful integration. The CLP supports busing because integration is essential to class unity and the fight for equal quality education for all children is a democratic right. Our children's education will determine their future in the area of jobs, housing, welfare, etc. The working class must unite to insure the safety of our children, because our children are our future!

The ruling class has consistently used the question of busing and its support of anti-busing forces to pit workers against one another and as a smoke-screen to take the focus away from the economic crisis. In the face of an increased military budget to prepare for war - we have high unemployment, increasing inflation, forth coming cuts in the education budget driving the quality down even further, and threatening welfare cuts to further divide the employed and the unemployed.

You have heard us refer to this situation as a fascist attack. Let us explain again that a fascist attack is the process of taking away democratic rights of all workers in general, by attacks against national minorities in particular. This is why we all must take an active stand against such groups as MAD (Mothers Alert Detroit), the Klan, etc. for it is they who further this fascist drive in building their support on the basis of white chauvanism.

Fellow workers, we stand united as we work, a multinational work force, and herein lies our strength. So let us unite further to fight for integration and quality education for all!

UNION CORNER

A Strike Victory --

All 11 workers arrested during the strike got their charges dropped! Jessie got her \$100 back that she'd had to put up for bond. It is again clear - the police were working in the interests of management (aided by Burnett) to bust our strike. We want to thank our fine lawyer - Buck Davis, who had stuck with us and still, as yet, received no pay. Caution - we can't be fooled to think that the courts really give working people justice. Remember that first judge that denied our strike benefits?

Strike Benefits - January 19th --

Speaking of strike benefits - we again go to court on January 19th to fight for our strike money - \$40 a head. The case will be in Judge DeMascio's court. Make a point to come down.

Arbitration - Partial Victory --

The Heartbeat just got word that the following cases of recall were won:

Appointment Center	Keypunch
Fiscal Services	Cashiers
Medical Records	Admitting
CSR - Purchasing	Porters
Messengers	

For workers at Metro Main who were not immediately called back from the strike, this means they will receive their wages (minus any unemployment collected) from May 7th to the date of their recall.

We lost:

All the cases at Metro West Tuxedo Receptionists, Conner Clinic & Metro Main Ward Clerks.

Why did we win some and not all?

Because arbitrators are arbitrary! It is clear to us, that if the workers would have judged this case, as they do in socialist countries, everyone would have been reimbursed. In fact, we probably wouldn't have had to even strike, since socialist countries are run politically and economically in the interests of working people. (Read the latest "People's Tribune" report on trade unions in the Soviet Union.)

Elections --

Make a note - elections for a vacancy on the Executive Board of Local 42 are coming up. We'll have more on this next time.

"The Heat Is On"

For at least the last 5 years, workers at the Conner Health Center have been extremely tolerant in regard to the heating of the clinic in the winter and the cooling system in the summer. Their tolerance came to an end last Friday, January 9th, when they told the clinic manager to get the furnace repaired or they would walk off their jobs around health and safety. Management's immediate response was that anyone who walks, will automatically be suspended. The steward replied, "you'll just have to suspend all of us."

As it turned out, a furnace repairman was sent out that same afternoon and was able to get the heat up a little. He also returned the following Monday and Tuesday making numerous repairs.

During the four days prior to that Friday, the workers and patients complained about the heat and were told that the furnace was working at full steam and nothing else could be done. Well, something else could be done, and it finally was!

Situations such as these help to make it real clear that the brunt of the economic crisis does fall on the backs of the workers. Violations against the workers basic rights around health and safety are on the rise, and workers everywhere must be willing to stand together and fight against management's outrageous tactics.

"The Heartbeat" salutes the Conner Health Center workers where "the heat is on!"

Everyone Knows...

Everyone knows dietary and housekeeping are departments at Metro,
worked by our sweat and labor power
and controlled by the owner hour after hour.

Angola is a country in Africa
on its southwest coast,
just north of South Africa who enslaves her people the most.

Everyone knows dietary and housekeeping workers are lowest paid
most harassed
and shortest staffed.

Angola is fighting to be free,
with their leaders (the MPLA)
they won their independence from the colonizing Portuguese.

Everyone knows Harriot, Stith and crew
constantly are turning the screws,
divide and conquer, carrot and the stick,
do a favor for them and they'll give you a kick.

Angola has a government recognized by 40 countries,
but Kissinger says, "No, intervene!
Build war machines."

Everyone knows dietary and housekeeping demand more jobs,
give us what's ours let us be,
we will be free!

Angolans have chosen their friends and their foes,
their enemies are ours,
the CIA and the capitalist guard.

Everyone knows when are demands are just
JOBS WITH PEACE -
that unity is a must!

Angola will surely not become another Vietnam,
if we see that their goals
and ours are the same.

EVERYONE KNOWS NOW WHAT WE MUST DO,
IN THE FIGHT FOR JOBS HERE
IT'S PEACE THAT WE MUST PURSUE!

