

Crisis Sparks Upsurge

The words "the great depression" are on everyone's lips. And these three words hold the anger, the frustration, and the fear that confronts almost every worker, every member of a working class family in the USNA today. The tens of millions who have been denied the right to ever have a job. The millions of unemployed and the millions who wonder when it is going to happen to them.

The apologists for capitalism assured everyone, including Karl Marx himself, that the "great depression" had been a fluke, that they had it all under control, that it "couldn't happen here". But it is happening. More and more families are going without, going hungry, losing the possessions they bought with the promises of the future.

Their resistance is widespread, it is deep and strong. It is a hatred and an anger building below the surface of the whole society. Here and there it breaks out - in the voices of the 10,000 who marched for jobs in D.C. in February. In the anger that booed the bourgeois politicians from the April 26 podium and kept them from

preaching the promises that had formerly bought silence. In the union halls, the strike votes, in the wildcats, on the picket lines; Pennsylvania state employees, railroad workers, postal employees, longshore workers, N.Y. City employees - all and more have been rising in struggle in the last few weeks.

The anger is demanding answers! Ford vetoes every job bill before him. The Democratic Party offers nothing but vague promises of "concern". And all the while they try to hide the mushroom cloud of war that is the only solution their party has ever had for

unemployment.

The fascists from the Klan to George Wallace are even promising jobs...but how and for whom, they don't say. For the fascist solution is slaughter and increased exploitation and murder and terror to control working class outrage.

Workers are rejecting these solutions, which are no solutions at all. This was the message of the February and April rallies in Washington. These are the sentiments behind the Longshore workers who are rejecting a paltry bribe to a few, to fight for jobs and equality of work opportunity in

Cont. on p. 3

Workers & Oppressed People of the World UNITE!

THE WESTERN WORKER

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Longshoremen March

Longshoremen from the Port of Hueneme, along with rank and filers from Los Angeles, San Francisco and possibly San Diego have decided that it's time to march. The failure of the coast leadership, Bridges and Co., to negotiate an equitable contract, along with growing unemployment has forced the rank and file to take action. We are calling on all honest workers to join in this "March for Jobs with Peace."

A brief history of the "B" men in Hueneme is a history of struggle against union corruption and employer strangulation. Today there are 150 longshoremen in the port; about 70 are "B" men. These "B" men have been kept in a second class citizenship for 10 years. They do

Cont. on p. 3

Vote No On Contract

Fellow Workers,

This letter is being written by a Terminal Warehouseman in Local 13 of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union. I have several purposes for writing this:

1) I wish to enlighten your readership about the special problems and injustices that TW's have had to endure throughout the history of our association with the I.L.W.U.

2) I want to inform your readership of the travesty and violation of working class principles that is

being perpetrated under the guise of the newly proposed Pacific Coast Longshore and Clerks Agreement.

3) I wish to expose the devious ploy that is now under way to use the TW's as pawns in the push to ratify the new contract agreement.

correspondence

4) I want to explain how a dedicated core of TW's are organizing to counter this ploy by taking a stand to oppose this new contract proposal.

5) Finally, I hope to encourage other union members, as well as all

Cont. on p. 2

Free Bessie Lou Cornett!!

Frame-up-Klan, Police, Mine Owners Conspiracy to Crush Miners Struggle

The story of Harlan County, Kentucky - "Bloody Harlan" - is the story of Appalachia. It is the story of the oppression, the exploitation, the murder of the working class. And it is the story of the heroic struggle of the workers against their lot under capitalism.

This week another dispicable chapter has been added to that story by the mine owners, and their servants in the state apparatus and in the foul Ku Klux Klan. The Klan and the police teamed up to arrest, beat up and file false charges against Bessie Lou Cornett. Bessie Lou Cornett is a leading fighter of the working class of Harlan County. She stands in the ranks of other working class heroes, like

Mother Jones and Harry Simms, who arose in the struggles of the miners of Appalachia and are examples to workers everywhere.

Last year the miners of Harlan County struck for union recognition. During this strike a miner from the Highsplint mine was gunned down in cold blood by a company goon. Carrying on in their tradition of bravery, the miners fought back and finally won the right to unionize. Their victory was in large part due to the support for the strike organized by the women of Harlan. Bessie Lou Cornett headed up the formation of the Brookside Women's Club which was the focus of this support. Bessie Lou also helped to found the Harlan Labor News, the only news-

paper in the county that is not controlled by the mine owners.

Everyone in Harlan recognizes Bessie Lou Cornett as an Anglo-American who is a fighter for the equality of and defense of the Negro workers. She has been active in support of the Save Georgetown Committee. This Committee was organized to save the homes of many Negro workers in Harlan, which the City Council is threatening to tear down.

Such a fighter for our class was bound to be the object of hatred and revenge for the mine owners. The Ku Klux Klan, representing the mine owners and doing their dirty work, threatened to "get" Bessie Lou, who had al-

Cont. on p. 2

Contract

Cont. from p. 1

other interested parties, to take a stand and to organize against the new contract.

Over six years ago ILWU Local 13 in Los Angeles opened its ranks to 600 new members.... The 600 were brought into the Union under the newly created classification of Terminal Warehousemen. Previously the Union had been divided into only two major classifications: "A-men" and "B-men."...

The "B" status refers to workers who had achieved only limited registration or recognition by the PMA. B-men are guaranteed elevation to "A" status upon fulfillment of certain terms and conditions. To some extent the B-men are second class citizens within the Union because they do not share fully in all the benefits, rights and privileges that A men are entitled to. But the B-men are at least officially on their way to full registration.

With the institution of the TW program, a third class of citizenship was created within the Union. TW's, who were and still are dues-paying members of the ILWU, share in practically none of the benefits, rights and privileges that are enjoyed by A-men and, to some degree, by B-men..

Although it must be noted that 5 years ago the Union did manage to secure the registration of 400 TW's out of the original 600, this only made matters worse for the remaining 200. At the union hiring hall TW's can be dispatched to jobs only after all the A- and B-men have had their choice of jobs. When 400 TW's were suddenly elevated to "B" status, the consequence was a severe scarcity of job opportunities for the remaining TW's. This has resulted in a situation of extreme inequality of job opportunities for men within the same union within the same port. Today the average TW works from 2 to 3 days per week while registered men work from 5 to 7 days per week.

Over the years the TW situation seemed to degenerate from bad to worse. The Container Freight Station jobs which the Union used to reserve exclusively for TW's were handed over to A- and B-men. During the last strike TW's were denied unemployment benefits due to a legal technicality. TW's were deprived of the right to accept "comebacks" on jobs. This meant that if a TW caught a job on a ship that was expected to work for several days, he would have to return to the dispatch hall after only

one day, whereas if a registered man had picked up the same job, he could stay on the job for as many days as the ship was working.

The TW situation seemed to have turned so bleak that we were all blinded with rage, frustration, alienation and despair. The suddenly, within the last year, a few glimmers of hope began to shine. A new contract was to be negotiated. Perhaps with the right organization, with pressure exerted in the right places, the TW's could effectively demand recognition within the new contract. In order to accomplish this objective, the TW's formed a committee which started raising funds with a raffle and a big dance.

Uniting with a group of B-men from Port Hueneme, the TW committee drafted a proposal for the joint registration of TW's and the transfer of B-men from Port Hueneme to Local 13. In Port Hueneme work is scarce and around 55 B-men are anxious to transfer to L.A. where there is work. Since their problem is quite similar to the problem of the TW's, we decided to join the two issues into one proposal.

Subsequently, the Committee sent representatives up to the Union Caucuses and the contract negotiations in San Francisco in order to push for the adoption of our proposal. While these efforts have resulted in some unofficial "gentlemen's agreements", nothing concerning the TW issue has as yet been committed to paper. Indeed, many of us feel that these agreements are merely appeasements designed to keep us quiet while the PMA and the Union leadership ramrod a rotten contract down the throats of the rank and file membership. This new contract, which we had hopes of being the solution to our problem, actually threatens the dissolution of our union.

The new contract which ILWU President Harry Bridges is attempting to sell to the Union, actually represents a capitalist instrument of working class oppression. Essentially it is no different from the contract that the rank and file turned down in March. It guarantees money to the few while sacrificing jobs. It represents a vicious attack upon the hiring hall, one of the fundamental concepts upon which our union was founded. The contract does nothing about the unequal work opportunities created by the employers' increased hiring of steady men. Furthermore; the new contract incorporates some additionally oppressive conditions.

It empowers the Area Arbitrator with dictatorial controls over the Union through the administration of the Pay Guarantee Plan. Under the

pretense of avoiding unwarranted PGP payments, the Area Arbitrator has final say over such matters as the abolition of so-called "obsolete boards," the assignment of men in a port to day shifts versus night shifts, and the determination of the number of identified regular gangs in a port.

In addition the contract requires that all registered men shall be disqualified from PGP payments in a port where a work stoppage occurs by reason of Union policy, local or international. In other words, the new contract engages in extortion in order to discourage longshoremen from respecting boycotts and picket lines.

Finally, according to something known as the 9.2 provision of the new contract, men from low work opportunity ports could be forced to transfer to other ports where greater work opportunity exists, and the locals involved would be forced to accept such transfers.

This 9.2 provision is especially disturbing to the TW's. If literally interpreted the 9.2 provision could have allowed PMA to forcibly require the transfer of men from other ports to Local 13 before the TW issue could be resolved. Such a move would have effectively crushed the TW's. Although the TW Committee has managed to obtain assurances that the TW issue would be resolved before the 9.2 provision would ever be implemented in the Port of Los Angeles, we must not allow such concessions to blind us to the basic injustices embodied in the 9.2 provision and in the contract as a whole.

Many of us feel that the concessions, the assurances, the appeasements and gentlemen's agreements will not hold up once the new contract is ratified. We, as TW's, have decided to not permit ourselves to be bribed into remaining silent on the issue of the new contract. This contract is an abridgement (no pun intended) of all the rights and principles that our Union ever stood for.

Therefore, a dedicated group of TW's has determined to organize to take a stand in rejecting the new contract. We are printing bulletins dealing with contract issues. We are using our own funds to reprint copies of the contract to be distributed to the rank and file. We have been in touch with some of our fellow workers up and down the coast. And we are planning decisive, unified action.

It is our fervent hope that more and more union members follow our example in working to reject the contract.

Free Bessie

Cont. from p. 1

ways been a fighter against the Klan and everything they stand for. On July 14, they tried to make good on that threat.

Bessie Lou was arrested for "kidnapping" a woman and two children. The supposed victims of this trumped up kidnapping are the wife and two children of one of the leading Klansmen in Harlan County. It is no coincidence that when deputies arrested Bessie Lou, the brother of the klansman whose wife says she was kidnapped, was present. The police beat Bessie up and have threatened her life.

When she was released from jail pending trial, 6 thugs were sent to try to provoke an incident. The city attorney let it be known that they were still out to "get" her and that

it is not safe for her in Harlan County. The Klan is planning rallies in Padoucah and Harlan, Ky., on the 19th of July. Their goal is to use this incident to terrorize the whole working class.

Already the Kentucky NAACP is beginning investigation of the incident and Michigan Representative John Conyers is contacting other Congressmen to check into it. But this alone is not enough. We must all come to the defense of Bessie Lou Cornett. The attack against her is in every sense an attack on every worker. It is an attempt to stop the miners' struggle. It is an attempt to destroy the Harlan Labor News. It is an attempt to frustrate the strivings of the Negro workers for equality and to prevent their unity with Anglo-American workers.

Workers! Progressive people! Only

our action can protect Bessie Lou Cornett's life and guarantee her freedom right to continue fighting in the just cause of the working class. Publicize her story! Do not let the mine owners, the police and the Klan get away with their plot under the cover of silence. Send contributions for Bessie Lou's defense to:

International Black Appeal for the Defense of Bessie Lou Cornett
P.O. Box 2812
Chicago, Illinois 60690
phone: 312-337-6809 and 342-2139

For more information on the case, her lawyer is David Taylor, phone: 502-587-6097. Work to get every progressive organization and individual to speak up in her defense. This is the struggle against the Klan, against fascism and for the defense of the working class.

Crisis

Cont. from p. 1

their union. This is most clearly the demand of the Rally for Jobs to be held in Los Angeles on July 22nd. Workers, with the United Steelworkers Local 1845 (Bethlehem Steel) in the lead are demanding jobs at the expense of the military budget and adequate relief.

These workers are in the forefront of the political struggle. They are placing the blame where it belongs, on the government. They are demanding that the government meet the workers' needs. This struggle must be expanded and linked on a national scale. The divided and disorganized struggles of our class must be organized in a way that can make the words "united front" a reality. The working class needs the political leadership that only a political party of the working class can give it - a party composed of the class's advanced fighters and organized behind a political program that meets the needs of the working class.

For more information on the Communist Labor Party or the Western Worker, please write to:

P.O. Box 72306
Watts Station
Los Angeles, Calif. 90002

P.O. Box 24241
Bayview Station
San Francisco, Calif.

Our Party, the Communist Labor Party, has such a program. The demands our Party puts forward as a basis for a united working class struggle against the present capitalist crisis are basically jobs at the expense of the military budget, busing for equal and quality education, no military intervention by our government in Southeast Asia or the Middle East, no deportations, smashing of the fascist gangs and nationalization of the energy industries.

Our Party stands for and is fighting for the building of Unemployment Councils in every city and on a national level. These councils will fight for jobs, against evictions, for relief benefits, etc. And they will also be fighting bodies of workers, in the hands of and led by workers, which will struggle for all the economic and political interests of our class.

Inscribed on the foremost banner in our march towards a better life will be the words "Jobs with Peace." We have a right to work, to give fully and to receive in just measure. We have a right to live without the horror and destruction of war. The working class has always fought and will fight to the end for a social system which can guarantee us these rights.

The capitalist system - by its very nature driven to crisis and war - can not meet any of our needs. The socialist system is the only system in which we can live productively, side by side with our fellow workers, without want and without destruction. Our struggle to build a united front of

the working class against fascism, to build Unemployment Councils, to build the political party of our class, are all steps we make together on the road to a decent life for ourselves and our children.

March

Cont. from p. 1

the hardest work and receive the short end of the stick. They have been banned by the union from attending any union meeting.

The "B" men have been organized for 4 years. Their first objective was membership in the union and elevation to class "A" status. Over the years the struggle has shifted to the creation of jobs for the port or transfers into another port.

The "B" men have tried everything from applying for union status to the local offices to taking over the union hall. The "B" men have fought for their rights and feel that struggle must be broadened.

They have gone to all Caucus meetings in the last year and have come to the conclusion that the contract must be defeated.

The march will start Friday at noon in front of the Union Hall. All interested workers are invited. To reach Port Hueneme come up Highway 101 to Port Hueneme exit. Follow the main street to the harbor. The Union Hall is next to the Sun-kist warehouse.

A longshoreman

los obreros que lucharan por las luchas economicas y politicas, por el interes de la clase obrera. Inscribido en nuestra bandera por una marcha mejor tendran las palabras "Empleos Con Paz". Tenemos el derecho de tener un trabajo, de dar y recibir. Tenemos el derecho de vivir sin los horrores y destruccion de guerras. La clase obrera siempre ha luchado y continuara luchando por garantizar estos derechos bajo un sistema socialista. El sistema capitalista - por su naturaleza de crisis y guerra - no puede corresponder a nuestras necesidades. El sistema socialista es el unico sistema en el cual podemos vivir productivamente, de lado a lado con nuestros companeros trabajadores sin pobrezas y destruccion. Nuestra lucha por la construccion de un frente unico de la clase obrera contra el fascismo, para la construccion de los Concilios de Desempleo, para la construccion de un partido politico de nuestra clase, son pasos que tendremos que hacer juntos en nuestro camino hacia una vida decente para nosotros y nuestros hijos

Obreros y Gentes Progresistas! Solamente nuestra accion puede proteger a Bessie Lou Cornett y garantizar su derecho a continuar la lucha por la causa justa de la clase obrera. Pueden su historia. No dejen que los duenos de minas, que la policia, que los Klan puedan cubrir sus crímenes con el silencio. Mande contribuciones para la defensa de Bessie Lou al: International Black Appeal for Defense of Bessie Lou Cornett P.O. Box 2812 Chicago, Illinois 60690 tele: 312-337-6809 y 342-2139 Si quiere mas informacion, el abogado de ella es David Taylor, tele. 502-587-6097. Trate de ganar a toda organizacion progresista e individual a venir a la defensa de ella. Este es la lucha contra el Klan, contra el fascismo, y en defensa de la clase obrera.

nizadas de nuestra clase deben de ser organizadas de tal modo que las palabras "frente unico" sean una realidad. La clase obrera necesita la direccion politica que solamente un partido politico de la clase obrera puede darle. Un partido compuesto de los luchadores mas avanzados y organizados bajo un programa politico que se dirija a las necesidades de la clase obrera. Nuestro Partido, el Partido Comunista Laboral, tiene tal programa. Es basicamente un programa por empleos, ninguna intervencion militar por nuestro gobierno en ninguna parte del mundo, transporte escolar por igualdad de educacion, no mas deportaciones, destruccion de pandillas fascistas, y nacionalizacion de industrias de energia. Nuestro Partido lucha y respalda la construccion de Concilios de Desempleo en cada ciudad y a un nivel nacional. Estos concilios lucharán por trabajos, contra evicciones, y por beneficios economicos. Serán cuerpos de luchadores en manos y dirijidos por

algo. El fiscal de la ciudad le dio "castigar", y que no le sera saludable quedarse en el Condado Harlan. El Klan esta planeando una manifestacion en Paducah y Harlan, Ky. el 19 de Julio. Ellos quieren usar este incidente para terrorizar a toda la clase obrera. Ya el NAACP de Kentucky ha empezado una investigacion del incidente y el Representante John Conyers se esta conectando con otros Congresistas para investigar lo que paso. Pero solo no ayudara. Todos tenemos que venir en defensa de Bessie Lou Cornett. Los ataques contra ella son claramente ataques contra cada obrero. Es un intento para parar la lucha de los mineros. Es un intento para destruir el Harlan Labor News. Es un intento para frustrar las luchas de los obreros Negros para la igualdad y para prevenir la unidad con los obreros anglo-americanos.

Los trabajadores estan rechazando estas soluciones, que no son soluciones nada. Este era el mensaje de las reuniones en febrero y abril en Washington. Estos son los sentimientos de los estivaldores que rechazan una mi-gaja para unos cuantos, que luchan por empleos y una igualdad por trabajo en su sindicato. Este es el punto central de la reunion que tendre lugar este 22 de Julio en Los Angeles. Trabajadores bajo la direccion de los Obreros de Acero del Local 1845 (Bethlehem Steel), exijiran empleos al costo del presupuesto militar y ayuda economica para los desocupados. Estos obreros estan al frente de la Lucha politica. Estan culpando a los culpables - al gobierno. Exijen que el gobierno provee las necesidades de los obreros. Esta lucha debe extenderse y ser ligada en una escala nacional. Las luchas divididas y desorganal.

Viene de p. 1 Bessie Lou fue arrestada por "sequestrar" a una mujer y a dos niños. Las supuestas victimas de esta trampa son la esposa y niños de uno de los líderes principales del Klan en el Condado Harlan. No fue una coincidencia que cuando los oficiales arrestaron a Bessie Lou, el hermano del mismo bro del Klan, cuya esposa decia que fue secuestrada, estaba presente. La policia golpeo a Bessie y amenazo matarla. Cuando salio de la carcel para esperar el día de corte, 6 rufianes fueron mandados para tratar de empearar ron mandados para tratar de empearar