

# DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 2 OF 16

FOLDER 28

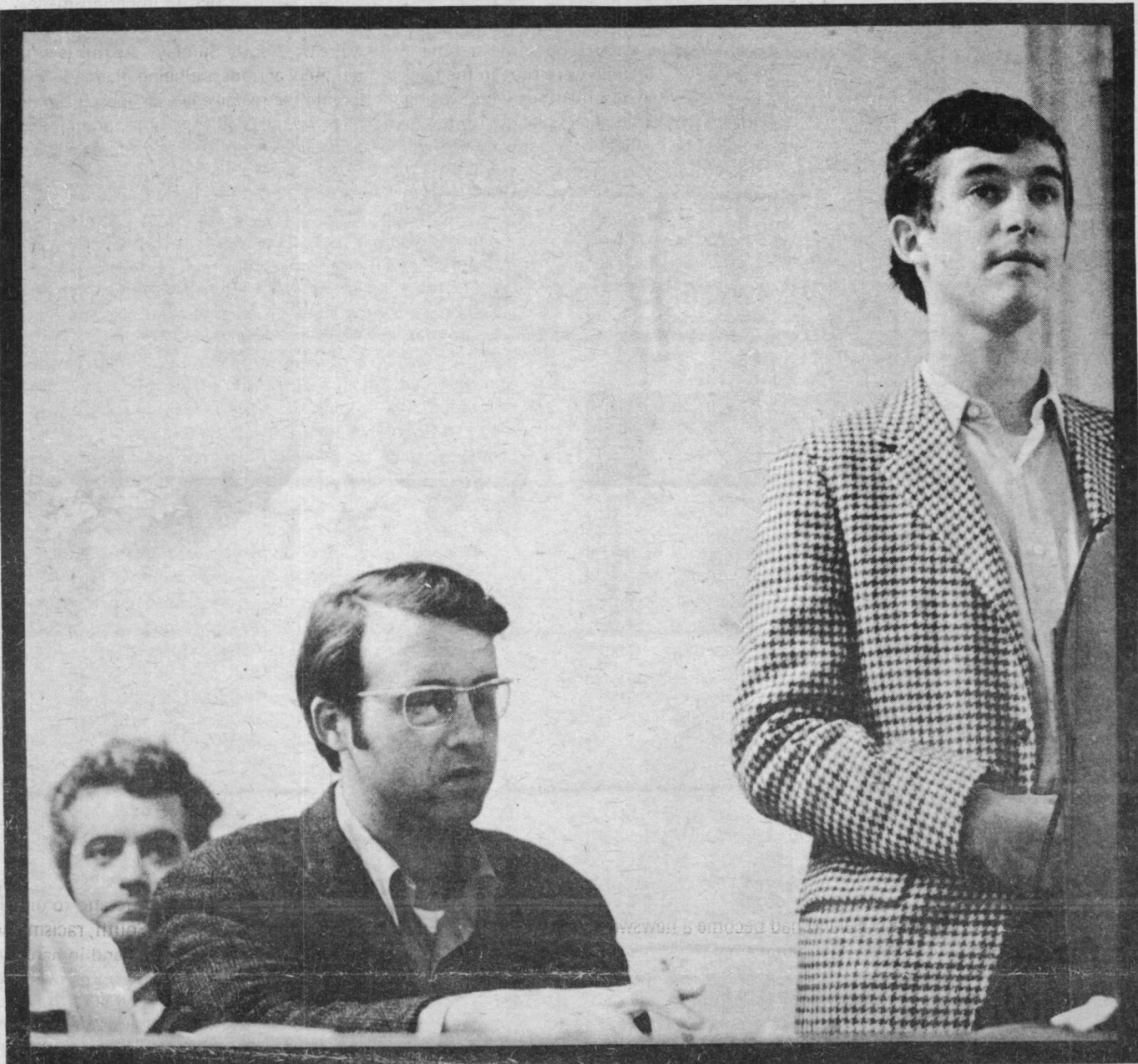
J SIMS SPEECH UNC

CONFERENCE ON RACISM

# Racism

and the  
labor movement

## the united national caucus conference on racism



CHARLIE GILLESPIE (L) AND TONNEY ALLGOOD (R) AT RACISM CONFERENCE

PHOTO/KEN FIREMAN

On Sunday, February 6, the United National Caucus (UNC), a militant rank-and-file opposition group within the UAW, sponsored what may turn out to be one of the most significant labor gatherings of this year. In calling for the Conference on Racism, the UNC marked a milestone in its five year existence by initiating the opening of a question that has always faced the labor movement in America—a question that has never been dealt with adequately—the question of racism.

The reason why the Caucus called the Conference is explained in the preamble to the resolution that was adopted, "... the corporations, and the social structures which they dominate, have always been aware of the tremendous power of real solidarity within the working people. That is why their major policies, openly or subtly, have always been aimed at division."

Racism, the main division created by the corporations, specifically the auto companies in Detroit, and perpetuated by the UAW International in its refusal to fight it, was the topic for much discussion and controversy on Sunday.

The conference, open to everyone and attended by some 200 people at the DPW Local 26 Hall in Detroit, had two major thrusts. First to educate people about the true nature of racism in the economy, on the shop floor, in the community, and in the labor movement.

Secondly, was to give rise and put into action resolutions that would help to al-

viate racism in all aspects of the lives of working people. This proved very difficult, because, as members of the Caucus conceded later, "We probably never should have tried to make resolutions out of the conference because the topic was too broad, there were too many people there who were not members of the Caucus, and the time was too short."

The educational aspect was carried out easily enough with interesting speakers talking about local shop conditions and about the Great Mississippi Woodcutter Strike.

### THE SPEAKERS

"I'm a black man by definition and an American by birth, they tell me," Jordan Sims introduced himself at the conference.

As reported in recent issues of the Fifth Estate, Sims is challenging the incumbent white leadership of UAW Local 961 at the Chrysler Eldon Avenue Plant. He is representing a caucus at the plant of people who are fighting to make their local union become a strong organ in representing their rights against management, especially those of black workers, long ignored by the traditional UAW leadership.

He talked about growing up in Hamtramck where "with a minor black population ... we were isolated. You couldn't call them black ghettos because there were not enough of them—they were more like dots in the white population of Hamtramck." In spite of that, "My entire involvement

as a child socially was predicated on this insidious, unspoken, but soundly implemented social program—racism."

He talked about the changes he went through as he grew up: "I went all through high school in the mid forties and through that comaradarie—you know—all for one and one for all ... until it came time to go out and get a job. This was one of the rudest awakenings that I had—going out and getting a job."

"I remember 16 white brothers I went to school with. We all went down to the infamous Dodge Main Plant. They all came out with their eyes all aglitter and smiles on their faces, breathless with exhilaration. They had been hired ... but they saw I was not smiling, I had not been hired, because the man said they weren't hiring."

"... I realized that I would have to go someplace else to realize any sense of belonging or to get any sense of responsibility. I had to go back and find my people in order to find myself. And I did."

"I learned a new vernacular, I learned a new way of life and I established new friendships. This appalled my mother because she was quite proud of my diction, my knowledge of history, my real pure-bred American culture that I had developed at Hamtramck High. ... But I didn't know a damn thing about myself nor my black history ... all America had a history but me. All had substance but me. All had heritage but me."

Sims talked about his brief involvement with the Black Muslims and how the race riots of the forties and the "uprising of '67" taught him much about the relationships between the white and black populations in the city of Detroit.

In speaking about his job at Eldon, he said, "I became involved with the United National Caucus because of my experience at Eldon. Eldon to me is a very unique plant—I feel privileged to have worked there because of the experiences that it has given me."

"When I got hired there 22 years ago, Eldon was a good, old fashioned industrial plant, predominantly white, with all the colored folks pushing brooms and cleaning out the shithouses."

"I came there with a high school education and the Man readily put his hand on my shoulder and said 'You are a part of a new breed, you're not like all the other colored people. We're going to give you a break. We're going to put you on a machine, because we feel you may have the competence to run this machine and understand all its mechanical complexities.'"

"I said, 'Yeah.' I had nothing else to say."

"That's how I started out there, not liking the factory and I still don't. ... I took a job in a factory because it was the only job I could get."

In finishing, Sims turned the more immediate problem of searching for solutions to the racism that divides working people. "I am deadly serious about finding some way of bridging this gap ... I would like some realization among people who must work for a living that there is a common denominator among people involved in this category and that it behooves them to become cognizant of this particular fact."

"You can call me what you want, as long as you do it in your own living room. You can think, write, do, what you want in your own damn living room. But you recognize one thing—to make your America great, to make it productive, to make it serve you and benefit you—you're not going anywhere without me or someone like me."

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## DEE-TROIT SEEN

Several people have called us regarding the telephone credit card code we published last issue, saying they have been hassled or that the operators would not put through a call for them. Please report to us any negative experience you have with the code so we can be sure we are giving correct information. We are also interested in talking confidentially with a Bell long-distance operator. . . . The demonstration at the British Consulate reported elsewhere in the issue was met with surprising hostility to the marchers on the part of some of the media. One reporter from WXYZ-TV asked if we were "professional demonstrators," and a bearily-controlled newsmen from CKLW who kept up with incessantly hostile questions, finally admitted that he was an Irish *Protestant* immigrant! It felt like the first days of the anti-war movement. . . . Chrysler Corporation, apparently informed of this newspaper's continuing attacks on them, inquired of us as to the price of a year's subscription (regularly \$5.00). "\$60 for a year," we replied. They paid. . . . Yippie Department: Officials at WXYZ-TV are still searching for the person responsible for splicing an edited portion of "The Night of the Living Dead" into the 4:30 Movie showing of the "Young Interns." People were viewing the hospital flick when suddenly a gory scene of a woman being repeatedly stabbed lept upon the screen. The portion was to be edited out of the horror film as "objectionable." . . . Clean Living Department: A nine-woman, scantily-clad, singing and dancing act known as the "Goldiggers" were the headline entertainment at the 1972 Boy Scout Leaders' Recognition Potluck Dinner held at Cobo Hall on Feb. 5. Whatever happened to the old-fashioned cookouts? . . . "Let Freedom Ring," a right-wing but usually humorous dial-a-message, has been dropped by its sponsors, the John Birch Society, due to "lack of public interest" according to its final message. . . . The Detroit chapter

of the Vietnam Veterans against the War (VVAW) has begun a series of new "survival" programs such as free food and clothes, community clean-up, health clinics and several others. Interested vets and others can contact VVAW at 48 Parsons, Detroit 48201, or call them at 831-9659. . . . Several new films on American Indians are available from American Documentary Films, 379 Bay Street, San Francisco, California 94113 or call (415) 982-7475. . . . We have quantities of Fifth Estate back issues available free for distribution if you can use them at your workplace, school or wherever. . . . According to a recent article in the Journal of the American Medical Association, at least 18 Detroit children have been accidentally poisoned by methadone in the last nine months with one case resulting in death. The article stated that most parents delayed seeking medical help immediately, believing that one methadone pill would not be dangerous to the child. . . .

## DEE-TROIT SEEN

Louis Miriani, former cellblock mate of imprisoned Rainbow People's Party official Skip Taube, has been living in suburban Troy after being paroled on his Federal income tax evasion conviction. Having moved to suburbia to avoid the crime problems of their former "changing" neighborhood, Louie and his Ms returned home recently to find that they were ripped off to the tune of ten grand. They were at church at the time. . . . Right now the Fifth Estate is unable to give free subscriptions to prisoners because of the heavy load of free Vietnam GI subs we have. So, people in the slam will have to go at a reduced rate of \$2.00 per year. . . . From the sound of things, it seems like WABX disc jockey Dave Dixon got angrier at the Ann Arbor Sun for its "expose" of WRIF—because they said that ABX didn't play enough high energy music—than the RIF staff did because the article said that WRIF had a programmed format. Also, it seems everyone isn't

unhappy with RIF. Two Detroit-area soldiers stationed in England called the Saturday morning jock and had him hook up the station to their overseas call so they could listen for an hour. . . . Last year 36 persons were killed by trigger-happy Detroit cops, including 11 by the STRESS execution squad, as compared to Cleveland which showed *no* deaths at the hands of their officers. Detroit pigs feel it's open season on citizens seeing that all but one was ruled "justifiable" by Wayne County Prosecutor William Cahalan. The cold-blooded murder of Charles Smith by Patrolman Michael Reggis was the one exception, and this paper bets that Reggis will not do one day in jail for his crime. . . . Most sex-exploitation artists usually attempt to hide their pecuniary motives behind glib statements about "appreciating the female body as an art form" or "I'm just trying to stop being hypocritical about sex," but the promoter of the planned Ms. Nude Michigan contest makes no bones about where he is coming from. He admits to doing it, in his words, "First, for the money." Tom Wishart, wowner of a Highland Park nude model studio, has filed suit against the city officials who have barred him from holding his cattle auction in the Detroit-owned Cobo Hall. Wishart says he expects 10,000 persons to attend the event if it ever happens, with tickets running up to \$20 a seat. He says he expects there to be about 300 women contestants. Men sure will go through some weird trips just to see a naked woman. . . . This is a filler for typographical purposes. For laughs, try reading John Detroit's society column in the Detroit Free Press. Among his usual gems, John had an item about Nick Ruwe, a local gad-about-made-good who is currently in charge of purchasing gifts that Nixon presents to other dignitaries on state visits. Besides gifts to heads of state, John relates that Nixon also distributes shiny brass coins bearing the president's likeness which he and Mrs. Nixon "hand to doormen, servants, children and old people they meet on official business." . . .

## DEE-TROIT SEEN

### In Case Of

American Civil Liberties Union	961-4662
Big Rapids Trucking Co.	842-0651
(FE Distributors)	
Center House Switchboard	399-9090
Clergymen for Problem	
Pregnancy	964-0838
Community Reporter	833-5085
Creem Magazine	1-624-6167
Detroit Anti-War Coalition	874-4410
Draft Counseling	961-0983
Fifth Estate	831-6800
Free Legal Aid Clinic	832-2777
Gay Switchboard	833-7527
International Black Anneal	866-1266
Labor Defense Coalition	964-1120
(Police Brutality Complaints)	
Macomb Liberation Front	779-7464
National Lawyers Guild	925-2613
Newsreel	831-3779
Park Ave. Methadone Clinic	831-7522
Peoples' Peace Treaty Office	869-6775
Planned Parenthood League	832-7200
Printing Co-op	825-2292
Radical Education Project	825-2922
South End (WSU)	577-3494
Suicide Prevention	875-5466
V.N. Vets Against the War	831-9659
WABX	961-5675
WRIF	354-9743

For abortion referrals, drug analysis, legal aid, free clinic and medical referrals, liaison for runaways, psychiatric referrals, draft counseling, entertainment, or just a friend to talk to—call: CENTER HOUSE at 399-9090.





# Detroit Job Arithmetic

by Buster Brown

*Item: GM announced the closing of Fisher Body Plant 23 at Piquette Avenue in Detroit—1020 workers lose jobs*

*Item: Federal Mogul closes roller bearing plants in Detroit, idling 1900 workers*

*Item: North American Rockwell announces phasing out of its plant in Detroit laying off 950 workers*

*Item: Excello will close two Detroit plants and dump 160 workers*

*Item: Not counting the layoffs from the Fisher Body plant, there are some 6000 skilled tool and die workers out of work in the Detroit area now*

*Item: GM boasts clearing \$2 billion in profits for 1971*

*Item: That is enough money to pay 100,000 workers salaries and fringe benefits amounting to \$19,000 each yearly!*

GM blames the closing of Fisher 23 on the fact that the federal government's safety and pollution standards have curtailed the annual drastic styling changes. This in turn has cut the need for tool and die men, a job classification created almost solely by those same style changes.

The UAW countered, claiming that "The real reason, made unilaterally at the corporation's higher levels and without prior consultation with the union, is GM's drive to save some dollars by decentralizing its operations. The work which otherwise would have been done by the em-

ployees of Plant 23 now will be scattered among ten other fabricating plants of the corporation."

General Motors has since announced that it plans to hire some 453 more workers in the metropolitan Detroit area (most of them at the Fisher Body plant in Pontiac). This is not much consolation to those already laid off.

In an unusually strong statement, UAW Region IE director Bard Young said, "The free enterprise system has worked well, but if the free enterprise system cannot equate human values with dollar values, then to hell with the system—we had better look at one that can."

However, the statement is little more than hot air, because when the United National Caucus organized a demonstration against GM for closing Fisher 23 on January 19, the local UAW leadership at the Fisher Body plant refused to participate because the demonstration was "politically motivated." The UNC is a rank-and-file opposition caucus within the UAW.

In concrete activity the UAW held a key conference urging federal legislation to require companies to obtain a government permit before they can close a plant and move work and jobs out of an area of heavy unemployment.

It would appear that the UAW International is just now discovering that GM's main interest is in maximizing its profits at any cost to its employees. However, their solution to the problem takes a strange twist when the director of the union's GM Department, Irving Bluestone, argued that the Common Council and



Mayor Gribbs should "mount a public campaign aimed at retaining and increasing the number of industrial and commercial firms in the community."

Why has the UAW never fought to control the running of the plants and the conditions under which its members work?

How can the UAW claim that "the free enterprise system has worked well" when \$2 billion that could provide incomes for 100,000 jobless families is instead filling the bulging coffers of the richest corporation in the world?

If one accepts the "free enterprise system" then one has to accept the fact that GM has the right to do what it wants with "its" plants and "its" billions of dollars of profits, both of which were created solely by its employees.

Public school teachers in Wayne, Michigan voted Friday Jan. 28 to end their strike against the Wayne Board of Education. They accepted a three-year contract that was basically the same as the one that the Board offered in the first place.

According to one student who was active in supporting the strike, the capitulation was due to the fact that "they just got tired of fighting. There was a lot of pressure from parents at the Board meeting on the previous Monday and anyway, their demands were not very far away from what the Board was offering."

Although there was disciplinary action threatened against the students who had been supporting the teachers, no reprisals have been taken by the school administration at this time.

## Racism & Labor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE

### THEM THAT REALLY DID IT

People in Mississippi call it the great Mississippi Woodcutter Strike of 1971 and swear that no one who had anything to do with it will ever forget it. They're talking about a three-month long strike this Fall that spread from two hundred pulpwood haulers at the Masonite wood yard in Laurel, Mississippi to 3,500 haulers, both whites and blacks, in yards all over Mississippi—and they won most of their demands.

Three men from the Gulfcoast Pulpwood Association (GPA), which was one of the main forces behind the strike, spoke at the conference on Sunday. Andrew Bates is a black woodcutter in Forest, Miss. whose father was a sharecropper turned woodcutter. He told of the barbaric working conditions which he and his union brothers, both white and black, are subjected to by the big pulpwood companies.

Tonney Algood is a young white brother who speaks with a drawl that could only come from the deep South. He talked about life in Mississippi and about his involvement with the woodcutters strike through the GPA:

"I was raised up on a small farm. And I saw years when my pa worked hard, worked mighty hard, came in with his

back aching from driving that tractor all day. Just to earn \$2,000 a year."

Racism was a fact of life for poor whites in the South. "They kept telling us it was the black folks who were the cause of it all," he said. But the myth had some holes in it. "I began to wonder when I saw that Senator Eastland (one of the 'they') was getting \$190,000 from the government for NOT farming!"

Tonney was not the only one who felt the inconsistencies.

"The average pulpwood hauler in 1970 made an income of \$2,000 a year. The companies call him an 'independent businessman'—that means they don't have to pay social security, workers compensation, or nothin'. They don't even have to pay a salary big enough for a man to eat on without having to fight to get food stamps which they don't want to give."

"He goes up in them woods, cuts the trees with a chain saw, loads it on a truck and takes it in and practically gives it away... the pulpwood hauler, when he makes \$4.00 profit the company makes \$44 on what he cuts."

Tonney went back to how that situation developed. "Those big companies looked around when folks started getting organized up North and they started decentralizing—looking for someplace to go. So they look down at us in Mississippi and they sell all that timber and they look at the work force and they see your poor white folks and your black folks. Two groups that ain't never been able to get together."

"The reason they hadn't been able to, was because of the brainwashin' by the large corporations and the politicians acting in the interests of those corporations. So they headed out down South saying 'Those folks ain't never gonna be able to

get together.'"

"But we fooled them."

The strike started in Laurel when Masonite Corporation tried to cut the pay of the haulers by some 25%. The long-awaited unity between the black haulers and white haulers finally became real and they went out on strike together.

"That was before the GPA was ever called in," said Tonney. "That was the beautiful thing about it because the strike came from the people—it came from a need—a need right here in the stomach..." His gesture made it clear that the problem was hunger.

"This was on a gut level—where black folks and white folks were able to get together and overcome race-baiting and red-baiting to whip five of the largest companies in the U.S. And to think that when the strike started there was \$600 in the treasury."

In bad need of help, the woodcutters got cold shoulders from every side, until they talked to Fayetteville Mayor Charles Evers, who was running for governor of Mississippi at that time. He came down to one of their meetings and talked to them, offering financial aid.

Not only did the white workers support him in spite of their racist upbringing, but they had to endure attacks from hostile news media and other white establishment institutions. They were accused of being a bunch of communists, a serious charge in the South, but the strike was not broken.

Tonney mentioned an anecdote about the red-baiting that was going on and the response to it. "One day I came up to the picketline at the plant and was talking to two guys (both had been haulers since dropping out of school in the seventh and eighth grades). One comes up to me and

says, 'Tonney,' he says. 'You know it's true what they been saying about us.'"

"And I thought—Omgod—and I said, 'Watcha talking about?'"

"And he says, 'about us being communists—that's true.'"

"I thought, Omgod, this whole thing is gonna be busted up right here."

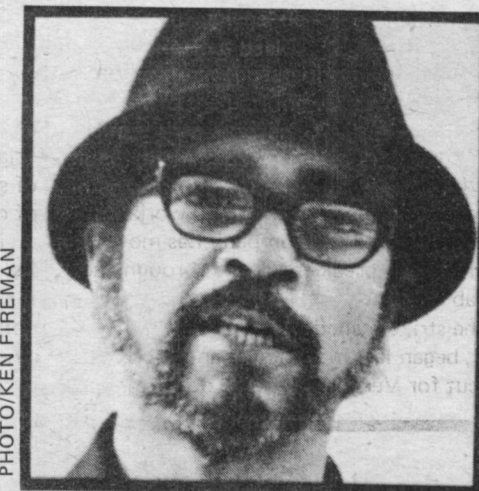
"He says, 'No, it's true. Grover here looked up in the dictionary and it says equal rights and equal opportunity,' and he says, 'That's exactly us,' he says, 'We are communists.'"

After the conference, Tonney mentioned the incredible response that they got from all over the country in the way of letters, food and clothing. One man from Seattle, Washington sent a letter saying that he didn't have any money but he knew that what the woodcutters were doing was for all of us.

He sent \$7.00 worth of his food stamps, hoping that they could use it.

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JORDAN SIMS



PHOTO/KEN FIREMAN



# CITY WORKERS PAY FOR WASTE

by Ken Fireman

Detroit Mayor Roman Gribbs has announced that some 700 city employees are being laid off their jobs this month due to lack of funds to maintain the programs which employed them. Most of the affected workers are in the Parks and Recreation Department. The community services to be ended include eight city ice skating rinks, several neighborhood recreation centers where community people can play basketball, etc., as well as a cutback in garbage collection.

This program of layoffs and cutbacks is not only an attack on the affected workers - it flies in the face of the interests of the people of Detroit as well. The programs being curtailed or limited are not peripheral or unimportant. They are useful and necessary services which the people of Detroit have every right to expect the city government to provide with their own tax dollars.

The excuse given for the layoffs and cutbacks - lack of funds in the city treasury - seems on the surface to be accurate. But in the wake of the announced layoffs, came the obvious question: If cutbacks are necessary, why not cut back programs that really are "fat and waste" instead of terminating programs that provide both real services for the community and jobs for hundreds of people?

Examples of such waste abound in the city government. The Free Press has reported that Mayor Gribbs employs seven full-time aides on the city payroll, each salaried at better than \$20,000 a year.

People have also been reminded of the "Give A Kid A Job" fiasco from last summer. In this program, the city spent a reported \$50,000 in advertising to convince local employers to hire students during the summer. This lavish expenditure produced exactly 24 jobs for the full summer. The remaining people hired in the project were hired late in August, when

the program was nearly over, and got only one or two weeks' work out of it.

But despite such outstanding examples of waste, Gribbs chose to strike primarily at the Parks and Recreation Department. And he did so for good reason. When the city announced layoffs last year, most of the affected workers were unionized personnel, and the AFSCME (American Federation of State County & Municipal Employees) local, which covers city workers, was forced to respond with a sharp protest and threaten strike action.

This time, Gribbs was wiser. Of the 480 workers laid off at Parks and Recreation, only 120 were full-time staff, and therefore unionized. The remaining 360 were all "part-time" employees, and are excluded from union representation by their job classification. By striking at unorganized and relatively helpless workers Gribbs hoped to forestall any major protest against his actions.

In line with this, he announced late in the same week that the 120 full-time workers would all be rehired within 30 days, on funds provided in a federal grant - but not the 360 part-time, non-union personnel.

How successful this strategy will be, remains to be seen. AFSCME responded to the layoffs by calling a 24-hour protest demonstration at the City-County Building on February 2. At its peak, the protest turned out some 200 people. But some of the laid-off workers expressed skepticism about how willing AFSCME was to really fight on the issue. They felt that the demonstration was merely a token gesture, and that the union would do little else on the question

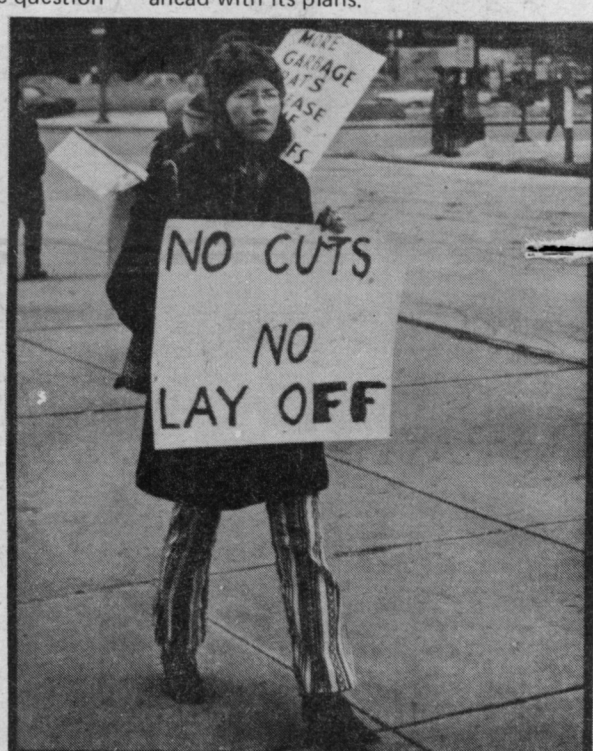
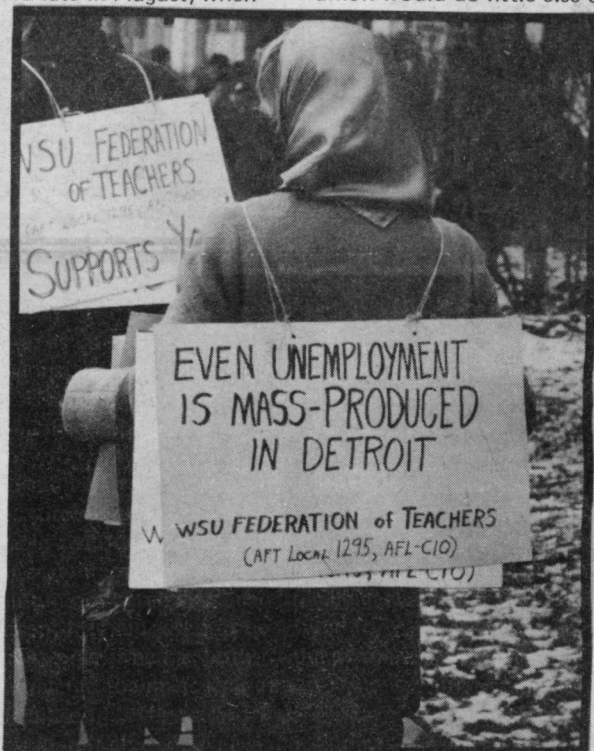
since all of their members were due to be rehired.

Because of their uncertainty as to AFSCME's willingness to organize a fight, the part-time workers have taken steps to organize their own campaign of pressure on the city government. On February 6, a meeting of 100 of these workers was held at the Considine Recreation Center. At this meeting, plans were mapped to mobilize not only the affected workers but also the community people who will suffer from the closing of the recreation facilities.

The meeting agreed to organize a public demonstration at the City-County building on Saturday, February 12 at noon to demand that the affected programs be continued and the layoffs cancelled.

As a secondary thrust, the meeting also decided to pressure the Common Council to extend employee benefits to part-time workers. By law, part-time help are excluded from both pension plans and unemployment compensation. The Common Council can extend such coverage to part-time workers by simple majority vote. Councilman Ernest Brown reportedly has agreed to meet with representatives to discuss this issue.

But the main thrust of the part-time workers' demands was clear - end the cutbacks, cancel the layoffs, keep the recreation programs operating. It was pointed out that the issue is larger than 480 jobs. Thousands of Detroit residents who use the services provided in the programs to be cut back will suffer if the city goes ahead with its plans.



FEBRUARY 3rd DEMONSTRATION BY CITY WORKERS AT THE DETROIT CITY-COUNTY BUILDING TO PROTEST LAYOFFS BY THE CITY. —PHOTOS/KEN FIREMAN

## TWO PATROLMEN SUSPENDED AFTER BEING ARRESTED FOR THE FATAL SHOOTING OF A DOG!

by B. Rowe and the ASPCA

A few weeks back, two Detroit patrolmen were suspended from the force after being arrested for the fatal shooting of a neighborhood dog following an off-duty drinking binge.

The officers, who share an eastside flat (neighbors of aging right-winger Don Lobsinger), lured the animal into their flat. Gunfire was heard and one of the officers was seen carrying the remains of the dog into the alley and depositing them into a rubbish can.

Last year in Murder City 36 persons were killed by cops with charges being

brought against only one of the lawmen involved in the shootings. The public outrage that has centered on the dog death case stacked against the apathy that has met the growing list of civilian deaths is at least ironical.

In new developments in the case, the owners of the dog, who testified at the against the officers, reported to the Fifth Estate last week that they have received obscene phone calls, threatening letters and that the city has begun eviction proceedings against them for alleged building code violations. Five people live in the dwelling as a commune.

According to one of the residents of the

the house, Steve, the place is in good condition and the tenants get along well with the landlord. They feel the threats and the eviction notice were brought on by the dog incident.

At the court hearing, Norm Lippit, mouthpiece for the Detroit Police Officers Association, who is defending the two cops, promised a "vigorous" defense.

With increasing harassment falling on them, the young people on Drexel are getting an idea of what he meant.

## Klan Pops Hair

Four Tulsa, Oklahoma men, including the Grand Dragon of the Oklahoma Ku Klux Klan, attempted a citizens' arrest of the cast of the music "Hair" during a nude scene last week. The four contended the perfor-

mance violated 80 city ordinances including laws against obscenity, profanity, sexual innuendo and perversion. The city prosecutor refused to authorize the arrests on grounds the federal courts had ruled no such laws were violated by the production. The Klansmen left the theater peacefully but with security guards at their side. The men were seated about 10 rows from the stage of the city-owned theater, and the lights had just dimmed for the nude scene. The four jumped from their seats, rushed down the aisle for the stage during the 15 seconds the cast members stood naked. A klansman grabbed a microphone. At that point, the house lights were turned on—it was a regularly scheduled intermission. The klansman, standing center stage, announced to the audience of approximately 2,000 that the four men were making a citizens' arrest. About a third of the audience rose to their feet and booed.



# LABOR & RACISM

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## BE IT RESOLVED

As the conference progressed into the workshops and plenary sessions, heated debate split the group over the issue of how to attack racism—i.e., the substance of the resolution.

The issue, of course, could not be considered in a political vacuum. The group also had to speak to the issue of how to attack the complete control the big auto companies have over their working conditions and lives, subjecting them to, among other things, racism.

The question of exactly how to attack the big corporations and end their domination of all aspects of the lives of working people caused much controversy, focusing on (a) if one faces the fact that we must work for the overthrow of American monopoly capitalism, exactly how do we accomplish that? and (b) what exactly is the role of the Caucus in that struggle?

The United National Caucus has traditionally been a loosely organized group of mainly white skilled workers and has not dealt with the issue of racism. After the conference, several members agreed that just the fact that the Caucus had called the conference and had begun to deal with the question, was a milestone for it and for the white labor movement. In addition, the planning of the conference brought together many people, including black leaders like Jordan Sims, not previously involved in the leadership of the Caucus.

This in itself was significant and is a result of some of the changes that the Caucus has been going through in the past several months.

One tendency in the plenary session was toward blaming black and white workers "for allowing the divisions to continue between themselves," and that the greatest enemy was "the apathy of the workers." This opinion, clearly shortsighted, gained little support.

On the other end, people from the League of Revolutionary Black Workers

proposed that the conference call for "the formation of a multinational communist party to work for the overthrow of the bourgeois state and fight for socialism and communism." They argued that could be the only solution to racism. This was voted down.

The resolution that was adopted was similar to the one proposed originally by the UNC leadership, speaking to workers' control of their working conditions and making demands to begin ending racism in the shop.

The demands relating to ending racism included: the immediate dismissal of racist supervisors; opening up the skilled trades; and relating to union practices: election of union officers by direct referendum, and provisions for additional proportional representation of major special problem minority groups—blacks, Canadians, women, Chicanos, skilled trades, youth, and retirees.

Other resolutions passed were to express solidarity with the West Coast Dockworkers strike and with the local strike going on against GM in Lordstown, Ohio. The conference also demanded that bail be set for Angela Davis and called for her freedom and the freedom of all political prisoners, as well as expressed international solidarity with a strike going on against Fisher-Bendix in England (that strike is being waged to keep the company from moving its plant out of England to Spain where labor is cheaper due to the fascist political climate). A resolution was also passed expressing solidarity with the brothers striking against Vernors and called for a boycott of Vernors' products.

## THE RESULTS

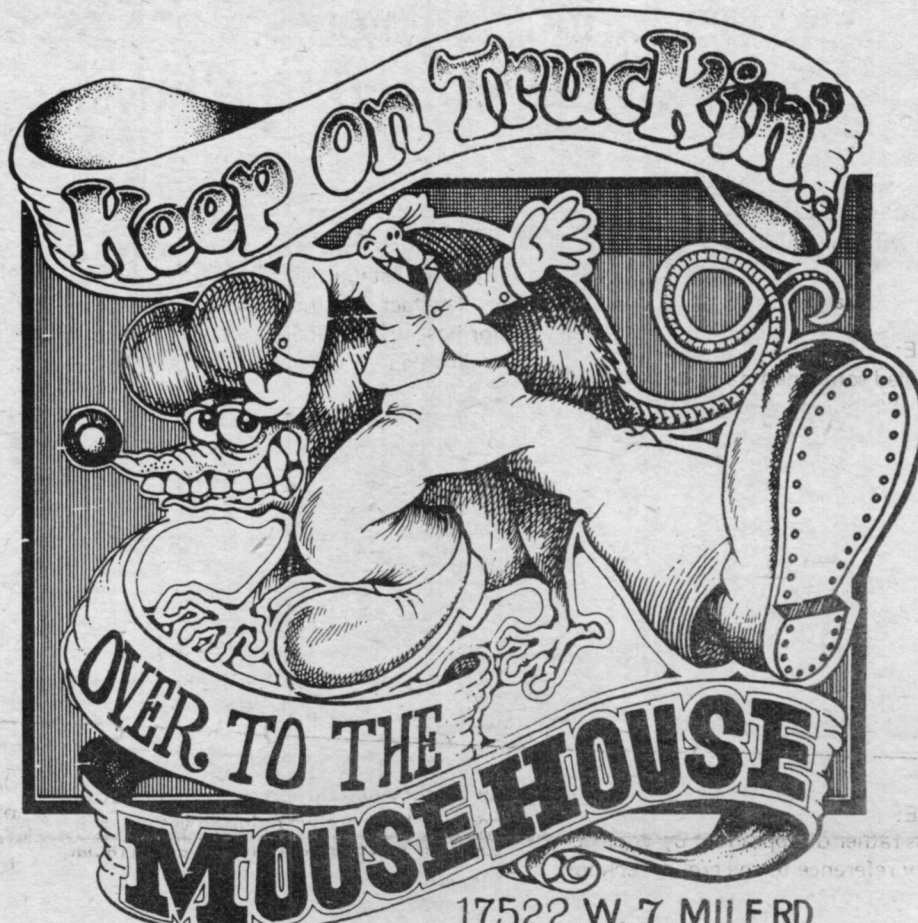
The minor identity crisis for the UNC brought on by the conference brings out

many questions, most of which could not be answered by a one day meeting, but which the UNC is going to have to face in the near future. The main question is: what precisely is the role of the United National Caucus going to be in changing the face of the labor movement into a militant organization that will stand up for the rights of working people in this country?

The answer for now, expressed by Pete Kelley, chairman of the UNC and vice president of UAW Local 160, in an emotion-filled closing said: "The UNC is not a political party, nor a substitute for a political party. We have never professed to be that. We are an organization working with-

in the UAW to fight for a program of better working conditions for working people, and we're going to continue that struggle, because that's what we're all about."

The consensus of people at the conference, including some more prominent members of the Caucus, was that the UNC is going to have to build itself and move more into the political arena in order to fight for its goals. One thing that was clearly recognized by the people in attendance was that this conference marked a turning point in the progressive white labor movement and could lead to some fascinating developments.



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## ABORTION BUSINESS (continued)

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Woman: I only asked what tests and what clinics. If a woman can call up and not remember when she had her last period, and you're going to tell her "Who are you and why are you calling up this office?", I think you're full of shit.

Agency: Well, I think you're full of shit! And there ain't no way in hell I'm gonna give you any information.

Woman: Well, THANK YOU.

Agency: You can go have your baby. (click).

### DO IT YOURSELF

One way women can avoid getting ripped off by abortion referral services is

to contact the out-of-state clinics directly.

This procedure is simple and you can save paying abortion referral agencies \$30 to \$50 to tell you what clinic you should go to. There is no guarantee that these clinics are of the highest possible quality at the lowest possible price - keeping in mind that even the best clinics are still making a huge profit off abortions.

In the next issue of the Fifth Estate, we will provide some alternatives in deal-

ing with the exploitative abortion business, which will include a run-down on specific clinics in New York, and our recommendations of those that provide the most comprehensive, quality services at the lowest possible price.

**Next issue: Arranging your own abortion.**

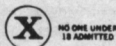
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**BEGINNING THIS ISSUE, WE WILL NO LONGER CARRY ANY ABORTION REFERRAL ADS. STARTING WITH OUR NEXT ISSUE, WE WILL TRY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE ON HOW AND WHERE WOMEN CAN OBTAIN ABORTION INFORMATION. IN THE MEANTIME, YOU CAN CALL 962-1647.**



## CREAMED SPINACH SOUP

2 pounds fresh spinach  
1 cup milk  
1 large onion  
1 large potatoe  
1 quart vegetable stock  
pinch of garlic  
pinch of nutmeg  
Add salt & pepper to taste  
3 tablespoons butter

### VEGETABLE STOCK

When you boil vegetables, drain off and save the water. Or else, if you save vegetable scraps, boil them and save the water so you can use this stock later.

### SOUP

Chop the onion, potatoe and spinach into small pieces (you can do this really well in a blender, if you have one). Add them to the vegetable stock and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to a simmer and add the milk, garlic, nutmeg, salt, pepper and butter. Cook until fairly thick and creamy (one to two hours). If necessary, you can add whole wheat flour to thicken more.

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