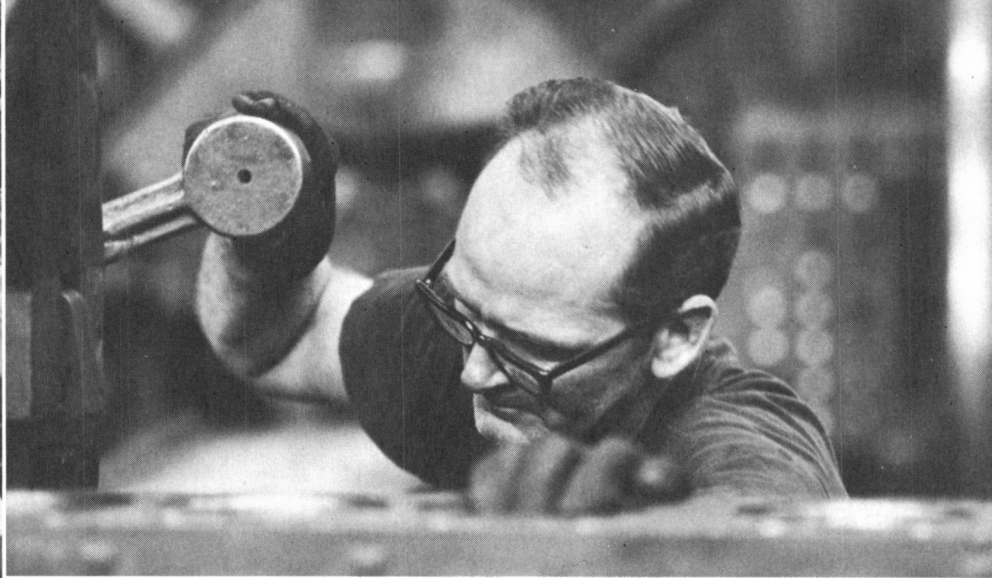


# DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 3 OF 16

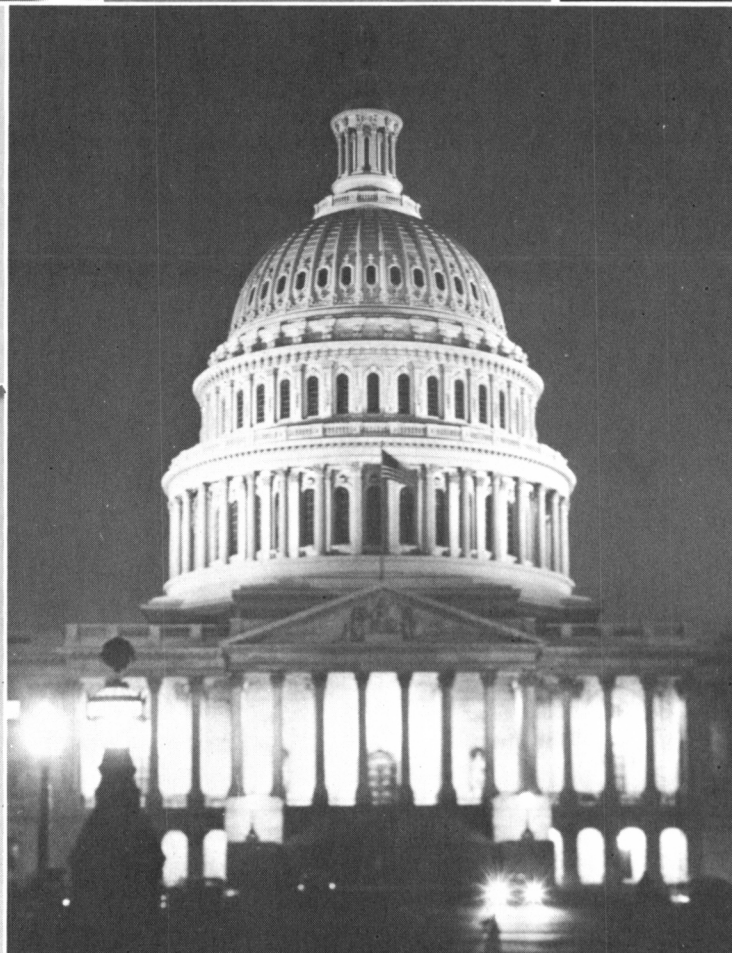
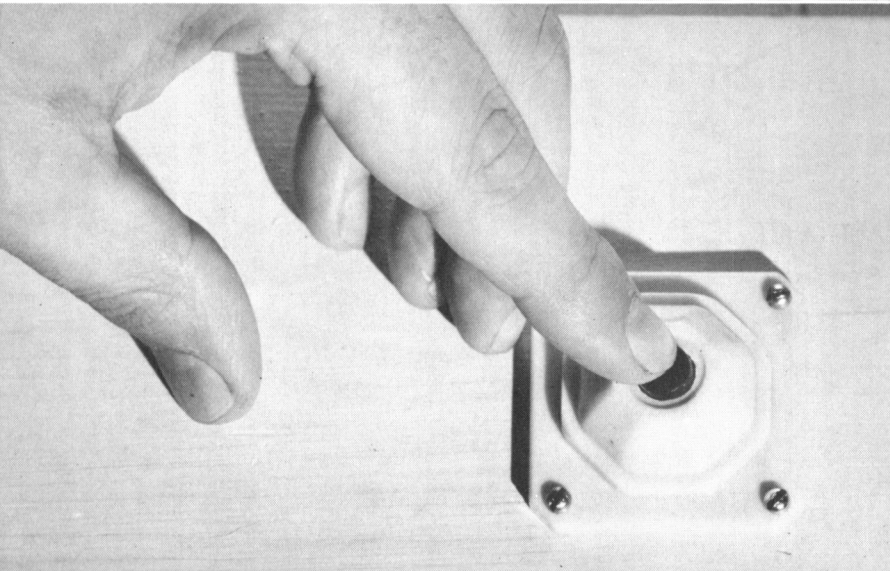
FOLDER 2

UAW SAFETY ARTICLES 1970



**UAW  
CAP**

**What you give to UAW CAP helps elect a Congress which will adopt a strong occupational safety and health law to reduce and eliminate in-plant pollution. Your UAW CAP dollars go directly to help your friends in Congress.**



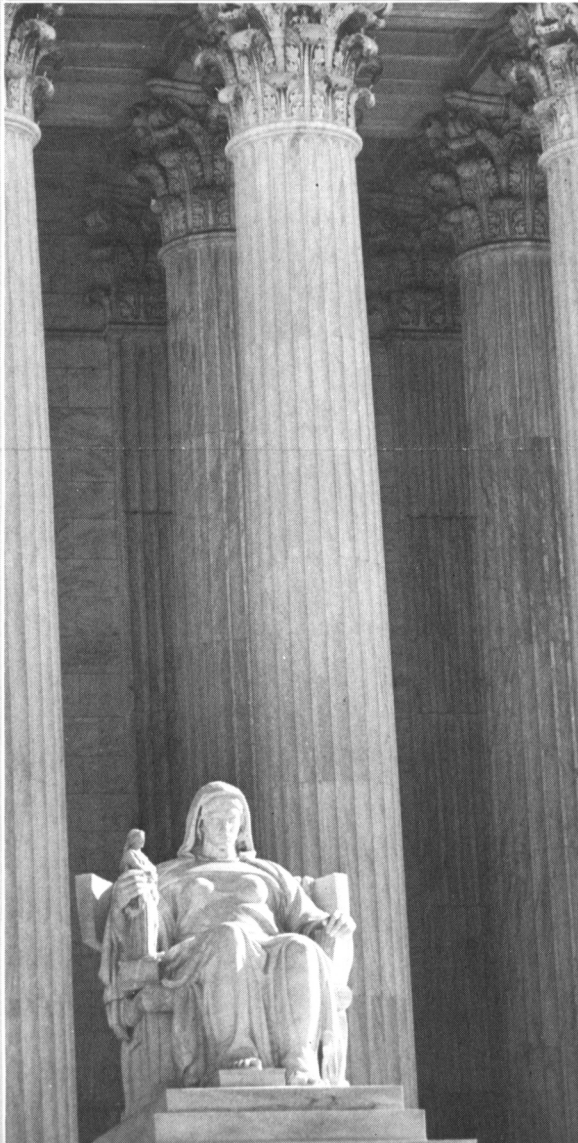


**NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE** Ralph Yarborough • **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH** Albert Gore • **ECONOMIC CONVERSION** Harrison Williams • **PENSION PROTECTION AND REINSURANCE** Phil Hart • **NEW PRIORITIES** William Proxmire • **ELECTORAL REFORM** Vance Hartke • **END HUNGER IN AMERICA** Ted Kennedy • **REBUILD AMERICA'S CITIES** Ted Moss • **DEFEND THE BILL OF RIGHTS** Quentin Burdick • **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AMERICANS** Joseph Montoya • **HIGHER SOCIAL SECURITY**



# UAW CAP

**Government is what each of us makes it. Running for Congress is today extremely costly. Printing. Postage. TV spots. Radio. Travel. This is what it takes to make an effective race for Congress. Your UAW CAP dollars help defray these expenses. Only in this way can good progressive men and women run for Congress and win. There are many marginal congressional districts at stake in 1970. Many pro-labor U.S. Senators are up for reelection. What you give to UAW CAP can make the difference between victory and defeat for labor's friends in Congress.**





# WASHINGTON REPORT

printed every Friday in Washington, D. C.  
by UAW Citizenship-Legislative Department

Vol. 10, No. 12



March 23, 1970

United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, UAW

## Grassroots hearing learns how noise, dust, lack of safety equipment, and fumes send workers to an early death

**Senate hearing in Jersey gets firsthand account of how workers suffer, are maimed and murdered by unsafe working conditions. Congress is working on bill now to correct safety and health hazards which face 80 million working Americans**

*JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY—*

The grit, the grime, and the horror of modern industry were recounted during a recent day-long hearing of the Senate labor subcommittee headed by New Jersey's Sen. Harrison Williams.

A parade of grassroots labor union witnesses pleaded for passage of a strong occupational safety and health bill during the 91st Congress.

"I don't want to take up too much time because I could go on and on and on," said one witness. "There would be no end. When you talk about safety you are talking about a boring subject. It is hard to get to the people on what safety is all about. That is why, Senator, you have got your hands full, believe me."

The Jersey City hearings were conducted in the plain, nearly empty hall of the Ukrainian Community Center, a few blocks from the shores of the New York harbor where the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island are clearly visible.

"The companies are covering up too much," said Steelworker Anthony Semeraro, safety chairman of the huge Fairless Works. "I just hope we can expose some of the shennanigans going on."

**"Money is spent to increase productivity," complained UAW Local 1668 President Lou LaPlaca, "but how many people design a plant with safety in mind as well as productivity and efficiency?"**

Witness after witness poured out a grim account of unsafe working conditions which not even the best collective bargaining can overcome and where only one out of four workers are union members. Congress was urged to settle for nothing less than strong legislation

(Continued on page 2)

### WEEKEND WRAPUP

**THE STRUGGLE FOR** the Republican Party conscience was last week's big story in Washington. Moderates wrestled with their souls about what to do about Carswell, the weakest appointment to the Supreme Court in 100 years. "There are a lot of mediocre judges and people and lawyers, and they are entitled to a little representation, aren't they?"—so spoke Sen. Roman Hruska, summing up with remarkable frankness the case for Judge Carswell, who is slipping every hour the debate continues. It will be a close one.

**IF YOU WANT** to make a personal contribution to lowering pollution in the air you can install an anti-pollution gadget on your car which ranges in price anywhere from \$60 to \$300. It will reduce but not eliminate pollution. Mass production, more research, and federal requirements that all of today's 100 million vehicles on the road use such a gadget could immediately make significant impact on the air pollution problem.

**DIAGNOSTIC CENTERS** for cars, according to Michigan's Sen. Phil Hart, cost some \$200,000 to install and take the worry out of car repair. Many consumers never know today what goes wrong with their cars because auto repair work is so slipshod. The automobile is the ultimate in personal freedom and while a lot of environmentalists would like to outlaw cars, our real problem is how to develop a balanced and comprehensive transportation policy including cars, trains, monorails and moving sidewalks all pollution-free.

(Continued on Page 4)

---

**Thousands die or become sick needlessly on their jobs. Strong federal law is the only cure.**

---

(Continued from page 1)

to close the safety gap which sends thousands upon thousands of workers to an early grave.

"I went to a 25 year dinner a few years ago with many retirees who had at least 25 years in the plant," told Steelworker Tony Casone. "The majority of the men there were persons who had been mechanics, who had the free range of the plant. But the men who were working in the production departments, there were very few of them amongst the retirees who were still alive, for whatever significance that is."

Testifying late last year, Consumer Crusader Ralph Nader urged that Congress conduct field hearings to get the views of rank-and-file working people. The Jersey City hearing was the first to be conducted outside of Washington. Others are scheduled for Pittsburgh and South Carolina later this month.

Fred Mann, a UAW local union president from a small factory with only 300 members said: **"I think that if federal legislation were enacted, where everyone is treated the same, then a small company would just have to recognize that this is a cost of doing business, by running their plants in the same safe and healthy way as other people do, and however they meet this obligation would be their business. Anyway, they would not be competitively at a disadvantage if it were federally regulated."**

Mann recently won a loss of hearing workmen's compensation case which he said forced his employer to begin a program to reduce noise levels at his plant. "They have instructed their engineers to look into baffle plates to be hung from the ceilings to eliminate the noise, and so forth." He told the Senate subcommittee that "only economic pressure" will make employers do the right thing.

There was much ridicule made of the National Safety Council programs by many of the witnesses.

Steve Cadena, a Steelworkers staff representative, with tragic sarcasm, dismissed safety awards with these words:

"In our plant we had 2 million hours without a lost time accident. It was not really without lost time. I wouldn't accept the award. I wouldn't let anybody in the local accept the award, because we had people all over the place with broken arms, elbows out of commission, and everything else, and I never did write to the Steelworkers International and accept the plaque.

**"I think it is wrong for the National Safety Council when they do decide to give an award not to see the union and to see if the union believes the plant should get a safety award.**

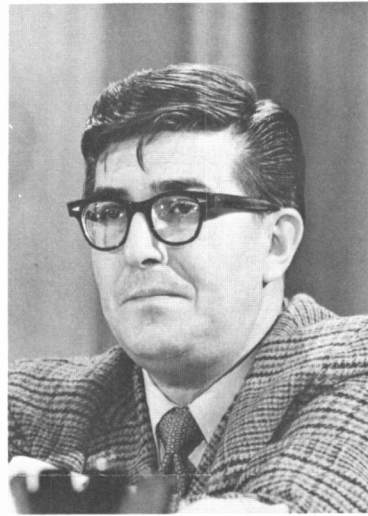
"The Hudson plant had two million hours one time, but it is all walking wounded, and a few years back I said that the Hillside Can Company could be the Hillside Memorial Hospital. They are playing games with our safety reports, and something should be done."

Another steelworker echoed the same complaint about inaccurate safety reporting upon which the national statistics are based:

"In 1968 the company put a big push on for no disabling accidents for one year, to receive an award. They achieved their goal. I have a picture to prove it. I was right there to receive the award. They had a big testimonial dinner. We received a nice, beautiful plaque from the National Safety Council. They came out with

(Continued on Page 3)

**National Safety Council awards are meaningless. Reporting statistics are not reliable on-the-job index.**



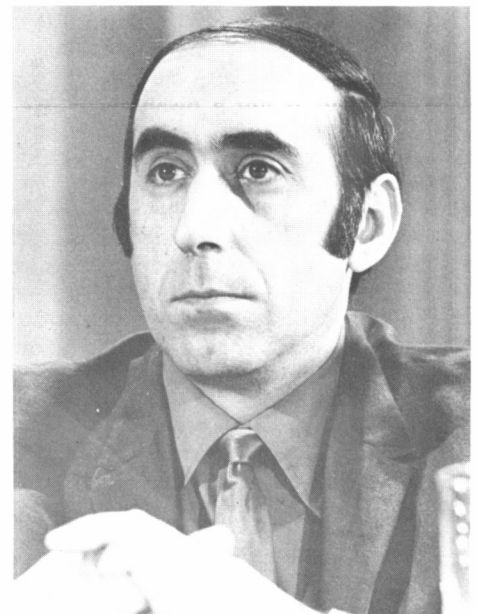
FRED MANN

**"If a company can't run its business efficiently and safely, they don't belong in business."**

---

**"How many people design a plant with safety in mind as well as productivity and efficiency?"**

---



LOU LAPLACA





**WORKERS SPEAK OUT**—That's what happened recently in Jersey City, where the first congressional hearing at the grassroots level heard directly from workers about unsafe and dangerous working conditions. Congress is presently gathering information from workers so that it can write a strong occupational safety and health bill for passage this year.

## Now is the time

If you want Congress to adopt a strong occupational safety and health bill, now is the time to get in touch with your own Congressman. There will be strong pressures to water down the bill, to make it weak. Your own letter or personal visit with your Congressman and your two Senators will emphasize the urgency felt by individual workers about job hazards and pollution on the job.

(Continued from page 2)

all kinds of figures, less than 1.2 disabling injuries, one out of every 1 million man hours.

**"Gentlemen, when we lose a hand in the Fairless Works, this is not a disabling injury. When we break a leg this is not a disabling injury. When we have people literally torn apart, receiving hundreds of stitches, and laying in the dispensary for three days, not to classify it as a lost time accident is a joke."**

The House labor subcommittee last week began marking up a committee bill for approval. Safety and health bills were killed in the latter days of the 90th Congress. The Nixon administration, with the approval of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, is supporting a bill which contains a five-man board to oversee safety standards. Critics contend the Nixon board would delay decisions which are life and death matters to 80 million workers.

**"We hope you will not legislate a bad situation. Don't just legalize what we have. We want some improvements, substantial improvements, and if we don't get a good bill this year, the workers in this country are going to be back year after year until we do get one,"** is how Frank Wallick, UAW Washington legislative representative, put it to Sen. Williams.

"Everybody is talking about the environment. That is the greatest fad we have right now. It is a serious problem.

**"But we have an environmental problem at the work**

**place, and we have in-plant pollution which is as serious as anything people have in the out of doors.**

"We have data running out of our ears on what is wrong with life outside, with smog, and carbon monoxide, and DDT. We don't have a great deal of information about what the problems are where people work, and we hope that any legislation which is written will make that kind of information available."

~~LaPlaca, who is president of a six plant amalgamated local, stressed the point that~~ occupational safety and health "is something that involves the entire community. It involves the family at home."

~~He told of~~ workers whose family life was ruined by job hazards, how the father of a worker killed on the job was driven to suicide and how difficult it is for workers to clean up after working on dirty jobs where dangerous chemicals seep into every pore of their body.

~~He said that~~ young workers are more impatient with bad working conditions than some of the older workers:

**"Most of the old timers are willing to stick to the old cliches that the conditions are conditions of employment or the nature of the beast, but the young people aren't satisfied with this. They want a better life in the plant as well as outside.**

"They spend eight hours a day, one-third of their life, within the plant. For the average person, this would mean about half of their waking hours.

**"The environment is important to them, because the pollutants in the air are much more concentrated, and I think that people have a right to know what they are being subjected to and what effects it will have upon them now or in future."**

Fred Mann, from a smaller local, told Sen. Williams that his own plant had to threaten a strike before his management agreed to clean up certain operations which were causing skin boils. "It could have been accomplished 20 years ago as a matter of right. It shouldn't have had to come to the point of economic pressures."

He told the subcommittee hearing **"a company always takes the position that if you can't do your job, get off it, you don't belong here, and it may sound rather harsh, but I feel the same way, that if a company can't run its business efficiently and safely, they don't belong in the business."**

# WEEKEND WRAPUP

(Continued from Page 1)

**THOUSANDS OF AEROSPACE** workers are out of work while millions are lacking in decent homes. We have the technological capability to build excellent homes on assembly lines, but instead the nation is hungup on trying to bail out a lot of millionaires with new military weaponry with no thought for the consequences to the workers in emptied plants.

**BOMBING AS A WAY** of life has characterized every segment of American society during times of stress. The recent bombings are a terrible sign that groups of people are so mistrustful of the system they are willing to blow up what they cannot convince by logic or votes.

**MORE RESEARCH** is what Nixon is ordering for the education ills of America. There is some evidence mere outlays of more money are not necessarily the answer to failure of schools to teach, but money—lots of it—still counts. The topheavy bureaucracy of many big city school systems is one serious flaw in the educational system. There are thousands of idealistic, competent young people eager to teach, if the system will but give them the channels by which they can do it.

**AN INDEX** for the 1969 UAW Washington Report is now available and will be sent to anybody requesting it.

**THE EXIT OF** Sen. Harry Byrd Jr. from the Democratic Party in Virginia is good news to people who favor realignment of the political parties. A Democratic Study survey on the effects of seniority in the House of Representatives shows that *"one out of three Democratic committee and subcommittee chairmen vote against Democratic programs and against the majority of their Democratic colleagues more frequently than does the average Republican."* In fact, says the DSG, opposition by Democratic chairmen was responsible for half the major defeats suffered by the Democratic majority during the 90th Congress.

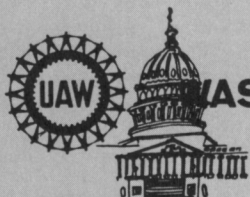
There are only three Democratic chairmen under 60 years of age. The average age is 70 years. Three are in their 80's. *"The seniority system favors members of Congress from static one-party southern districts and safe machine-dominated big-city districts, and tends to deny power to members who represent other sections of the country, especially those sections which are changing and are most politically competitive,"* the DSG states.



DE-ESCALATION

**REPUBLICANS NEED** 30 new GOP seats this fall to gain control of the House of Representatives. Even the most optimistic prophet thinks they'll be lucky to pick up 10 seats. There is a deep rumbling in both Democratic and Republican ranks. Some 19 liberal hotrod Democrats are threatening to vote for a liberal Republican speaker unless the Democratic leadership makes genuine reforms in the committee structure; and several conservative Democrats are making noises they'll vote for a Republican speaker, too.

**CONSERVATIVES WHO** run congressional committees get and use a lot of power which flows from the seniority system, even though they vote against their party on issues. It will be interesting to see if conservative Democrats who thumb their noses at national Democratic policies will bend a little to keep their committee power. There are sure signs of deep revolt breaking out in Congress.



## WASHINGTON REPORT

printed every Friday in Washington, D. C. by UAW Citizenship-Legislative Department

Walter P. Reuther, Chairman  
William H. Dodds, Director  
Frank Wallick, Managing Editor

United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, UAW

UAW Washington Office, 1126 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

### THIS WEEK

Right now is the time for letters to go to Congress supporting on-the-job safety and health

# NEWSPAPER

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE  
PAID AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

MISC 95 961 01  
JORDON U SIMS 79  
571 HARDING AVE  
DETROIT MI 48214



# WASHINGTON REPORT

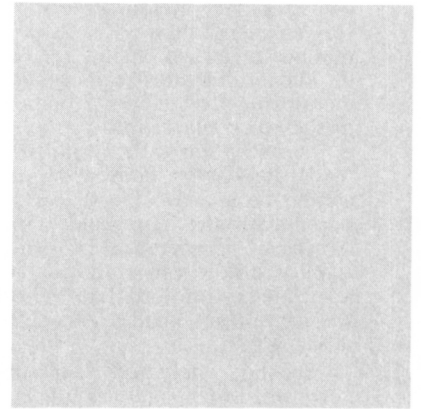
printed every Friday in Washington, D. C.  
by UAW Citizenship-Legislative Department

Vol. 10, No. 16  April 20, 1970

United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, UAW



## In-plant air is danger to health



The air which workers breathe on their jobs is foul and dangerous—much worse than the air outside the plants, and polluted air is bad enough on the outside.

This is what a scientific study made exclusively for the UAW Washington Report discovered in a sample of 681 air quality situations in plants located in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Detroit. The air quality samples were made by state and local safety industrial hygienists and inspectors, and the scientific studies were done by a team of Rockefeller University researchers headed by Glenn Paulson.

The air quality in working environments was many times worse than what is considered bad for the health of city residents who breathe polluted air outside factories.

For sulfur dioxide the average in-plant sample showed 5.6 parts per million when the annual average for bad health effects for city residents is 0.04. The threshold limit value for sulfur dioxide is 5.0, a standard set by a private standard-setting agency for in-plant air.

It is clear from this that factory workers in congested, poorly ventilated work situations must breathe many times the amount of sulfur dioxide which is considered bad for the health of city residents, and the average for the samples taken was higher than permitted by threshold limit values, loose as they are.

The problem of in-plant dust was just as bad as sulfur dioxide. The average found in the working environments tested came to 4.0 milligrams per cubic meter, while the

annual average for serious health effects in city residents is 0.08. The threshold limit values for particulate matter or "inert dust" comes to 15.0—which is many times the amount considered dangerous for city resident breathing outside air, and which points up the deficiencies of the threshold limit values.

The study shows "that for an appreciable fraction of the time the air in the environments sampled is more polluted than it should be, based on the threshold limit values. This is well shown by the data for sulfur dioxide, lead, coal tar and oil mist, where the average value of all samples exceeded the threshold limit values."

The study was made part of the UAW testimony in support of a strong occupational safety and health bill. It was presented during the second field hearings conducted

(Continued on Page 2)

### The 22nd UAW convention and the Washington Report

Some 3300 delegates and alternates are meeting in Atlantic City, New Jersey, this week for the 22nd constitutional convention of the UAW.

The weekly UAW Washington Report goes to more than 50,000 leaders of the UAW to alert them to upcoming issues and votes in our federal government.

This newsletter also goes to every member of the U.S. Congress, to many opinion leaders in Washington, and to friends of the UAW throughout the United States who work with our union in progressive endeavors.



(Continued from Page 1)

by the Senate labor subcommittee in Duquense, Pennsylvania on April 10, 1970.

The UAW testimony called for the right of workers and their unions to conduct frequent air samples where workers work and for disinterested testing and re-testing of the toxic effects of everything workers breathe, touch, see and hear.

Results of the special study follows:

"This is an analysis of data provided to us by the United Auto Workers concerning the quality of the air in several working environments in the United States. The original data was gathered by (1) the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene, City of Detroit, (2) the Department of Health, State of New Jersey and (3) the Division of Occupational Health, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

"Our analysis is summarized in the table titled Industrial Air Quality. A few general points should be made concerning this table.

"First, in our opinion, for several contaminants there were too few measurements to provide an adequate basis for analysis; these are listed below the table with the number of measurements for each in parentheses. This lack of data illustrates the general principle that adequate monitoring for such environmental contaminants, especially in the work place, but also in the environment as a whole, is the exception rather than the rule. Ideally for the work place daily eight hour averages, not just random samples, should be available so that exposures can be directly compared with the Threshold Limit Values arrived at by the American Conference of Governmental Hygienists. This is particularly important for contaminants that have been associated with long-term effects at low exposure levels, such as sulfur dioxide, lead, sulfuric acid, asbestos and other dusts, etc.

"Second, where sufficient samples were available for our purposes, **some samples of every pollutant exceeded the Threshold Limit Value**; the number of samples exceeding this value ranged from 91% for coal tar down to 8% for particulate matter ("inert dust"). Since the data were not from eight hour samples, direct conclusions on the average air quality for a complete work shift are not possible. However, these data definitely indicate that for an appreciable fraction of the time the air in the environments sampled is more polluted than it should be, based on the Threshold Limit Values.

**This is well shown by the data for sulfur dioxide, lead, coal tar, and oil mist, where the average value of all samples exceeded the Threshold Limit Value.**

"For several others (zinc oxide, iron oxide and sulfuric acid), the average of all samples was within 25% of the Threshold Limit Value.

"Third, it is interesting to compare both the measured levels and Threshold Limit Values of sulfur dioxide and particulate matter ("inert dust") in the working environment with those levels shown, from studies of urban air, to be associated with adverse effects on human health in urban residents. (The values in the third column below were derived from the appropriate Air Quality Criteria Documents published by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.)

	Sulfur Dioxide	Particulate Matter ("Inert Dust")
Average in the Working Environments Tested	5.6 parts per million	4.0 milligrams per cubic meter
Threshold Limited Value (for eight hours)	5.0 parts per million	15.0 milligrams per cubic meter
Annual Average for Health Effects in City Residents	0.04 parts per million	0.08 milligrams per cubic meter

The great disparity between the second and third columns above cannot be accounted for merely by the difference between an eight hour per day, five day per week working exposure and a twenty-four hour per day, seven day per week urban exposure. In addition, of course, many workers are also urban dwellers potentially receiving both exposures.

"Fourth, the reader will note that "inert dust" is always in quotation marks. The reason for this is that **no dust that enters the lungs can be considered biologically inert**; it is rather that some dusts are more toxic than others.

"Inert dusts" are merely those of which no specific toxic effects have yet been noted in detail. The history of such matters indicates that as time goes on, certain dusts presently thought to be "inert" will reveal themselves to have toxic effects, and that certain dust levels thought to be "safe" at this moment will be shown to be unhealthy. This has been illustrated by the gradual unveiling of the long-term effects of exposure to asbestos dust, and by the accumulation of knowledge regarding the biological effects of carbon monoxide.

"A recent survey carried out under the auspices of the Public Health Service in Chicago indicated that approximately one-third of the workers "are potentially at risk by being exposed to an apparently hazardous work environment." (1) This analysis of sampling data from factories in several parts of the United States reaffirms this conclusion."

Glenn L. Paulson  
William L. R. Cruce  
6 April 1970

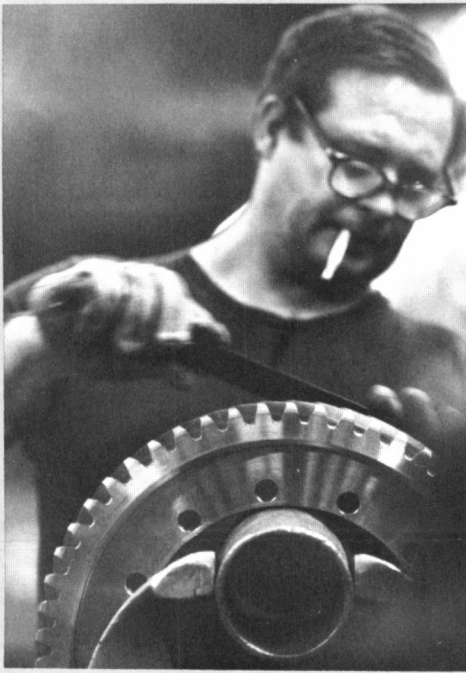
(1) "An Occupational Health Survey of an Urban Area," paper given by C. Dean McClure, M.D., Dr. P.H., at the Section of Environmental Medicine, New York Academy of Sciences, October 1, 1969.

INDUSTRIAL AIR QUALITY							
How Workers in 681 Factory Situations Breathe Dangerous Levels of In-Plant Pollution	Pollutant	No. of Samples	Aver. of Samples <sup>1</sup>	TLV <sup>2</sup>	Samples Greater than TLV <sup>2</sup>	Range <sup>3</sup>	
	Sulfur dioxide	22	5.6 ppm	5.0 ppm	36%	ND-40	ppm
	Lead	307	0.59 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	0.2 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	46%	ND-37	mg/m <sup>3</sup>
	Coal tar	158	1.85 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	0.2 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	91%	ND-14.7	mg/m <sup>3</sup>
	Zinc oxide	83	3.8 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	5.0 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	22%	0.01-46	mg/m <sup>3</sup>
	Iron oxide	44	8.8 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	10.0 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	23%	0.01-104	mg/m <sup>3</sup>
	Sulfuric acid	16	0.9 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	1.0 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	44%	0.02-2.0	mg/m <sup>3</sup>
	Oil mist	27	35.6 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	5.0 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	37%	0.07-269	mg/m <sup>3</sup>
	Particulate matter ("inert dust") such as asbestos and foundry dust	24	4.0 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	15.0 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	8%	0.14-44	mg/m <sup>3</sup>
	Silica dust	39	18. mppcf	50.0 mppcf	11%	0.1-205	mppcf

**Footnotes**

- Units used: ppm = parts per million  
mg/m<sup>3</sup> = milligrams per cubic meter  
mppcf = million particles per cubic foot
- TLV = Threshold Limit Value, based on the 1966 edition of Documentation of Threshold Limit Values, American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists
- ND = Not Detected

The contaminants for which there were too few samples to give accurate statistics were iron (4 samples), nickel (9), acrylonitrile (4), cobalt (3), manganese (5), chromate (6), nitroglycerin (8), and HBF<sub>4</sub> (1). The data used in the above analysis were obtained from studies done in Detroit, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.



# 'Forgotten Americans'

## *Frustrated U.S. workers growl louder*

By Richard L. Strout  
Staff correspondent of  
The Christian Science Monitor

Washington

The so-called "forgotten American," beloved of politicians, is trying to catch up with inflation and is hopping mad. His truculent mood has produced postal, airline, and railroad industrial strife so far, and there is a long queue of other contract negotiations. It stretches all through 1970. In the present hairline balance between inflation and recession in America it is a factor that cannot be ignored.

The belligerent mood of workers rises from the feeling of being neglected. They vaguely feel that corporations have made profits; that politicians have raised their own salaries, and that they have been falling behind. To some degree, anyway, this is true.

### Congressional increases

1. Corporate profits after taxes. This figure rose from \$47.3 billion in 1967 to \$50.8 billion for 1969. The clerk or mechanic may not read the statistics of the Department of Commerce but, for the term of his two-year bargaining contract, notes that industry was doing quite well.

2. Dividends to shareholders. Again the figures show a boom till recent days. The stream of dividends to shareholders (after corporate profits) rose 1967-1969 from \$21.5 billion to \$24.6 billion. For the affluent who owned shares, this was a comfortable boost,

even though inflation was lowering the value of the dollar.

3. Simultaneously, politicians were raising their own salaries. Congress boosted its pay from \$30,000 to \$42,000 (40 percent) and increased the vice-presidential pay by a slightly larger percentage. It raised the President's salary \$100,000 a year (100 percent increase).

The worker on the assembly line did not necessarily begrudge these increases. Messrs. Nixon and Agnew had nothing to do with them, incidentally, for they were voted by the 69th Congress. On the other hand, the figures took symbolic meaning.

Indeed, Dr. Arthur F. Burns, while presidential adviser, recommended a voluntary cut of 10 percent by President and Cabinet as an example of sacrifice, and George Romney, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and always the evangelist, at a Cabinet meeting proposed a 25 percent cut. The Romney recommendation dropped without a sound.

These are the standards against which, rightly or wrongly, many workers measure themselves.

It is an economic rule that the wage earner falls behind in an inflation.

The blue-collar and middle-income worker and low-paid professional are the "forgotten man" to whom President Nixon and others have been making their appeal (incomes, say, from \$7,000-\$14,000).

4. Workers' earnings have sometimes lagged.

Many workers find the cost of living

makes it harder to make both ends meet despite pay increases. Official figures tell the story. Using dollars of fixed purchasing power (pegged against 1967-69 prices) the average worker in manufacturing with three dependents had average weekly spendable earnings in 1965 of \$88.06.

("Spendable earnings" mean after income taxes and social security were subtracted). But for 1967 this had dropped to \$87.07. For 1969 it was still below the 1965 figure, at \$87.27.

It is this feeling of running hard and staying in the same place that precipitates present labor turbulence.

Economists feel it would be nice if workers would go slow for a while until inflation is under control. Indeed, President Nixon wants to postpone a pending increase in federal salaries and has based his razor-thin budget balance on this proposal.

Prospect is, however, that a million or so federal workers, like the mailmen, won't wait and will have the support of Congress.

Cost of living was up 2.8 percent in 1967; 4.2 percent in 1968; 5.4 percent last year, and is presently increasing by about 6 percent.

Major pending wage contract agreements loom ahead. Some of them:

Trucking, 450,000 workers (contract expires March 31); Westinghouse, 80,000 workers; construction workers, 1,000,000, bargaining this spring; rubber workers, 70,000, late April; meat packers, 75,000, September; auto workers, 600,000, Sept. 14; farm-equipment workers, 100,000, next fall.



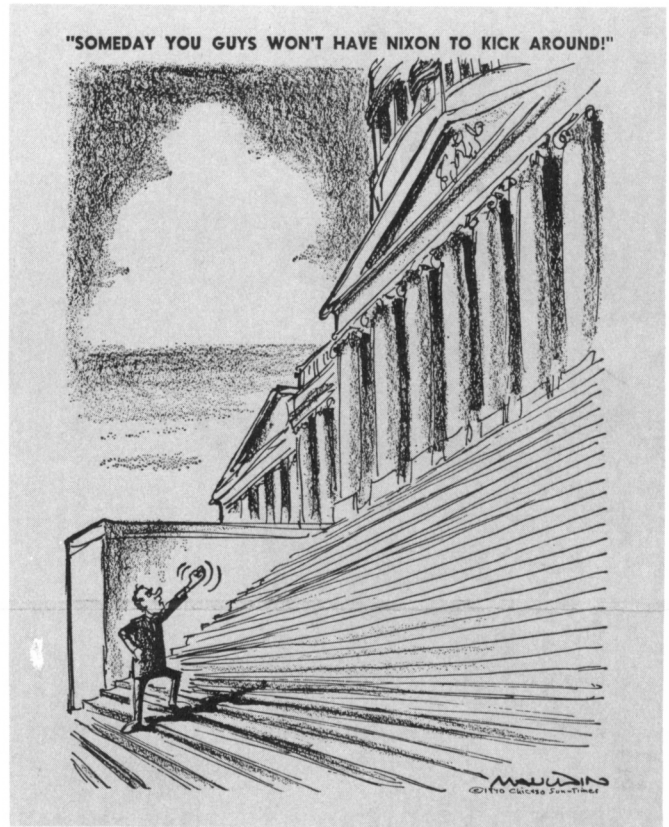
# WEEKEND WRAPUP

**MEAN AND NASTY.** There's an ugly mood in Washington these days. President Nixon's temper tantrum after the Carswell defeat shocked and embittered a lot of Republicans who felt conscience-bound to vote the Carswell nomination down. Now the get-Justice-Douglas impeachment move adds to the bitterness. There's never been a time when Americans needed more faith in their institutions than now, but the heavyhanded behavior of Attorney-General Mitchell, which seems to be rubbing off on Nixon himself, is creating a savage kind of polarization in the nation. Forward together, indeed.

**MITCHELL WILL GO.** Most observers think that the Justice Department will have new faces within a year. Attorney-General Mitchell sold municipal bonds before he came to Washington and while he was the political manager for the Nixon campaign in 1968, he had virtually no real contact with the politics of give-and-take. He seems determined to barge headlong into ideological confrontations with members of his own party—and the sparks do fly.

**PAT ON THE WRIST.** Nobody could avoid noting how that overturned school bus in Lamar, South Carolina, elicited a pat on the wrist from underlings, but the Carswell defeat brought on hot-tempered words from the President on prime TV time. Nor did the Nixon Administration say anything about crime in the streets when Gov. Kirk of Florida was defying court orders rights and left. And then we have David Eisenhower's word that if he said anything about Carswell it would be stronger than anything said by Martha Mitchell.

**WATER STEAL.** Rich farm owners like Southern Pacific Railroad, Standard Oil and other corporate giants have gotten richer by openly violating the land reclamation laws in California which limit federal water rights to family farmers operating farms of 160 acres or less. The water is worth its weight in gold almost and is heavily subsidized by the federal government. A law dating back to 1902 states that federal water rights can only be used by small farmers, but the law has been openly and brazenly violated. Violated by some of the most sanctimonious corporations in the nation, who belabor students and workers for



threatening private property. Now a move is afoot to change the law so the rich can continue to get rich legally. Interior Secretary Udall managed to keep the corporate farmers at bay, although he was under heavy pressure to cave in and he never satisfied the tough adherents to the 160-acre limit such as Prof. Paul Taylor of the University of California at Berkeley. You can now look for such champions of the downtrodden as Senators Murphy of California, Tower of Texas, Fannin of Arizona, and Hansen of Wyoming to gut the law which legally confines federal water rights to family-sized farmers. A 160-acre farm intensively farmed with irrigation water is still a productive operation—but the corporate gluttons in California want the American taxpayer to help them stay rich and get richer still.



## WASHINGTON REPORT

printed every Friday in Washington, D.C. by UAW Citizenship-Legislative Department

Walter P. Reuther, Chairman  
William H. Dodds, Director  
Frank Wallick, Managing Editor

United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, UAW

UAW Washington Office, 1126 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

### THIS WEEK

The 1970 UAW  
CAP Dollar Drive

# NEWSPAPER

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE  
PAID AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

Handwritten numbers:  
361  
147.00  
132.00  
152.00

MISC 95 961 01  
JORDON U SIMS 79  
571 HARDING AVE  
DETROIT MI 48214