

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 5 OF 16

FOLDER 34

METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL
OPEIU AFL CIO LOCAL 42

METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL WORKERS NEED YOUR HELP

Unless management changes its position, the Metropolitan Hospital unit of OPEIU, Local 42, AFL-CIO will go on strike on April 15, 1975. Management refuses to bargain in good faith and in the face of skyrocketing inflation, management is asking us to take less than we had 2 years ago. WE WANT YOU TO HELP US WIN OUR RIGHTEOUS DEMANDS. But we must explain our strike so you will understand why we want and need your help.

Hospital workers rarely go on strike. When we do, the press attacks us mercilessly. A strike is tough on us because we want to service our fellow working people much more than management does. But we have needs too. Our wages are so low that in order to survive we must strike.

Metropolitan Hospital faces an additional problem. Its Board of Directors is dominated and controlled by UAW officials, such as Emil Mazey and John Bateman. They show little concern for us and little for their own rank and file workers.

Most UAW bureaucrats are making more than \$20,000.00 per year. They have lost any contact with people who have to scrap to stay alive. One of our most important demands is continued medical care for laid off industrial workers and they will not even talk to us about this demand which involves the protection of destitute UAW workers. We want freedom to distribute union literature and have meetings on hospital grounds. Now Emil ought to understand this basic union demand but he refuses to allow it to be discussed.

Hospital workers are fighting to take their working conditions out of the dark ages. Our righteous demands have come of age. We have been some of the lowest paid workers in this country. Why are women and national minorities given these jobs? Because we had no other choice. We were excluded from the better paying jobs. Well we are fighting back, we demand our rights too. This is happening all over the country. Everywhere, hospital workers are saying they are fed up with these terrible conditions. Now we are governed by the National Labor Relations Board. It was given "jurisdiction" over us when the states could not handle us. The NLRB is designed to keep labor peace mostly at our expense. But we hospital workers are a tender box waiting to explode and we will not be held back so they can keep to peace.

What do we want? We want what we should have gotten years ago. No speed up, better wages, sick and accident benefits, holiday pay, health care for laid off workers who by and large are our husbands, and the right of free speech and assembly.

All hospitals are grossly understaffed and their workers terribly underpaid. That means the patients suffer. With speed-up and lay-offs, we can't give good care. So our demands are a part of the general demands of the working conditions for decent living conditions.

We have struggled for many years to break down the divisions within us. Whites and Blacks, women and men all stand united in this just strike.

We want patients, other workers, other hospital workers to join us in our fight to obtain better working conditions which means better health care for working people.

We need your help:

For further information call Lindsey recording secretary of the bargaining committee--

Join us on our picket line starting April 15 at Metropolitan Hospital, 1800 Tuxedo Ave., Detroit, or at Connor Health Clinic 4401 Connor or at Wyoming Health Center 7701 Wyoming, Dearborn, and Metropolitan Hospital West, 28303 Joy Road, Westland. Tell other workers about our strike. Inform yourself of the plight of hospital workers.

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