

# DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 7 OF 16

FOLDER 24

RANK AND FILE CAUCUS

LABORERS LOCAL 261 S F-

" EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE " - - RADIO AD WHY ? ?

Some members of Local 261 have asked members of the Rank and File Caucus : " Who will you vote for in the elections ? " ALL who have asked have been told told that a vote is worse than useless. It is like appealing to a judge for a soft rope because you have a boil on your neck. In any event you are going to be hung. By the Democrats from a low tree behind the barn or by the Republicans from a high limb in public where all can see the victim.

Let's look at the positions of the candidates on the most popular single issue : war and peace. Both say they are for peace in Vietnam but the real fact of life is that there will be no peace because new Vietnams are developing in the Philippines, Thailand and the Middle East. Neither Nixon nor McGovern wants to discuss these developing wars of national liberation from U.S.N.A. Imperialism.

In 1961 President John F. Kennedy, another in a long line of great white fathers, committed 15,000 military advisors to President Diem of South Vietnam for the purpose of containing the brush fire" of national liberation. This "brush fire" ultimately consumed millions of Vietnamese and hundreds of thousands of G.I.s. Now, eleven years later fifty US advisors are committed in the field in the Philippines. US planes from Clark Air Base piloted by Filipino pilots dropped napalm in Isabella province on national liberation forces. Neither Nixon nor McGovern will discuss this matter about which they receive "official briefings" every day. Why ?

McGovern calls President Thieu of South Vietnam "a tin horn dictator". But he is strangely silent about other dictators paid, packaged and propped up by the United States of North America. Some of these fascist dictators are Park Chung Hee of South Korea, Kittachorn of Thailand, where both Nixon and McGovern are openly committed to keeping troops and air bases; and Marcos of the Philippines. All of these dictators have been established with a cloak of "legality" as was the mass murderer Adolph Hitler.

In the Middle East both candidates are in favor of almost unlimited military support of "democratic" Israel to protect US oil interests. In spite of all these factors which point to more wars very soon, McGovern calls himself "a man of peace and Nixon calls for a "generation of peace". Why ?

Let us take a scrutinizing squint at the home front and particularly at the wage "price" freeze. This was first suggested by "liberal" economists under John F. Kennedy. It was passed through congress by Democrats by a substantial majority vote. Nixon imposed it and the only squawk from McGovern was that Nixon might have controlled profits better. He never said it very loud, and it happened in the south pasture of his ranch up in South Dakota.

You want to know the real McGovern ? Here is an item from the New York Times, July 2, 1972 entitled " Not Radical Economics Via McGovern!" It states, " The economist for a major American business group and the head of a big mutual fund organization said at an international gathering today that they did not see radical economic changes in store for the US if George McGovern was elected President". So what McGovern has been saying can be stated in one word : BULLSHIT ! !

McGovern has been repeatedly elected in South Dakota, a state which has been notorious for low wages and anti-labor activity. Keep this in mind when you consider that his program for full employment is to force welfare recipients to work. If we will let George do it, he proposes a program to buy up potential revolutionary elements by having programs similar to our "famed" mini park\* swindle. Can't you see our officials like Johnson, Evankovich and Luster drooling? McGovern wants his job programs administered by trade union leaders. Remember the \$250,000 Reverend Wilbur Hamilton mini park\* at the corner of Fulton and Buchanan ? If you don't, don't look now, it disappeared.

One of our biggest domestic problems in the USNA is the mass use of drugs by young people. This is an acute problem in all of our carefully planned ghettos. President Nixon has full knowledge that all these dictators, Thieu, Marcos, Kittachorn and Park are aggressively encouraging this trade. This came out in a recent CIA report but again Nixon and McGovern are strangely silent. A matter of principle, of course.

McGovern calls for the rights of the "little man" against the rich. Nixon calls for a " new American revolution" and "power to the people". Long ago the Indians noted the tendency of the politicians to speak with a "forked tongue". More immediately, the Sioux Indians at Pine Ridge, South Dakota know that McGovern has neverdone anything for them except assist their exploitation.

It is especially clear now to the capitalist class that their shell game is coming to an end. Conditions are getting worse and there is dissatisfaction everywhere, especially among the most exploited and oppressed. Particularly among the Black, Brown, Indian



Políticos de todas las nacionalidades- Willie Brown y Ron Dellums, minorías nacionales negras, y Bob Gonzales, minoría nacional mexicana- todos ellos entienden que el apoyo que ellos consiguen esta directamente ligado y depende de como sirvan a la clase capitalista, asi que ellos tienen que confundir las cosas y seguir la senda del popular sentimiento rebelde dentro de "canales legítimos". Esta es la razón para las discusiones acerca de "los derechos del pueblo" y practicamente nada en concreto se efectua. Willie Brown estuvo haciendo sus "peticiones emocionales" y "peleando por su gente" mientras Filmore estaba siendo destruido. Frases como "derechos del pueblo" solamente oscurecen los programas para en forzar el estado, escurrir y explotar a la clase trabajadora. Esto es pseudo-populismo y fascismo disimulado.

Que es pseudo-populismo? Populismo es una apelación emocional a los mejores instintos y a los peores prejuicios de las masas. Un buen ejemplo es un "liberal" como Edward Kennedy quien diria "Por que debe un pobre hombre pelear las guerras de los ricos" Por que este hombre nos dice que tenemos que pelear en contra de él? O como Wallace que pelea por "el hombre común y corriente" en contra de los grandes banqueros mientras el pone los salarios de su estado entre los más bajos de la nación.

No ha habido ningun gobierno fascista que ha llegado al poder abiertamente, Ellos siempre usan pseudo-populismo. Hitler estuvo en favor del pueblo y en contra de los monopolios. El decía que era "socialista" y que queria una "revolución". Mussolini actualmente marchaba en Roma bajo la bandera de la dictadura del proletariado, control total del estado por la clase trabajadora. Huey Long dice "compartan las riquezas" mientras extermina toda oposición hacia su gobierno. Aqui no más en el 261, nosotros hemos oído a Abel Gonzales usar el una vez revolucionaria frase "unidos venceremos". Verdaderamente el queria decir venceremos cuando ayudo a debilitar nuestra unión por medio de hechar a pelear una minoría nacional en contra de la otra? Que otra cosa podría ser esto más que fascismo para debilitar la única organización que nosotros tenemos y ponernos a pelear el uno en contra del otro?

Que hacer? Como primer paso tenemos que deshacernos de todas ilusiones acerca de la naturaleza de este país. Siempre hemos vivido en una sociedad controlada por una clase capitalista desde los días de "los padres fundadores" quienes todos eran capitalistas. El único líder del proletariado en la revolucion de 1776 fue Thomas Paine y fue retirado tan pronto y como George Washington y Benjamin Franklin pudieron retirarlo. Según ellos Paine era "grosero y de maneras enfermizas" de acuerdo a estos explotadores de esclavos. Si Paine hubiera sido negro hubiera terminado en la horca.

La clase trabajadora hoy en día tiene y posee una ciencia que ha sido escrita para el beneficio de ellos. Los autores son grandes líderes que han probado en practica que es lo que tiene que ser hecho. Sus nombres son Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Tse Tung. Nada se enseña en las escuelas acerca de ellos y sus nombres han sido constantemente calumniados por los llamado "amigos" y también por enemigos. Pero a pesar de todo la verdad sigue saliendo a luz, que estos hombre hicieron más por el gran beneficio de las masas que ningun otro grupo de personas han hecho desde el comienzo de la historia humana.

Estamos temerosos de la verdad? La respuesta a esta pregunta debe de venir solamente de nosotros mismos, por que si esperamos demasiado, fascismo sera impuesto sobre nosotros por la clase capitalista de los E.U.N. Entonces seremos herramientas de trabajo, y se nos sera impuesto cuanto tiempo tendremos que trabajar y esto sera para el exclusivo beneficio de la clase capitalista. Una de las primera tareas de Hitler fue confiscar los fondos para pensiones de las uniones para el uso exclusivo de la clase capitalista. Este es un record de historia el cual no puede ser refutado. Miles de líderes de uniones y trabajadores fueron asesinados y torturados, las uniones fueron disueltas dentro del Frente Aleman Obrero, dirigido por la clase capitalista.

Lo mismo puede pasar a qui. Ambos, Nixon y Mc Govern, estan levantando los fundamentos para fascismo por medio de hablar populismo, pero implementando controles mas estrictos. Fascismo puede solamente ser derrotado por medio de una agresiva acción política por la entera clase trabajadora para resistir guerras coloniales aqui. Esta resistencia solo puede ser efectiva si es una resistencia organizada. Solamente un partido de la clase trabajadora levantado en una base multinacional (Negros, mexicanos, latinos, asiáticos, indios, árabes y trabajadores angloamericanos opresos) Este partido tiene que ser dirigido por los trabajadores más opresos, no por los capitalistas, porque solamente ellos pueden traer trabajadores a conciencia de ellos mismos como clase, una clase que puede ser unida. La cual puede pelear por sus propias demandas políticas y finalmente tomar el estado y el poder político.

Rank & File 261  
Noviembre 1, 1972.

NO VOTE, TODOS ELLOS SON LA MIMA COSA.  
LEVANTEMOS UN PARTIDO UNIDO MULTINACIONAL  
DE LA CLASE TRABAJADORA.



and Asian workers, employed and unemployed, who are the "last hired and first fired". The consciousness of class conflict is rapidly rising in these sectors and more slowly among Anglo workers.

Politicians of all nationalities - Willie Brown and Ron Dellums, Negro national minorities, and Bob Gonzales, Mexican national minorities - all understand that their support is tied directly to how well they serve the capitalist class. So they have to confuse the issue and side track the rebellious popular sentiment into "legitimate channels". That's the reason for the endless rhetoric about "people's rights" and practically nothing in concrete accomplishments. Willie Brown was making his "emotional appeals" and "fighting for his people" while the Fillmore was blitzed. Phrases like "people's rights" only obscure the programs to strengthen the state and squeeze the Working Class harder. This is phony populism in disguise.

What is phony populism? Populism is an emotional appeal to the better instincts and worst prejudices of the masses. A good example is a "liberal" like Edward Kennedy who could say with a straight face, "Why should a poor man fight a rich man's war?" Why does this man tell us that we have to fight him? Or Wallace who fights for the "common man" against the Wall Street bankers while he keeps wages in his state next to the lowest in the nation.

Fascism and populism always go hand in hand. The capitalists know that "You can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time". They just want to fool the working class long enough - until they have gotten complete control. They keep the issue confused and vague while they step by step prepare their attacks on the working class.

No fascist government ever came to power openly. They always resorted to phony populism. Hitler was for the people and against the monopolies. He said he was a "socialist" and called for a "revolution". Mussolini actually marched on Rome under the banner of the dictatorship of the proletariat, total control of the state for the working class. Huey Long said, "Share the Wealth", while he wiped out all his opposition. Right here in 261, we have seen Abel Gonzales use the once revolutionary phrase "Unidos Venceremos" (Together, we will win). Did he mean "we will win" when he helped weaken our union when he pitted one national minority against the other? What else is this but fascism to weaken the only organization we have and set us fighting each other?

What is to be done? As a first step we are going to have to get rid of all illusions about the nature of our country. We have always lived in a society controlled by a capitalist class since the days of our "Founding Fathers" who were all capitalists or slave owners. The only proletarian leader of the Revolution of 1776 was Thomas Paine and he was booted out as quickly as George Washington and Ben Franklin could get the job done. He was "uncouth and ill mannered" according to these exploiters of slaves and wage slaves. If Paine had been black, he would have been shot.

The working class today has a science which has been written for their sole benefit. The authors are all great leaders who have proved in practice what has to be done. Their names are Marx, Engles, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tse-tung. Nothing is taught in our schools about them (because the capitalists control the schools) and their names have been constantly slandered by so called "friends" and foes. This science teaches the working class how to organize and how to attack the capitalists. It can be applied to the international political situation and also to 261. Because it is a science, it is bound to lead to results. Despite everything the truth keeps coming out that these men accomplished more for the greater benefit of the masses than any other five men in history.

Are we afraid of the truth? The answer must come from us alone because if we wait too long, fascism will be imposed on us by the capitalist class of the U.S.A. We will then be told where to work, how long to work and this will be for the exclusive benefit of one class - the capitalist class. One of Hitler's first tasks was to confiscate the union pension funds and treasuries for the exclusive use of the capitalist class. This is the record of history which cannot be refuted. Thousands of union leaders and workers were killed and tortured and unions were dissolved into the German Labor Front, whose leaders were capitalists.

The same can happen here. Both Nixon and McGovern are now setting the foundations for fascism by talking populism, but implementing tighter controls. Fascism can be defeated only by aggressive political action by the entire working class, organized to resist colonial wars and fascist actions here. Resistance can only be effective if it is organized. Only a United Workers Party built on a multinational basis (Black, Brown, Asian, Indian, Arab and oppressed Anglo-American workers). This party must be led by the most oppressed workers because only they can unite all workers and bring the workers to the consciousness of themselves as a class of millions of people, all with the same problem. Only this party can fight for the demands of the working class and finally take state political power.

Rank & File Caucus 261  
November 3, 1972

DON'T VOTE - THEY'RE ALL THE SAME!!  
BUILD A MULTINATIONAL WORKING CLASS PARTY!!!



"Ejercite su derecho de votar" Anuncio radial. Por qué?

Algunos miembros del Local 261 han preguntado a miembros del Rank & File: Por quién votarán en las próximas elecciones? A todos los que han preguntado esto se les ha dicho que votar no tiene ningún sentido. Es como apelar ante un juez por una cuerda más suave para que cuando nos ahorquen no nos lastimen el cuello. Ya que de todas maneras seremos colgados. Por los Demócratas, de un árbol detras del granero o por los Republicanos de un cadalso público donde todos puedan ver a la víctima..

Veamos las posiciones de los candidatos en el más popular evento: Guerra y Paz. Ambos partidos dicen que ellos desean paz en Vietnam pero la verdad es que no habrá paz ya que nuevos Vietnams se estan desarrollando en la Filipinas, Tailandia y Oriente Medio. Ni Nixon ni Mc Govern quieren discutir estas guerras de liberación que se estan llevando a cabo en contra del imperialismo de los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica.

En 1961, el presidente John F. Kennedy, otro de los muchos "grandes padres blancos", facilitó al Presidente de Vietnam del Sur, 15000 consejeros militares para el propósito de parar la "cortina de fuego" de liberación nacional. Esta "cortina de fuego" ultimamente consumió millones de vietnamitas y miles de G.I.S. Ahora, quince años despues, 50 consejeros militares son facilitados a las Filipinas. Aviones de los E.E.U.U. despegaron de la base aerea Clark piloteados por filipinos, dejaron caer bombas incendiarias (napalm) en la provincia Isabela, sobre fuerzas de liberación. Ni Nixon ni Mc Govern discutiran este hecho acerca del cual ellos reciben "breves reportes oficiales" a diario. Por qué?

Mc Govern llama al presidente Thieu, de Vietnam del Sur, "Dictador Mediocre" Pero el esta extrañamente silencioso acerca de otros dictadores pagados, empacados en los E.U.N. y propiedad del gobierno. Alguno de estos dictadores fascistas son Parck Chung Hee de Corea del Sur, Kittachorn de Tailandia; Nixon y Mc Govern abiertamente acordaron guardar a las tropas, a las bases aereas y a Marcos en las Filipinas. Todos estos dictadores han sido establecidos con una capa de "legalidad" como fue el criminal Adolfo Hitler.

En el Oriente Medio ambos candidatos estan en favor de un casi ilimitado apoyo militar para el "Demócrata" Israel, para proteger los intereses petroleros de los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica. A pesar de todos estos factores los cuales señalan más guerras muy pronto, Mc Govern se hace llamar un "hombre de paz" y Nixon llama por una "generación de paz" Por qué?

Escudriñemos un poco acerca de lo que pasa en este país, particularmente con la congelación de salarios y "precios". Esto fue sugerido primeramente por economistas "liberales" bajo la administración de John F. Kennedy. La sugerencia fue pasada al congreso por los demócratas por un voto sustancial de la mayoría. Nixon la impuso y grito de Mc Govern fue que Nixon pudiera haber controlado las ganancias mejor. El nunca lo dijo en voz alta, esto paso en los pastos del Sur en su rancho en Dakota del Sur.

Quieren conocer al verdadero Mc Govern? Aqui ponemos un artículo del New York Times, Julio 2, 1972 titulado "No radicales cambios en economía via Mc Govern" el cual versa "Los economistas de uno de los mayores grupos de Negocios y el presidente de una de una gran organización de fondos mutuos dijo hoy en una conferencia internacional que ellos no miraban cambios radicales en la economía si el senador Mc Govern era electo presidente" Asi que lo que Mc Govern ha estado diciendo puede ser resumido en una sola palabra: Pendejadas.

Mc Govern ha sido repetidamente electo en Dakota de Sur, un estado que ha sido notorio por sus bajos salarios y actividades anti-obreras. Recuerden, cuando consideren que el programa de Mc Govern de promesas de trabajo para todos es para obligar a beneficiarios de Asistencia Social (welfare) a ir a trabajar. Si nosotros le dejamos hacerlo, se propone un programa para comprar elementos revolucionarios potenciales por medio de programas similares a nuestro "famoso" fraude del Mini Park. No pueden Uds. ver a nuestros oficiales Johnson, Evankovich y Luster babeandose? Mc Govern quiere que sus programas de trabajo sean administrados por líderes de Sindicatos de Comercio (Trade Union).. Recuerdan los \$250,000 del mimi park del reverendo Wilbur Hamilton en la esquina de Buchanan y Fulton? Si Uds. no lo recuerdan, no miren ahora, desapareció.

Uno de los mas grandes problemas domésticos en los E.U.N. es el uso masivo que hacen los jovenes de las drogas. Este es un problema agudo en todos nuestros bien planeados gettos. El presidente Nixon tiene pleno conocimiento de que todos estos dictadores, Thieu, Marcos, Kittachorn y Park, estan agresivamente apoyando el tráfico de drogas. Esto salió a la luz en un reporte hecho recientemente por la C.I.A., pero de nuevo Nixon y Mc Govern estan extrañamente silenciosos. Es una cuestión de principios desde luego!!

Mc Govern llama por los "derechos" del "hombre pobre" en contra del rico. Nixon llama por "una nueva revolución americana" y "poder para la gente". Hace mucho tiempo los indios notaron la tendencia de los políticos de hablar con una "lengua torcida" Mas inmediatamente los indios Sioux en Pine Rodge, Dakota del Sur, saben que Mc Govern nunca ha hecho nada por ellos, ecepto asistir en la explotación de que son victimas.

Ahora es especialmente claro para la clase capitalista que su concha de juegos esta llegando a su fin. Las condiciones estan empeorando y el descontento esta por doquier, especialmente entre los más opresos y explotados. Particularmente entre los negros, mexicanos latinos, indios y trabajadores asiáticos, empleados o desempleados, los cuales son los últimos en conseguir empleo y los primeros en ser despedidos. El conflicto de conciencia de clases esta creciendo rapidamente en estos sectores que entre los trabajadores angloamericanos..



## EXAMINER ATTACKS STREETSWEEPERS

William O'Brien, current heir to the great S.F. tradition of ace Examiner reporter Robert Patterson, wrote a lengthy "Examiner Report" entitled "Our Dirty Streets" for Monday's edition. O'Brien left that paradigm of rectitude and cleanliness, the city newsroom, and descended to the street to find dirt everywhere and nary a streetsweeper anywhere. "Where have all the streetsweepers gone?" lamented O'Brien after several trips the length and breadth of Mary Street with suitable rest stops at his favorite oasis, Hanna's in the Alley. The obvious answer was that these well paid plutocrats, mostly national minority workers, were probably at Tiffany's purchasing a diamond whatnot or at the stock exchange watching the ticker tape.

What is behind O'Brien's blatant attack on all labor in general and the streetsweepers in particular? The simple fact is that the economy is coming apart and money for city services is getting harder to find. The primary reason for this is the loss of countries like Vietnam and the expenses of the wars being fought to allow the capitalist class of the USNA to continue to exploit them. Capitalist like William R. Hearst, a particularly vile capitalist troglodyte, employ publicists like O'Brien to do the hatchet work on the working class. O'Brien stated once to a rank and file caucus member that he has "an open mind" but in fact his mind is as empty as a halloween pumpkin. If he had any brains and integrity he would be working for the working class instead of against them.

The easiest way to attack the working class is to attack a segment of that class- the national minority workers. These workers are mostly Negro and Mexican national Minorities. It is particularly easy to get away with these attacks because of the ideology of white chauvinism which is the particular form that chauvinism takes in the United States of North America.

First we will have to define chauvinism: "Chauvinism is an imperialist ideology, an ideology of conquest and oppression. It is designed to create among the masses hatred toward other nations and peoples but not races. It considers oppressed people to be inferior and incapable of managing their own affairs." The particular form that chauvinism takes in the US.N.A. is white chauvinism because the oppression and exploitation is directed principally against non-white peoples.

The English capitalist class fostered the belief that O'Brien's ancestors were "savages and bog trotters". The Irish petty bourgeois were only too glad to buy this nonsense and most of them spent their lives aping the "cream" of the British Capitalist Class who were bent on exploitation and oppression of the Irish nation and people. O'Brien's ancestors fled Ireland to in turn become exploiters of other nations and peoples. O'Brien couldn't have learned any of this at Santa Clara and Stanford from which he is reputed to be a graduate.

What has college graduate white chauvinist O'Brien to say about the streetsweepers? "Some sweepers are classified as \$48 per day general laborers." Again: "Despite the money it should be noted that street cleaning has attracted neither the paragons of industry or the intellectual cream of the community." In other words people like William O'Brien, reputed combat Marine Officer of WWII and obviously "the intellectual cream of the community" would rather throw junk in the street than take a job cleaning up other peoples' trash.

All of us in Laborers Local 261 are going to have to view the world in a state of connections. The capitalist class employs thousands of hacks like O'Brien to spew their venom principally on national minority workers. The capitalist class also employed Police Officer Michael O'Brien and subsequently cleared him of the outrageous murder of Mr. Baskett at Brush Street. Mr. Baskett was a Negro worker.

The murder of national minority workers and students in the United States of North America must be seen as a deliberate policy and the concrete reflection of the capitalist class and its espousal of rotten white chauvinism. The fact that two black students were murdered in Baton Rouge is inseparable from the murders of Antonio Cordova and Rito Canales in New Mexico and Richard Oakes in California. All of these non-white people were battling in their separate ways against the poisonous ideology of white chauvinism.

Are oppressed people incapable and inferior? For an answer we need look no further than Ruchell Magee who was born in the Negro Nation in the south and is the superior of both reporter O'Brien and Police Officer O'Brien in every respect - character, intellect and courage. Only a dog kills an unarmed man, Baskett, and only a jackanape would write tripe like "Dirty Streets".



No Anglo-American (white) worker should take satisfaction from the attacks by the Capitalist class that are now intensifying against our working class brothers. Some of us are now ignoring these attacks and in some instances giving aid and comfort to our principal enemy the capitalist class.

Most street sweepers are members of Laborers local 261 although some won't join because of the blatant racketeering for which both the Local and the Laborers International are notorious. However hoping for a defense of the workers from this corner is a waste of time. Secretary-Treasurer C.R. (Bud) Johnson and Business Manager George Evankovich made a big play for the street sweeper vote in the last election by promising them a raise to laborers pay. Now that they have won the election, they have not come through on their promise. We can expect that these two will do nothing to counter this attack. We and the working class in general can no longer rely on union misleaders to fight the capitalist class. Rather, they follow in the wake of the capitalist camp and are traitors to the working.

What is to be done? For a first step all of us who are not working should go the Hall of "Justice", 850 Bryant, on Monday, November 27, 1972 and support our working class brother Ruchell Magee. This truly great worker deserves the support of the entire working class. We must immediately begin support to all working class victims of the Capitalist society and of the national minorities in particular.

We must all clearly realize that the working class in the United States of North America is now under a general attack by the capitalist class with its paid agents for the purpose of maintaining "super profits" now being rolled back by liberation wars in Vietnam, The Philippines, Thailand, Laos and other parts of the world. This general attack uses the time worn imperialist strategy of divide and conquer. In particular, the class struggle is turning to attacks on the non-white working class now. Later, in turn, the Anglo-American workers will be attacked. To counter this general attack we must immediately build a multinational party of the working class to overthrow our current dictatorship of the capitalist class and establish a workers government - the dictatorship of the proletariat. Our urgent and immediate task is to:

#### BUILD A MULTINATIONAL UNITED WORKERS PARTY

Wednesday, November 22, 1972

Rank and File Caucus

We apologize to our Spanish speaking members for being unable to translate this leaflet into Spanish.



Victor Van Bourg, labor lawyer, has a public image of a dedicated attorney much concerned with the grave problems of our time. Peace, ghetto rebellions, civil rights, all products of capitalism and imperialism in the United States of North America. Many workers know Van Bourg to be the enemy of all workers by his private image and practice. Always and consistently he has united with incumbent union officials and federal and state bureaucrats to trample on the legitimate needs of the vast majority in labor. Progressive workers find him allied, far too often, with the most corrupt and reactionary labor officials in the Bay Area. That he finds it profitable is attested by his booming law practice in industrial injury cases.

Below is an article which shows the real Van Bourg in action. It was printed in the Lawyers Guild labor newsletter. The allegations of fraud in the article are completely substantiated in the record of the case involved, Medion, Incorporated, NLRB case No. 20-RC- 10777. The backdated contract was introduced as Intervenors Exhibit 4A and 4B. Testimony on actual date of contract may be found in transcript at page 93 and pages 207-234. The public record substantiates the article.

" This article describes a very common experience: the collaboration of an employer and some union officials, with an assist from our anti-labor laws and passive government bureaucrats against the workers. Two factors distinguish this case from the ordinary course of labor-management relations. First, the attorneys for the parties involved were careless enough to let us expose, on the record, their fabrication of evidence. Secondly, one of these attorneys, Victor Van Bourg, claims to be a Guild attorney."

" Our office, the Palo Alto Law Commune, was asked to represent Local 532 of the National Association of Broadcasting Employees and Technicians (NABET) before the NLRB. NABET was seeking a union election at Medion, Incorporated, a non-union San Francisco film production company. This particular local recently merged with the Film Workers Union, an independent organization formed for the purposes of breaking the stranglehold of corrupt Hollywood unions on the film industry; providing training and employment for women and third world people; and giving film workers greater artistic control of their films."

" San Francisco film companies like Medion tend to operate on much lower budgets than Hollywood studios, and most of the employment in this area is on documentaries, commercials political spots and low budget features. Workers are hired sporadically for short periods, sometimes just a day or two at a time. Employment is scarce, and many film workers have to hustle just to get a few days paid work a month."

" Intervening in the Medion - NABET election proceedings was the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees ( IATSE, or IA ), the union which dominates the Hollywood film industry. The IA qualifies as one of the most racist, sexist and discriminatory unions in the country. The rule locally is that a person must have 30 days employment before he or she can join the union; and the IA makes it virtually impossible for any non-member to get 30 days work. It does this by hassling and threatening employers who hire non-IA workers, by levying large fines on IA members who work on mixed crews, and by bringing pressure through Hollywood studios and other organizations which finance films. Informally, IA locals will take in persons who lack the 30 days; almost always, these are white men. The many women, third world people, and other non-IA people who are trying to get work in films are thus denied access to most paying jobs. In addition, under IA hiring hall procedures, a lot of San Francisco jobs go to Los Angeles IA members instead of local workers. "

" The IA tried to prevent a union election at Medion by claiming that Medion had "recognized" it last January; if true, this would bar an election at this time. What actually happened is typical of the way the IA organizes. Back in January, Medion, which depends financially on shooting political films, was filming spots for the Muskie campaign. The IA threatened that if Medion refused recognition, Muskie would fire Medion or lose his AFL-CIO COPE funds. So the IA was recognized. It became clear during the election hearing that the IA officials involved had no idea who the hell worked at Medion or what union the workers wanted to represent them. Likewise, the workers had no idea that the IA was their " duly recognized bargaining representative." When we proved that the IA never made the legally-required showing that they represented a majority of the employees at Medion, the " recognition bar " fell."

" Better yet, the IA came into the hearing with a contract, executed by the company attorney, James Carter, and IA attorney Victor Van Bourg. Supposedly it was signed on June 7, just in the nick of time. For, on June 8, NABET had withdrawn its first election petition and filed a second petition. Since we were proceeding on the second petition, a valid contract signed by June 7 would bar the election. "



" Unfortunately, the IA and the company made a very stupid mistake. They wanted to make sure that their contract was a complete bar, so they decided to copy verbatim the unit description found in the NABET petition ( which contained terms like " cameraperson " instead of " cameraman " ). But they blew it - - instead of copying the description from the original petition, they used the second petition, which was a little different. Yet that petition did not exist on June 7; it was neither written or filed until June 8. On the stand, Carter coughed and spluttered and concluded that the contract could not have been drafted and signed until June 9, the day after we filed the petition. In short, on June 9 he and Victor Van Bourg had signed a document with an execution date of June 7. When that became clear, the contract bar fell.

" This may look like a victory for Nabet, but nothing could be farther from the truth. If and when the NLRB issues an order that an election be held at Medion, if past precedent is followed they will order that anybody employed at Medion for two or three days in the year prior to the order is eligible to vote. The IA has delayed proceedings so long that the many NABET supporters employed at Medion last summer will be ineligible under such a ruling. And since that time, as a result of illegal IA pressure, most Medion film crews have been predominately IA.

" The role of the Board in this has been typical. The liberals sympathize with us off the record, and they know how Van Bourg and others like him abuse their procedures; but they are afraid to do anything. They could have excluded the IA and Medion from the proceedings because of misconduct; they wouldn't. They could establish a fair eligibility period which would include a representative sample of Medion's employees; they won't. Instead the regional office of the NLRB has shipped the case back to Washington D.C. for a decision thus delaying it for several months more. Our last film industry case went back to Washington and the election petitioned for in September 1970 is yet to be held. The petitioning employees have long since been replaced by IA members. The workers in the end are victims not only of bosses and union officials but of dilatory, ineffective liberals. "

" As a result of incidents like this one - - and this is by no means the worst, just the most provable - - we hesitate to use NLRB procedures. Certainly we no longer regard the Board as a means of getting an election or obtaining justice in unfair labor practice proceedings. Rather, we try to think of ways to use it to our limited tactical advantage; or to expose it to workers and organizers who don't already know how hostile the law is to them. Labor law is a ritualized way of mediating between the economic interests of big companies and big unions; and of restricting strikes and other militant actions by workers. We advise our clients that reliance on the law can only reinforce the injustices of capitalism and ultimately defeat them."

" As for Victor Van Bourg, there is not much to be said. He likes to make big radical sounding speeches about his working class background and what a friend he is to the workers. In practice, Van Bourg represents every reactionary union official in this area and consistently aids and supports them in the oppression of the rank and file. In every case where we have represented a radical caucus, a radical organizer, or a progressive union, we have to fight Victor Van Bourg. The response of our clients from NABET to him was : " What is this pig doing in the National Lawyers Guild ? " A good question. "

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The Rank & File Caucus of Laborers Local 261, Mayor Alioto's " favorite local," has had many encounters with Victor Van Bourg over the past several years. That he has a peculiar relationship with the NLRB is known to hundreds of members in our local. One member of the NLRB resigned after telling a union member that this agency was " rotten." Not that this isn't generally known even by neophytes like Caesar Chavez who finally listened to some of the workers.

We must all start to realize that we are going through a crisis of imperialism in the mother country of global crime in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Middle East and elsewhere. Our government wants to consolidate a privileged group of workers who will get a few more crumbs from the capitalist table. The vast majority will get very little. This special privilege group, AFL-CIO, Teamsters, etc. will be the fascist base for counter revolution in the United States of North America. They will be used to smash the liberation struggles of black, brown, Indian, Asian and oppressed white people in the U.S of N. America. For this reason every trick of government bureaucracy will be used to aid lawyers like Van Bourg who has always been a reactionary lawyer in practice.

For us in the Rank & File caucus Marxist- Leninism - Mao TseTung thought has been our beacon of light in the dark night of imperialism. We quote Chairman Mao : " Whoever sides with the revolutionary people is a revolutionary. Whoever sides with imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism is a counter-revolutionary. Whoever sides with the revolutionary people in words only but acts otherwise is a revolutionary in speech." June 23, 1950

Leaflet by Rank & File Caucus 261, DOWN WITH ALL OPPORTUNISTS.