

# **DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT COLLECTION**

## **NEWSLETTERS & NEWSPAPERS**

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ELDON WILDCAT



# Eldon Wildcat

April 1, 1970

No. 5

## POSTAL WORKERS GO FOR A WALK

Last week was the first national postal strike in American history (next week might be the second one). But it wasn't the first strike of government workers. In recent years strikes among teachers, bus drivers, transit workers, welfare workers, sanitation workers, and other "public" employees have been more and more frequent.

Many of them, like the mailmen, have been living on such a low wage that lots of them qualify for welfare. This seems to be partly because such workers were among the last to begin organizing into unions. Another reason is the enormous amount of government propaganda pushing the idea that people whose paychecks come out of tax funds are so different from other workers that they can't be allowed to strike.

### A BOSS IS A BOSS

What a lot of baloney that is! The government is the boss to these workers, just like Chrysler is to us. In fact, it is the corporations who get nearly all the benefits of government. Big publishers make big profits on their magazines which are delivered at less than cost. And we have to pay to make up the difference.

So, screw the government. A postal strike is no national emergency anyway. If the phone bill and the gas bill and the electric bill don't get paid on time, that's tough.

### NOBODY FOLLOWS THE "LEADERS"

One of the funniest things about this strike was the way the postal workers union "leaders" practically wet their pants at the wildcats! They weren't even smart enough to sound militant for a day or so before they started begging the postal workers to go back to work. They admitted, on TV even, that they were not in control of the workers and that they didn't want the strike!

The UAW bureaucrats are usually much cooler. They talk tough as hell for a while. Then they gradually turn gloomy

and pessimistic. Pretty soon they talk like there's not much chance of winning anything.

By the time you're beginning to hurt from the strike, they've got you convinced you should settle for any thing you can get.

Then you eventually drag back to work and wonder how come it never seems to get you anywhere, even if you can close down a whole industry and cause Chrysler to lose millions of dollars a day. ###

## THE CASE OF THE MISSING DIAMONDS

In Dept. 75, men who finish grind #202 Differential Side Gears use diamond bits to dress off the grinding wheels. You sign for them at the tool crib and return 'em when you leave the company. Or you pay for them (about \$100) out of your last paycheck.

There aren't too many diamonds lost, but lots of men in Dept. 75 have had them stolen. Now, these are industrial diamonds; they can't possibly have any real cash value on the street. The only possible reason anyone would have for stealing someone's diamonds is because someone copped his. Probably someone a long time ago lost his diamonds and stole another man's to get himself off the hook. And that person stole another worker's to protect himself. And so on down the line.

In other words, Chrysler has created a situation in Dept. 75 which turns workers into thieves--to protect themselves against another one of management's typically stupid policies.

Maybe not so stupid. The solution is so obvious even a foreman should be able to figure it out--simply install the diamonds permanently on the machines, and when they wear out a jobsetter installs another set. But maybe Chrysler wants to keep us divided and fighting among ourselves. ###

# WHO WON THE EXTRA VACATION?

Five members of an all-white "Secret Slate," a group with no openly announced program, will be Eldon's delegates to the UAW Convention this month. Shop committee chairman Jordan Sims, who ran as part of a slate supporting the Voice of the Black Worker program, won the sixth delegate's position.

Although six delegates and four alternates were to be chosen, each voter could only vote for six, contrary to the practice in other locals. The "Secret Slate" nominated six people, five of whom were elected by votes of 350 to 500, while the sixth won an alternate spot. Sims got around 330 votes, while other members of the Voice slate got between 120 and 240 votes.

Less than one-third of the local

## ONE STEP AT AMC.

We've been hearing a lot of bullshit about how poor little Chrysler is going broke, so we should be reasonable and not ask for much in the next contract.

They used to tell that to the guys at American Motors, and the guys were very reasonable, and ended up working with 8 minutes a day less relief time than we got, and five cents an hour less wages.

Then one day last October, everybody read in the papers that American Motors was buying Kaiser Jeep for \$86 million. And the AMC workers started figuring out where that money was coming from. They stopped being reasonable and last fall's strike was the longest in AMC history.

And last week in Milwaukee an AMC worker was disciplined. Everyone in the department, 250 people, sat down and refused to work. The assembly line was stopped and 1900 people went home.

Maybe a simple, one-step grievance procedure like that is what we need. ###

## THE FUNCTION OF AN INJUNCTION

The recent injunction against four railway shop unions was followed by several cases of sabotage, as well as short wildcats all around the country.

Courts are rigged against the working man: there have been millions of injunctions against strikes for higher wages, but who ever heard of an injunction against higher prices? ###

voted, and with 38 names on the ballot no one got a majority. It seems like most of those who voted were probably more interested in getting a free vacation for a friend than anything else.

But anybody who feels the need for changes at this plant has to fight for them at all levels, local and national, inside the union and out. The effort of the Voice slate to put union politics on the basis of an open program, instead of personalities or a secret program, was a step forward. Most of the demands in this program are things which we all need, and for this reason Eldon Wildcat supported the Voice slate. ###

## DIVIDE AND RULE

At the recent UAW Skilled Trades Conference, UAW bigshot Doug Fraser spilled the beans on how we got stuck with the cost-of-living ceiling which is now costing us 21¢ for every hour we work.

"The only way we could get the extra 30¢ increase for skilled tradesmen, and the other benefits we won, was to agree to the ceiling," he said.

As we all know, the skilled men not only have the highest pay, but also the easiest work, the fewest layoffs, and the best chances for overtime. Giving them an extra 30¢ raise at the expense of the rest of us is just one more example of the divide-and-rule technique the company (with the help of the UAW) uses to keep us divided and powerless. Old vs. young, skilled vs. production, men vs. women, black vs. white, employed vs. unemployed; we fight each other and the company wins, every time. ###

## WHICH SIDE IS HE ON?

"There is only one thing worse than a wildcat strike; that's a successful wildcat strike."--Secretary of Labor George Shultz. ###

For a more successful Eldon Wildcat, we would like to receive your comments or ideas on almost any subject. Or maybe there is an underworked cartoonist somewhere in the plant? See your Wildcat distributor, or write to Wildcat, Box 1274, Fort Shelby Station, Detroit, Mich. 48231.



# Eldon Wildcat

May 28, 1970

Box 1274, Fort Shelby Sta., Detroit, Mich. 48231

No. 12

## NO SAFETY — NO PRODUCTION!

Eldon was shut down again yesterday --for the third time in six weeks. 75% of the second shift stayed out and even more on the third shift.

The walkout was called by the Eldon Workers Safety Committee, following the death early Tuesday of Gary Thompson and the refusal of the local leadership to take any action. On Wednesday morning, Elroy Richardson once again locked the door of the union hall to prevent members from meeting there. He sent the local staff home and trotted off to the plant for more "negotiations."

The walkout already has management worried about its axle supply. Wednesday afternoon they had a Detroit cop go around with orders that pickets can not use the sidewalk where there is a driveway into the plant. Sidewalks are public property. The company just wants to make it easy for scabs to go in.

### WHY SHOULD WE STAY OUT THIS TIME?

Our first wildcat got John Scott reinstated. The second one did not get all the fired stewards reinstated, because we want back before we won our demands. We lost because the Richardson leadership maneuvered us back to work.

The men calling this walkout are the ones who got fired because they stood up for us before. By not going in we help to change unsafe conditions. And we defend our own interests by staying out until they are brought back with us.

### JOIN THE PICKET LINE

A lot of us on the picket line will show Chrysler we are finished with foremen pushing people around, with our elected stewards kept out of the plant, with people being killed because OUR safety comes after THEIR PRODUCTION.

The bigger the line, the harder it will be for management to pick out victims after we go back to work.

### OPEN THE DOOR RICHARDSON!

We need a meeting, RIGHT NOW, to make our demands clear and tell our "leadership" what we want done. Or else take their resignations and put in some new officers.

If necessary we can hold a meeting

outdoors, without a hall--or without a president, for that matter.

### GET THE STEWARDS BACK IN THE PLANT!

They were fired for doing their job, passing the word and pulling people out when things reached the breaking point. We are not going to get anywhere with safety problems or other grievances until we get ALL our stewards back on the job--not just the ones that management likes. Four weeks ago we went back to work without them. That was a mistake!

### NO MORE MURDERS!

Gary Thompson's death was NOT an accident. It is a FACT that jitney repair men have been WRITTEN UP for REFUSING to give unsafe vehicles an okay for use! Day after day management puts off repair and cleanup work to meet the push for more and more production. For Chrysler, PROFITS COME FIRST, OUR SAFETY COMES LAST.

### BUT NOT FOR US.

## LATEST VICTIM— GARY THOMPSON

Gary Thompson made it home alive from Vietnam. Gary, who was a jitney driver in Dept. 25 on the 3rd shift, didn't make it out of the plant alive last Tuesday morning.

That day he drove his jitney from the scrap yard to the railroad yard. He had a load of scrap steel to dump in the freight cars. When he got his load there, he lifted the hopper forward on to the loading rail of the freight car. When the clip lever on the hopper wouldn't release he had to get off. The jitney backed away and ran down into a rut. The load shifted and the jitney tipped over. Five tons of scrap steel crushed Gary to death.

Chrysler had put Gary Thompson on a jitney that had so many things wrong with it, the jitney itself should have been sold for scrap.

There were no emergency brakes to prevent the jitney from rolling, although the 1967 agreement calls for

(continued on back page)

# GARY THOMPSON

(continued from front)

them. One more instance when Chrysler breaks our contract.

The clip lever on the hatch wouldn't release. And there was no safety release which the driver could reach from his seat. Instead he had to climb down leaving behind a vehicle with no emergency brakes.

There is no safety device to prevent the load from shifting.

This jitney is now in the plant repair shop--undoubtedly Chrysler is covering up all the unsafe features on it. The union, local police--no one stopped Chrysler from tampering with the evidence. That's like letting a murderer retrieve the spent cartridge and clean his gun to remove all traces of firing. The murderer can then say "I didn't do it." Chrysler can now say, "The jitney is perfectly safe. It must have been the driver's fault. We didn't do it."

## FIRE NEXT DOOR

The recent fire at the plant next door, Lynch Road Assembly did \$850,000 worth of damage, destroyed two paint departments, and shut the plant for a week. What caused it?

The same kind of penny-pinching negligence that resulted in the death of Gary Thompson. The conveyor mechanism in one of the paint booths was known to be defective and was scheduled for replacement. Then somebody decided that replacement could wait until changeover.

## CORRECTION

In some early editions of our last issue, Eldon Wildcat No. 11, we listed, incorrectly, five local officials failing to show at the plant gates on May 1. We understand that McNeely, Gale, Thornton, Farmer and Bucci did make the scene. Our mistake--sorry.

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## SIMS OFF COMMITTEE

Do we pick our union representatives or does Chrysler?

The company has demanded, and the union agreed, to take Jordan Sims off the Local bargaining committee.

The excuse (pretty feeble) is that a fired committeeman can't represent the people who elected him!

But that should be for us to decide, not the company!

# PRESIDENT ELROY AIN'T TALKING

Members of 961 who went to the union meeting last Sunday got very little information about what's been going on.

A month ago we voted 92% in favor of a strike. This was completely ignored at the meeting.

A month ago Richardson told us that the Local was negotiating to get the fired stewards back. If "negotiations" have been going on, they must be "top secret."

## INFORMATION AS A P.S.

At the end of the meeting, Elroy did mention--sort of off-hand--something about the 9 stewards. Elroy said the International told him that 7 of the stewards would be back at work this week, and the last 2 by next week. He didn't mention what we were giving up in return.

But why would Chrysler reinstate the stewards now? That hasn't been their game up till now. The only time we got anything is when we forced it.

So why did Chrysler suddenly soften up on the issue of the stewards? There has been no strike threat from the International. Their game was made clear when the stewards were originally fired. The International knew of the firings in advance and advised the local not to do anything about them!

## THE MATING GAME--CHRYSLER AND THE UAW

We probably won't find out for a long time what that deal actually was but it probably went something like this:

Chrysler agrees to reinstate the nine. In return, the International agrees that it will not object if the company fires any of the nine who become involved in some future walkout. (Like the present one.) Maybe the International also agreed to stall on giving Local 961 strike sanction.

It's easy to see why the company would like this kind of deal. It would cool off the current situation. The Local would get its stewards back, but they would be working with a gun at their heads.

The company could then pick them off one by one whenever it felt like it. Under those conditions they could not do their job properly. And without stewards around who are willing and able to fight Chrysler could ignore safety conditions and increase work loads as they pleased.

We would be completely at their mercy. Like Gary Thompson was.

# Eldon Wildcat

June 24, 1970

Box 1274, Fort Shelby Station, Detroit, Mich. 48231

No. 14

## THE DODGE FORTUNE - WHERE IT CAME FROM AND WHERE IT WENT

America operates under a system known as People's Capitalism. The stockholders who own the big corporations are just plain ordinary widows and orphans. One of these widows, Mrs. Anna Dodge, died recently. Does the name sound familiar?

### HARD-CORE MILLIONAIRES

The Dodge brothers both died in 1920, each leaving an estate worth \$40 million. Under the terms of Horace B. Dodge's will his wife received only the income from the estate. This was usually a couple of million dollars a year.

When she died, 50 years later, his \$40 million had grown to be \$140 million, all through "investment." Mrs. Dodge didn't work for her money!

### WHERE DID ALL THE GREEN STUFF GO?

What did this free-loader do with her money?

Some \$6 million went for jewelry.

\$4 million went for a 100-room bungalow in Palm Beach, Florida. It was in an area zoned for single-family homes. When she tried to sell it in 1957, nobody wanted a 100-room single-family home. So, instead of selling it, she had it torn down--to save on taxes!

Another \$4 million went to build a smaller house in Grosse Pointe, only 70 rooms. And those rooms had to be furnished, there went more millions.

And of course, there was the yacht, a tiny, 250-foot long ocean-going ship with a crew of 38--that's all, just 38!

Mrs. Dodge stated in her will that no money would go to anyone who joined or supported a subversive or communist organization which seeks to overthrow or substantially change the United States Government or constitution.

Naturally, Mrs. Dodge didn't want this form of government changed. It has a lot of good things set up for people like her. Like tax-free municipal bonds. In 1969, Mrs. Dodge's income from bonds was \$1,896,986. And she paid only \$343 in income taxes--less than the average auto worker pays!

### WE MAKE THEIR MONEY FOR THEM!

And where did the money to buy these bonds, and jewels, and yachts, and summer cottages come from in the first place? From all of us who work for the people like the Dodges--the poor widows and orphans struggling along on their monthly dividends.

For every hour we spend working on these lines we add about \$12 of value to the cars we work on. But we get less than \$5 per hour in return. A good part of the difference goes to people like the Dodge boys.

You bet they don't want any changes! ###

### NO - NEWS BLUES

FROM MCTOWN'S LATEST GROUP--  
"THE TOP FIVE OFFICERS"

Local officers won't tell us what they had to promise to get four of our fired stewards reinstated. All that is known "officially" is that the company waived five months of a 6-month disciplinary lay-off, and that those who were reinstated had to sign the waiver.

We have also heard, "unofficially", that they had to sign an agreement that if there was a walkout during those remaining five months, they would be fired automatically--no matter whether or not they had anything to do with it!

If this is true, it is clear that these stewards are now under enormous pressure to cool things and avoid more walkouts at all costs.

We also heard that these men were

### REGISTER AND VOTE -- FOR THE POLITICIAN OF THEIR CHOICE

This is an election year. And no matter which party is the winner, it looks like the working man will lose.

After 18 months in office, the Republican President, Nixon, has not been able to stop inflation or unemployment.

But the Democrats, who control both houses of Congress, haven't come up with any better answer.

So that we can have a choice between the Demo-cans and the Republi-crats.

(Continued back page)

told that signing this statement was the only way they would ever get back into the plant. Even though they did nothing wrong to lose their jobs in the first place. ###

## AGAIN ON SAFETY

Working conditions in Department 76 (also known as Garland's Swamp) are among the most dangerous at Eldon. Machine platforms and floors are slick with oil and grease; pools of oil and water stand around most of the machines because of massive leaking. Water pumps on some of the machines require extensive repairs if the machines are shut down. The result is that operators have to pull chips and change tools while the machine is running.

And right now a Department 76 worker has a scarred left hand because of a Drill Press. His left hand was trapped in the machine when his glove caught on a chip. (The machine does not adequately eject chips.) The only stop button is on the left side of the press. He had to hold up the drill with his right hand, and had no way to reach the stop button with his trapped left hand. So he had to jerk his hand free. The result: a badly cut hand.

The company's reaction: management tried to give him a day's suspension because of this accident! **THEY ALWAYS TRY TO MAKE US PAY FOR THEIR MISTAKES!** Except that it's not really mistakes, but profit squeezing--every lousy dime helps.

Here are some more unsafe conditions seen recently:

Bay BB 3. Gutter covers not up to standards. They stand too high above the floor and foul up the worksavers.

Same bay. Norton Grinders 31-2179, 31-2360, and 31-2173 --heavy oil leakage.

No chip covers -- drill press 31-2394.

Massive oil leakage - drill press 31-2393

Bays BB 15 and BB 17. Stock truck overloaded most of the time. Floors improperly cleaned.

Bay BB 17. Oil leakage on Gardner 31-955 and #1 Drill Press DM 3895.

Bay BB 19. Massive oil leakage on #2 and #3 Drill Presses.

Bay AA 19. Chip covers unsafe on #1 Drill,

Bay AA 11. Acme 31-2544 has bad water pump. Foremen order operators to change tools while machine is running.

Same bay, Grinder 39-5985 has severe oil leakage.

Bay Z 11. Acme 31-2269 uses excessive oil and water lubricant. Much smoke and

## OUR NEW LEADER

Soon after Leonard Woodcock was named head of "Solidarity" House, he made a militant appearance at General Motors' annual meeting. There he voted the UAW's GM stock--all SEVEN shares--in favor of Ralph Nader's crusading Project GM.

BUT, Woodcock is also a member of the Board of Governors of Wayne State. Wayne is known as a workingman's college and is also one of the few universities in the country with more than just token numbers of black students. Walter Reuther once studied there, and many Eldon workers and their families have been students there.

### WOODCOCK HEADS FOR THE WOODS

A few days before the GM meeting, the Wayne Governors had to decide how to vote the University's 2,907 shares of GM stock. Woodcock made no militant appearance; he and another Governor sneaked out of the meeting without voting, leaving behind a 4 to 2 vote in favor of voting Wayne's stock with the GM management, and against Project GM.

### TRUE-BLUE STRIKEBREAKER

Woodcock is also an experienced strikebreaker. About a year ago Wayne U. students working in the mail rooms tried to organize their own union. They were getting \$1.35 an hour and most worked less than 20 hours a week. They all needed the jobs for living expenses.

The kids organized themselves and set up picket lines. Teamsters and other unions honored them. But the University took the position that students aren't workers; Wayne State is only helping them out by giving them jobs at less than the minimum wage, and they should be happy to get that much! Very similar to the attitude of the big auto companies--you're lucky we're such nice people to give you a job!

Woodcock helped to get an injunction against the striking students, their organizers were fired, and the strike was defeated.

If these previews are an accurate picture of the attitudes of our brave new leader, we'll be in for a rough time this fall when the contract expires.

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VOTE --(Continued from front page)

Would you rather slosh around in VietNam or in Cambodia? You do have a choice!

Every day we have to fight the company in the plant. Often we fight them at the bargaining table, and sometimes on the picket line. HOW COME on election day we are supposed to forget all that and vote for one of the 2 parties that is owned and controlled by the corporation we work for and others like it. # # #

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fumes are the result.

# Eldon Wildcat

July 15, 1970

Box 1274, Fort Shelby Station, Detroit, Mich. 48231

No. 15

## LAW AND ORDER IN HIGHLAND PARK

Why did the people of Highland Park throw rocks and bottles at cops and burn down the Kozy Korner Bar last weekend? The story goes back a few years.

Two summers ago a young black man was shot and killed in River Rouge Park. A white man was tried for the killing, but was acquitted when a witness named a second man as the killer. The prosecutor refused to charge the second man, claiming evidence of his innocence. But he never charged the witness with perjury, either. Justice?

During the 1967 revolt, Patrolman

### ONWARD & UPWARD WITH WOODCOCK

Even before the UAW-Big Three contract negotiations started, President Woodcock took three big steps which weakened the bargaining position of the auto workers.

(1) He announced the MINIMUM demands of the union: \$1.80 an hour increase in wages and fringes over 3 years. This is now obviously the MAXIMUM we can hope for. No company is going to offer us \$1.85 after they've been told we'll settle for \$1.80.

The usual procedure was that followed by the Teamsters union, which started out demanding \$3 an hour in wage raises alone. Then they signed a national agreement for a \$1.10 wage increase. But the Chicago drivers struck for 11 weeks and won a \$2.07 package, including \$1.65 more in wages over three years. After this the national Teamster agreement was raised to a similar level.

(2) Woodcock went on to offer to revise (he means REDUCE) our demands if the companies agree to slash prices. Lower care prices are a great idea, but why not try to get them by reducing the profit of those who don't work, instead of cutting the wages of those who do!

(3) As part of his brilliant plan to wage an all-out war for a good contract, General Woodcock has decided to reduce the size of his army right before the fight begins. The UAW is discharging 125 staff members just when negotiations begin!

We always suspected that most of the people at Solidarity House were just shuffling papers around. But if we do have to hit the bricks next September, some of them could at least bring us coffee and run simple errands. ###

Ronald August took a young black man into a room of the Algiers Motel, told him he was going to kill him and did so. Later he claimed the victim had tried to grab his gun. His trial was moved to a suburban area where an all-white jury set him free. Justice?

Chicago cops invaded a Black Panther apartment, killed two men, arrested five others. A Grand Jury later blasted the cops for staging a phoney gun battle to justify their murders. Three cops were demoted; none was ever put on trial. Justice?

Two young black men, SUSPECTED of ambushing a patrol car, arrested several blocks from the shooting in which three cops were WOUNDED, are in jail, unable to raise \$75,000 bail apiece. A week later a white Highland Park bar owner shot and KILLED an unarmed black customer and was quickly released on \$20,000 bail. Justice?

The only surprising thing about the ghetto "riots" that are hitting nearly every city in the U.S. is that so many people are still surprised when they happen. ###

## IN MEMORIAM

Local 961 officers finally got around to recognizing the death of Gary Thompson. They didn't attend his funeral, or even send flowers. But they did publish an "In Memoriam" notice in the June Criterion. It pointed out that the safety hazards that killed Gary Thompson "had been grieved by his Chief Steward many weeks prior to the accident."

In other words, they admit that a grievance on a safety problem is just as worthless as most other grievances. It wasn't until a man was killed and a lot of people walked out that any safety matters got any attention.

A few things have been improved. There are now horns on many jitneys that didn't have them for a long time. Scrap is no longer dumped in a dangerous manner over the side of a freight car. And we hear that the company has started work on a ventilation system over a number of welding and machining departments.

But we probably would not have got even these improvements except for the Safety walkout. A work stoppage is the basic weapon of the working man, and we must learn to use this weapon more effectively.

###



One of the greetings we get sometimes when we hand out Eldon Wildcat is "Oh, just some more of that Commie shit!"

So--

## WHO'S A COMMIE?

Ever since factories were invented, there has been one class of people, who work in the factories, and another of people who own and run them. As the owners always try to squeeze out more profit, so the working people always try to better their lives and working conditions. The owners and those who run the government for them always try to put down and get rid of the activists and organizers who work to bring about changes. If you are against high taxes, overtime, dirt, crime, pollution, war, you're called a "traitor," "red," "rioter," "anarchist," or "communist," and accused of wanting to destroy humanity.

### THE PROTECTORS OF PROPERTY

The early communists were among those who thought workers, being the majority of the population, had the ability and power to run the economy, government and society for the good of all, not just for the wealthy few. And they also knew that the owners of property would never give up without a fight. The workers would have to take power, not try to vote for it. When workers depend on peaceful reforms, the result is at best a Welfare State, with the workers having no control and a lot more government interference in their lives.

"Communism" still stood for workers' control in 1917, when Russian workers threw out their Czar, nobles and capitalists and began to run the country. But the rulers in Europe and America were afraid the example of workers' power would spread, and tried their best to smash the new workers' state. Armies from 14 countries, including the U.S., invaded Russia, supporting the nobles and rich peasants against the workers.

After 2½ years of civil war, the invaders were defeated, but the Russian working class was almost destroyed and the country was in ruins. And so the basis for workers' control and democracy

## SAFETY LAST

On the Valiant line in Department 71 management removed safety devices from three Acmes in 1968, to speed up production! These devices stopped the stock cylinders from free wheeling, and protected the operators' hands.

There is so much oil and water on the stock, workers can't see what they're doing when they remove and insert stock into the machine. If they guess wrong, or slip, they stand a good chance of ripping and mangling their hands. ###

## PRICE INCREASE IS 3 TIMES PAY HIKE

Next time somebody tries to tell you that wage increases are the cause of inflation, tell him about the rubber industry. The United Rubber Workers won a big increase recently after striking Goodyear for six weeks.

The package was 82¢ an hour in wage increases over a three year contract, plus another 59¢ in fringe items. The cost to Goodyear is \$50 million a year.

Goodyear immediately raised all prices 5% or more. This will bring in another \$150 million a year--enough to pay for the higher wages and \$100 million over!

Firestone, Goodrich and Uniroyal have announced similar price increases. They time their price boosts to follow the news of wage increases. But most of the gain goes for higher profits. ###

was destroyed. Stalin and his supporters took over and turned the country into a police state, run by the party.

From then on, the newspapers and history books used the word "communist" to describe Stalin's dictatorship and the word took on a new meaning. Now people all over the world are taught to associate "communist" with lack of freedom, slave-labor camps, atrocities, "brainwashing" and all the other features of the Stalinist countries.

### THEY SHALL OVERTHROW

But these countries--Russia, China, Cuba, Poland and the rest--do not resemble what the early communists were after. They are not run by working people, although many of them started out with workers seizing the factories. They are run by and for the few people who control the top jobs in the government and Communist Party. In all the countries it is necessary for the workers to get together and overthrow the bureaucrats and technicians who exploit them. And we will support such movements.

This kind of revolutionary change is even more necessary in the U.S., where a small minority of the population--called "The Establishment," or "Big Business," or "the rich," or "capitalists" control the big corporations and the government in order to get rich off our work.

Through the school system, newspapers, TV, churches, and other institutions, the people on top try to persuade us that things are OK or getting better. They would like us to automatically reject any ideas about what our lives could be like if the working people ran things.

WE ARE FOR WORKERS' CONTROL, and so we are "Commies" in the original meaning of the word. And we look on Stalin, Castro, Mao, and similar "Commies" as obstacles in the fight for workers' power. ###

# Eldon Wildcat

July 22, 1970 Box 1274, Fort Shelby Station, Detroit, Mich. 48231 No. 16

## JAMES JOHNSON AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CHRYSLER

James Johnson is 35, single, a Vietnam veteran who has been at Eldon for over two years. A quiet man who keeps to himself, he worked in the glue room in Department 78. He had returned to his job after several months on sick leave. His foreman put him on a new job, loading brake shoes next to a bonding oven, on a hot July afternoon. Another man with less seniority took his place on his regular job.

He protested to his steward and was told nothing could be done. He continued to object and the foreman suspended him. So he went to his car, got his carbine, loaded it, got back into the plant and started looking for his foreman, the general foreman, and his steward.

He found the foreman and shot and killed him. After other people in the plant knocked him down and tried to take the gun away, he shot and killed two more men. One, jobsetter Joe Kowalski, was planning to retire within a year. The other, Gary Hinz, was a well-liked, easy-going foreman.

But if James Johnson is guilty of a crime, so are a lot of other people. Every man or woman who sees a fellow worker get a bum deal and doesn't raise all kinds of hell. Any shop steward who enjoys the soft work and big paychecks so much he foregets he was elected to fight for his people, right or wrong. Any union bureaucrat who enjoys the prestige of his office, but avoids doing anything to defend the membership. Every lousy scab who lines up with the company and against his brothers when they walk off the job to advance the common struggle.

But our sins are minor compared to those of the real criminals--Chrysler and all the other big corporations and the system they operate. Their system requires wars, racism, poverty, pollution, unemployment and a dozen other evils. No real solution to any of these problems can be achieved without abolishing the profit system that these things arise from.

James Johnson rebelled at the injustice of his situation. He replied to his unfair treatment with violence. His solution was wrong, not because it was violent, but because it was aimed at the individuals involved, and not at changing the basic situation.

Nobody has a secure job at Chrysler. Plants close; people get transferred; skilled tradesmen are now on assembly. Department 78, for example, now makes brake shoes, but with the new style disc brakes expected to be on half of the cars made in a few years, the entire department might be shifted to new jobs.

Any one of us could find ourselves facing a problem similar to brother Johnson's. Most of us would react differently. Some would find another job. Some would go back to school and train for an easier kind of work. Some develop interests off the job; fishing, hunting, family, pot, playing the ponies. A few try to deal with the problem of job conditions by discussion, organization, propaganda and struggle.

One of the methods working people have set up to protect themselves from unfair treatment by the bosses is seniority. And like all our job conditions, seniority is under constant attack by the company. The pressure for profit becomes pressure for more production. Foremen would like to have a free hand in moving people from job to job, to punish the troublemakers and reward the brown-nosers.

Everyone knows that our grievance procedure is a fraud. Grievances take months to settle, and in the meantime you MUST work as your foreman tells you, regardless of safety, seniority or anything else, OR BE FIRED. And most grievances are settled the company's way, because we do not use our strike power to force the company to settle them our way. Neither the Local leadership nor the UAW International is interested in fighting, and the rest of us have not yet organized to fight effectively. Only when we are able to fight together can we prevent the kind of frustration that led James Johnson to try to fight by himself. ###

# LIES, LIES, LIES

The July issue of our Local newspaper, The Criterion, has a short front page article by Elroy Richardson containing five LIES about Eldon Wildcat.

IT IS A LIE that anyone associated with Eldon Wildcat:

- (1) Ever carried a picket sign with a racist slogan;
- (2) Ever physically assaulted a member of Local 961;
- (3) Ever had anything to do with starting a fire inside the plant;
- (4) Ever sought to spread terror inside the plant;
- (5) Ever picketed with or had anything whatsoever to do with the KKK.

President Richardson, naturally, gives no factual evidence to support these false and libelous charges.

WE THEREFORE DEMAND A COMPLETE AND IMMEDIATE RETRACTION.

In plain talk, put up or shut up. ###

# HOW COME?

Detroit Tiger pitcher Denny McLain is a high-flying, high-living swinger. He thumbs his nose at all the rules. He bet on games, hung around with gamblers, invested money in an illegal bookie operation, ran up a lot of bills and declared himself bankrupt. He is now again playing with the Tigers after a 3-month slap-on-the-wrist suspension.

Heavyweight champion Muhammed Ali, also known as Cassius Clay, was at the peak of his career when the draft board called. He was in no danger of being put in the infantry. The military wanted him in uniform to show the whole world how all Americans, regardless of race, creed and so forth, are united in our righteous effort to stomp on the Vietnam Commies. Muhammed said, "Hell, no!" He faces a five year prison term if his appeal is denied. A proposed fight with Joe Frazier at the Cobo Arena has been turned down without explanation.

HOW COME a spoiled brat like McLain is welcome in the sports arenas of Detroit but a man like Cassius Clay isn't?

# EASY COME AND EASY GO

The average auto worker is now getting \$1.30 a week more take-home. This being an election year, our Congressmen have generously allowed the 5% surtax to expire, giving us bigger paychecks.

The average auto worker also drinks 26 cups of coffee or pop a week, and since prices went up 5¢ a cup he is now putting \$1.30 a week more into the vending machines. ###

# THWART, THWART, THWART

President Richardson claims to be worried about people who want to "thwart the democratic process."

WHO has cancelled regular meetings over the protest of a large portion of the membership? WHO has illegally removed an elected committeeman from the bargaining committee, at the company's request? WHO has failed to put a negotiated agreement before the membership for a vote, as the UAW constitution requires? WHO has repeatedly locked the union hall to prevent members from meeting and discussing their problems? WHO has failed to implement a strike vote approved by an overwhelming majority? WHO has repeatedly failed to report to or get approval from the membership on actions and decisions of the Executive Board? WHO thwarts the democratic process more than Elroy Richardson? ###

# MAYOR GRIBBS TURNS BACK THE CLOCK

The city of Detroit is having money problems, and naturally the employees are the ones to suffer. By next week layoffs will hit the 500 mark, including some people with 20 to 30 years service.

To take care of the work formerly done by these employees, Mayor Gribbs has ordered the remaining 5000 workers to put in one hour a day extra, WITH NO INCREASE IN PAY!

The mayor ordered a return to the 40-hour week. City employees have been on a 35-hour week for over 14 years.

Gribbs claimed that the change did not have to be discussed with the unions involved because IT DOES NOT INVOLVE WORKING CONDITIONS!

He's wasting his time as a mayor. Auto companies are always looking for people who think like that. ###

# MORE GEMS FROM JULY CRITERION

Did you know that ALL the members of Local 961 are OFFICERS of the Local?

James Franklin, in the Criterion, tells why the May wildcat was dropped:

"Management then went further, by having an injunction served on the Executive board, barring any officer, and this naturally covered the entire membership, from picketing the plant."

When you don't want to fight, any excuse is a good one. ###