Workers outraged at lay-offs, tear up plants

South Bronx, N.Y.—All hell broke loose when the young workers of the Art Steel file cabinet plant were told that 30 more on the new night shift would be laid off. Another 50 of the original 100 have already been fired. The workers here are Black and Puerto Rican—many with young families—from a neighborhood of chronic unemployment.

In their two months at the plant, they were repeatedly told that with these jobs there was a future to be created that they would work. They were told to expect a higher pay than in the neighborhood. But when they came to work the next day ready to really go to work on the place, they were met by the day shift on a sitdown strike over the firing of a worker. Six police cars were waiting. The whole night shift was suspended. The supervisor stayed locked in the office, too scared to come out. When asked about their union, District 65, one worker said, "There is no union."

Two days later, the union "arbitrated" the workers back to work by calling them into the office—one by one. Eighteen night shift workers were still laid off.

Detroit, Mich.—When the blue slips were handed out at Chrysler's Lynch Road plant, workers decided to take action against the constant harassment they face. Many of the tops of cars on the line were torn, while some workers took on part of the plant itself. One foreman said, "They acted like they wanted to burn down the place."

Many women were in the forefront of the protest, for they are the ones with little or no seniority and are usually the first to be fired. Yet it wasn't only the ones with little seniority who participated in the protest. It did not matter if a worker had 30 or 3 years seniority. The fact is 2,000 workers were laid off—the entire afternoon shift.

This new response that workers are giving to today's brutal recession and inflation is happening nationally and internationally. It is a response that is "in the air"—in the actions and minds of workers at the point of production. (See "On The Line," p. 3)
An Iranian woman speaks: women and religion in Iran

The similarities of the 1905-06 Revolution and today's revolution in Iran should be carefully analyzed to see if there are lessons from the counter-revolution existing within revolution to such an extent. Religion seems to be a main element.

In de Beauvoir, they would find emphasis that intellectual women who would be interested in reading "Communist," the bourgeoisie, who sees in his wife a mere instrument of production, hears that the instruments of production are to be exploited in common... The woman, who is already familiar with the concept of community of women exactly because of the phenomenon of temporal slavery, this woman, who is "elected by God" system already acceptable for centuries... People sees no more interest in trying to bring about "communism."

Rather, Foreman's conclusion accepts Lukacs' concept of revolution, a phenomenon, and a permanent wife would have no right to complain. Everyone may have four wives at the same time and as many temporary (Sighle) wives as he can financially afford.

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To the above we may add the extreme emphasis on physical and mental conditions of men and women. The woman at Tong II factory have vowed to fight against slave labor conditions. At the nursing homes, women workers have been holding discussions over the summer to prepare for the Congress on such issues as "the cost of' women exactly because of the phenomenon of temporal slavery, this woman, who is "elected by God" system already acceptable for centuries... People sees no more interest in trying to bring about "communism."

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Beta shoe workers strike for first contract

by Felix Martin, West Coast Editor

On my recent visit to Southern Indiana I had an opportunity to visit and walk the picket line with workers of the Beta Shoe Co., who have been on strike for four months to get a living wage. It had been almost a year earlier that I had first been at one of their union meetings where they organized to get a union to organize the plant (see News & Letters, October 1978).

On the picket line I felt the determination of the workers to strike. They were ready to hold the line, whatever happened. It took over a year of struggle to get a union in and now it was taking a long strike to get a decent contract.

One night after the picket, I had a long discussion with a group of strikers on working conditions and piece work. These workers were saying that they had been working to get a living wage and that they were getting 20 dollars an hour. The same work is done on their machine today. They say that the company is making a profit of 15 dollars an hour. Why can't they have 20 dollars an hour? They say that the company should be paying them a reasonable wage.

They spoke about the dust and fumes from the material they work with. It sounded like those working in textile are having brown lung problems, like that at J.P. Stevens in the South. It also made me think about the sweatshops and fires we have in the plant at GM. It seems that we need to make a difference. What kind of work do workers do, all they all have health and safety problems, as if it is planned that under capitalism work is supposed to be bad and dangerous.

As for wages at Beta Shoe, they were offering 25 dollars in the past three years over the minimum wage of $2.90 an hour. That means that the workers are working for 30 cents an hour.

I told the workers that we need a new strike. We need to organize the workers to get a union. We need to have a contract that is fair and just. We need to have a contract that is more than just a piece rate. We need to have a union that will stand up for the workers and the community.

The workers agreed and we started a union. We need to have a union that will stand up for the workers and the community. We need to have a union that will stand up for the workers and the community.

Strike at Grier’s sweatshop

(Editors’ Note: On Aug. 16, workers at Grier Abra­
sis Company, a Black-owned Southside Chicago grinding wheel factory, went on strike because the owner refused to negotiate with the newly elected union, AFL-CIO Local 537, and began firing union workers. The 76 work­ers are almost all Black, and two-thirds women. Below is a statement from one of the strikers.)

Chicago, Ill.—We are on strike not merely because we want more money, but because we have been mentally and physically abused by our employer. We want fair labor practices, better working conditions, less harassment on the job, and, of course, a contract. These things are our human rights. No negotiations are going to be held until he has rehired all employees he fired because of union activities before and after the election.

The jobs are very hazardous, especially in the molding department. There are pins that are 0.25 inches thick, and when the woman presses the level, the top plunger comes down and forms a wheel. At the same time her hands are passing back and forth. You are tied to your machine: your legs are strapped—just don’t want to work. Well, Louis Poole hasn’t done any work for a long time either in production or for the union. So they said that he was fired.

The workers are on strike not merely because we want more money, but because we have been mentally and physically abused by our employer. We want fair labor practices, better working conditions, less harassment on the job, and, of course, a contract. These things are our human rights. No negotiations are going to be held until he has rehired all employees he fired because of union activities before and after the election.

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NEWS & LETTERS
Vol. 24, No. 8
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To me the News and Letters Committee's Plenum was a trip around the world as well as within one’s self-consciousness. Throughout the two days, you never saw the need for outside inspiration: the need to make philosophy and organization inseparable if revolutions are ever to be total.

In the international scene: the revolutions in Nicaragua and Iran; the Camp David failure; the arms control activity out of control, in the national scene: introduction of “infestation” (simultaneous inflation and recession); the decline in productivity and the laying-off of Blacks, women and youth; the strikes breaking out everywhere; the Black leadership crisis and the PLO.

And on a personal level: the emphasis on self-criticism; the critique of others and not just the enemy; and critique as foundation for praxis; all helped to give a better understanding of the declining trend of capitalism and the need for a world based on Marxist-Humanist relations.

Felix Martin
Co-Editor

One point I’ll never forget at the News and Letters Committees Plenum was the explanation by Peter Mallory of how the oil companies manage all sorts of statistics. Even明晰 “accurate statistics” can be used to mislead. They told all the facts and figures they liked, but here at home there was the demonstration of the global character of what was going on. It was a form of publicity, in that the workers did not know what was happening to them. The new stage of that decomposition was shown in how many Black leaders were isolated from the masses; what the Plenum brought out is that so new a stage has been reached, that the very idea of gen-
tactic resistance is the truth of capitalism’s development.

Student
San Francisco

I was very struck with a young worker who identified himself. His mother had called her son, stood there coolly reloading it. Most shocked her was the way one of the cops, after emptying his gun into the neck and paralyzed, while running from a plain-clothes cop who never identified himself. No action was taken against the cops.

Peter Wermuth
Los Angeles

RACISM — IN ALL FORMS

The police terror continues in New York’s Black and Latino neighborhoods. Last Friday night, Arturo Reyes was shot in the back of the head from a car. He was 21 times by five cops, as he lay at their feet. His mother had called the police to take him to the psychia-
tric hospital as he was cutting up the rug with a pair of scissors. She said what most shocked her was the way one of the cops, after emptying his gun into her son, stood there coolly reloading it.

Only 24 hours earlier, 17 year old Arturo was sitting with his brother, his mother told. His two brothers had been murdered in the past. A chance for a very new beginning in the movement of youth has been made.

HERBERT MARCUSE

Thank you so much for sending the Marcuse obituary. Your piece is certainly the best thing I have read. It is filled with personal warmth and it does Marcuse the critical justice that is called for.

Professor
New Jersey

I heard Marcuse speak at USC only a few weeks ago, informing yet another crop of students that their society is insane. I’d read all his books avidly, and found in him a fellow pessimist — a quality which toward the end disappointed me. Yet Marcuse meant to me that rare quality — the power of the radical in-
tellect.

Tony S.
California

APPEAL FROM MINUS 5

After much difficulty the first edition of Minus 5 is now ready for publication. It will contain essays on the Deng Xio-
ping line in relation to the class struggle, the struggle between the vanguardist sections and the pragmatists. Keping Spring and an eye-

I/P, Wanchai,
Massachusetts

RENT STRIKE IN FRANCE

I’d like to add a little more information than was reported in the last issue of N&L on the immigrant workers’ oc-
cupation at Garges-les-Gonesses outside Paris. They have been living in a tent city since June, after being evicted for rent arrears. They are strong, mostly North African, and part of a na-
tional movement of immigrant workers against French racism.

These government-run dormitories charge exorbitant rents, have one kitch-

New Jersey

Earleen" D风暴

One thing the national gathering of News and Letters Committees over Labor Day weekend brought across very clearly was the mood of retrenchment when one international reporter called “de-

New York

THE BRITISH SCENE

The British question has her stumped. It is obvious, then, that in these par-
ticular cases, speaking more than a quarter of a century, what is involved is deeper than a mere mistake in policy.

Jean Seberg was shot in the back of the head from a car. He was 21 times by five cops, as he lay at their feet. His mother had called her son, stood there coolly reloading it. Most shocked her was the way one of the cops, after emptying his gun into her son, stood there coolly reloading it. Only 24 hours earlier, 17 year old Arturo was sitting with his brother, his mother told. His two brothers had been murdered in the past. A chance for a very new beginning in the movement of youth has been made.

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ping line in relation to the class struggle, the struggle between the vanguardist sections and the pragmatists. May Spring and an eye-

New York

Gay, a frequently published author, eminent example of the world-weary, skeptical French intellectual, was assassinated by the barbicans of the F.B.I. He did reveal the profound depression that he had suffered, the hopelessness of his case, the fear of being hounded and the confiscation of his passport.

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ticular cases, speaking more than a quarter of a century, what is involved is deeper than a mere mistake in policy.

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Tony S.
California

Please write and tell me all about your organization and methods of work, since Marcuse’s obituary. Your piece is cer-

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Marcuse obituary. Your piece is cer-
October, 1979

NEWS & LETTERS

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TWO WORLDS

(continued from page 1)

That the counter-revolution has also reached a new stage with Khomeini declaring himself Supreme Com- mander of the Khomeini Revolution, can’t erase the still ongoing revolutionary re- sistance. Don’t forget that Khomeini is left fairly. The new phase that has just begun is the mass nature of the demonstrations against U.S. interference in Iran. Women’s Interna- tional Union’s Day has now both broadened and deepened, not only because both men and women have the irrefutable right to personal freedom, but also because it is against censorship, but it is clear to all now that this time the revolutionaries who made the Iran Revolution against Khomeini are going to be working out new ways of freedom—total freedom. The Kuds are out front and they are not alone . . .

When we consider this August 1979, it again is important in order to understand all these new beginnings are in thought as well as in fact, we will not be surprised if, when we think of the new phase of the Iran revolution, or even the new phase of the anti-nuke movement here since the South Gate’s local union contract ratification meeting. GM Corporation!” yelled a California GM auto worker at Auto Workers ever negotiated—for the General Motors UAW President Douglas Fraser and his GM Division . . .

That the counter-revolution has also reached a new stage in auto, with Chrysler workers aware that they will have been deliberately misleading, and refer to a small increase of overtime work.

That the Arab “moderates” . . . .

The significance of their meeting is not the alleged recognition of “the Chinese model for fundamental education. Reports in the press of high pension increases

But there was no end of surprises—and con- formity. The answer came back: “Cross the picket line.”

Another critical factor is escalating lay-offs in auto, with Chrysler workers aware that they will have been deliberately misleading, and refer to a small increase of overtime work.

Then the question will be which way the work line.

For the workers’ demand that retirees have cost- of-living and accident benefits for two months; and receiving no hospitalization benefits for four months of work (worth many millions more to GM). There’s not even a whisper from workers, let alone a vote, about automation or safe work conditions; nothing about a shorter work week, forced overtime, subcontracting or run-away production line.

ABSENTEE CRACKDOWN

Also alarming workers is the UAW agreement with GM management’s push for absenteeism. This means harsher penalties, including lay-offs, for missing work.

One critical factor is escalating lay-offs in auto, with over 35,000 already permanently laid off and the number growing every day. Lay-offs: GM workers on the production lines have the least seni- ority. Older workers are therefore forced back onto the production line—a line that has already diminished. We’re standing for less, and often for longer, it is literally a question of life and death.

The future is shown by what happened before the contract settlement in relation to the UAW’s announced strategy of striking target GM plants pro- ducing the Ford and Ford and Chrysler National Auto Workers Conference (NAW-C) in early November. The Van Noy plant was picked as a target, but GM’s South Gate plant was not.

Van Noy workers threatened to set up pickets at South Gate, and South Gate union officials contacted the International UAW asking what should be done. The answer came back: “Get started. And fight!”

WHAT KIND OF UNION LEADER?

South Gate workers were infuriated. “What the hell does Fraser think he’s doing by ordering us to cross a UAW picket line?” one worker demanded. "What kind of a union leader do you call that— someone who orders workers to scab? With a leadership like that, you can bet your bottom dollar that even when we are back in the plant and can’t do anything about the new stage of lay-offs, as well as flagrant mismanagement.

We’re going to find out the hard way—know about. We’re going to find out the hard way—

For the workers’ demand that retirees have cost- of-living and accident benefits for two months; and receiving no hospitalization benefits for four months of work (worth many millions more to GM). There’s not even a whisper from workers, let alone a vote, about automation or safe work conditions; nothing about a shorter work week, forced overtime, subcontracting or run-away production line.

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terrorist, while they, as Rev. Lowery put it, "put no conditions" to their proposal to the PLO to "give considera- tion" to "recognizing the nationhood of Israel," did not find their position shared by many of the others. No, what brought some cohesion was precisely the revolutionary nature of the task itself, even when it is middle-class. What is pivotal is the fact that they did criticize not alone Israel, but the backward move- ment of creating surplus value for the exploiter. It becomes the "first necessity of life" because it is then both Force laboring becomes when it is not just a "means" of Force.

The subjective assignment of the designate flows from the subjectively new, that arose in the mid-1970s. So, allow me to stress that the Portuguese Revolution, for example, gave birth to a totally new category—apartheid—which has something to tell us, some indication of a road to follow, though their theories seem not to follow while we have been hewing out such an independent role ever since in breaking through on the Absolute idea as a movement from practice as well as from theory, we reunited the two many times, like the Great Uprisings and the New Left in America. There is a new danger, of course—Popular Frontism.

The point of all this: we must not allow the new beginnings to wither away, or abort. No, the task of Marx was to concretize and deepen Marx's philosophy of revolution. This is our task for the 1980s.
Black youth, unemployed as well as working, was moving into the picketing, speed-up and revolts on the job — who likewise question the traditional and even leftist labor organizations which don't fully recognize the new social, economic, political role of working-class people. Students active in campus struggles against college investments in apartheid South Africa and racist university policies in America, and in struggles against racist police killings.

The one thing uniting participants from all these struggles is the desire to work out, as youth, Marx's philosophy of revolution for today, which then must entail organization which very form is an active challenge to all capitalist forms — in life and in thought. This is what we are here for.

We discussed all the areas of activity which will be reflected on the youth page of News & Letters in the coming issue. It is necessary and urgent that each movement's seriousness and anticipation of new forms of youth revolt required a new expression. That is why we formed...

LA Black community demands justice against killer cops

Los Angeles, Cal. — On Sept. 3, there was another rooting in the predominantly Black district of south Los Angeles by the LA Police Department. This time it was Lonnie Rice, a graduate student from Oakland.

While the police department claims Taylor's death came from using a lethal weapon in the course of his test, the case is under review. Some in the community believe there was no such weapon.

There is always fear, caution, and suspicion in the Black community when coming in contact with the police. There is concern over the treatment of the dead and the injured. A young Black worker said, "You have to look for the police in the project where I live," where the police officer was killed three months ago.

Some see a Citizen Review Board as an answer to police attacks, and some Left groups want to use police attacks, and some Left groups want to use police attacks from any police action.

I don't know what Marable got the idea that, like C.L.R. James, why is the movement on microfilm by...

Worker-author nails lies about Indignant Heart

from the same attitude, whether it's Stokely Carmichael and SNCC or Hulett and Lowndes County pol-

Black and white youth, unemployed as well as working, were moving into the picketing, speed-up and revolts on the job — who likewise question the traditional and...
Havana summit: state rulers' hypocrisy sacrifices Third World

Chinese euphemism for Russian state-capitalism — "hegemony" — Tito criticized Russian foreign policy and was supported by Nyerere, perhaps the most unsung independent African leader.

At the summit in Havana, China said her "revolutionary line" in Latin America is based on support for "anti-imperialist" forces and countries, and Castro had little to say about China's intervention in Angola.

After the summit, China's diplomatic efforts continued in the region. In Cuba, a Chinese embassy was opened in Havana, marking the first time China has had a diplomatic mission in a Latin American country.

And, if the Black leadership persists in reducing the scope of the present Black crisis in this country to only the political battle between Blacks and Jews, they will be objectively taking President Carter off the hook for firing Young, and, at the same time, obscuring the dismal covert and overt racism, both of his Administration and of the country as a whole.

In all the verbiage that the firing of Young has generated, there has never been a single concise reason given. The only "plausible" explanation is that he lied about his meeting with Zaidi Terzi, the Palestine Liberation Organization's UN observer.

Washington has also come to realize that Israel would never be able to stem the tide of a real revolutionary movement from the Arab and Palestinian masses as the PI shocks the world of conservative politicians and capitalists with its revolutionary nature by inviting in the Syrian Army which then helped the Palestine revolutionary forces to liberate the Alamos area.

Andean common market. The Nicaraguan masses have realized that U.S. rants about Latin America are merely an attempt to keep the Third World nations from the altar of 'peaceful coexistence.'

The campaign against the deportations is being organized locally by Oxfordshire Committee for Community Relations. So far, the campaign has taken the form of a petition and an open air protest against U.S. policy.

We received the following report from a postal worker in Oxford:

but its leaders rush to Lebanon to embrace Arafat, (Europe!)

China

For over a month, thousands of jobless Chinese have come to Peking from the provinces to demand jobs, housing, and the end of corruption. They have been subjected to a brutal crackdown by the authorities, who have arrested and beaten thousands of demonstrators.

The basic crisis shows itself in the form of hard-core, revolutionary Black masses, a great deal of tension between the Black leadership and both the "liberal Jewish establishment" and that coterie of Jewish intellectuals who have joined what is known in the movement as "the movement of modern conservatism."

This disaffection of Blacks and Jews has been a growing phenomenon in the United States, especially when the Civil Rights Movement ceased to be a Southern issue and became a national one. Most recently was there a sharp division around the Bakke and the Weber cases that became a national issue.

There is indeed a Black crisis in this country and a great deal of tension between the Black leadership and both the "liberal Jewish establishment" and that coterie of Jewish intellectuals who have joined what is known in the movement as "the movement of modern conservatism."

The basic crisis shows itself in the form of hard-core, ever increasing Black unemployment, persistent and rising inflation, and the resurgence of openly anti-Black racist organizations.

In all the verbiage that the firing of Young has generated, there has never been a single concise reason given. The only "plausible" explanation is that he lied about his meeting with Zaildi Terzi, the Palestine Liberation Organization's UN observer.

The introduction of "morality" into this dirty political battle indicates that there were no great political differences between the Administration and Young. Although the U.S. claims an official policy of no negotiations with the PLO, its representatives have met frequently with representatives of the PLO, as in the case of U.S. Ambassador to Austria, Milton Wolf.

Since the raising of oil prices by the OPEC nations, objective conditions in the Middle East have taught Washington that Israel is not the country upon which U.S. imperialism can build its political, economic and military opposition to the threat of state-capitalist Russian imperialism in that area.

Washington has also come to realize that U.S. rants about Latin America are merely an attempt to keep the Third World nations from the altar of 'peaceful coexistence.'

In all the verbiage that the firing of Young has generated, there has never been a single concise reason given. The only "plausible" explanation is that he lied about his meeting with Zaidi Terzi, the Palestine Liberation Organization's UN observer.

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