

M

SDB 2336

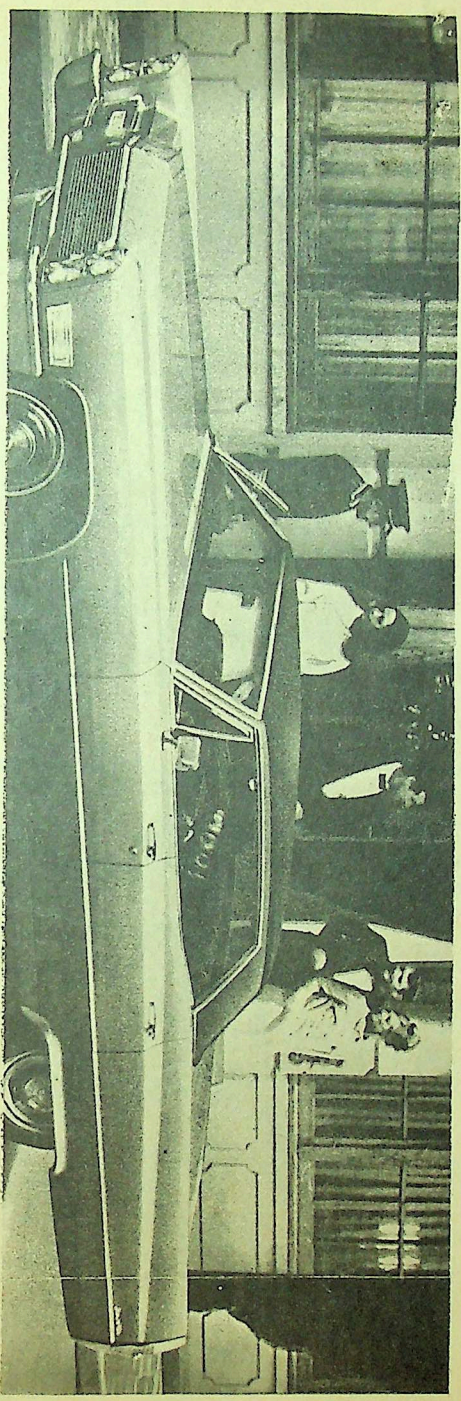
Warren-R

Wildecat

Vol.1 No.3

Ten Cents

August 1969



COMPANY profits soar WORKERS' pay falls

If you feel you are getting less for your week's work, you are right. The American worker is financing an imperialist war which benefits only the big shots, while at the same time the corporations' greed for more profit is creating run-away inflation.

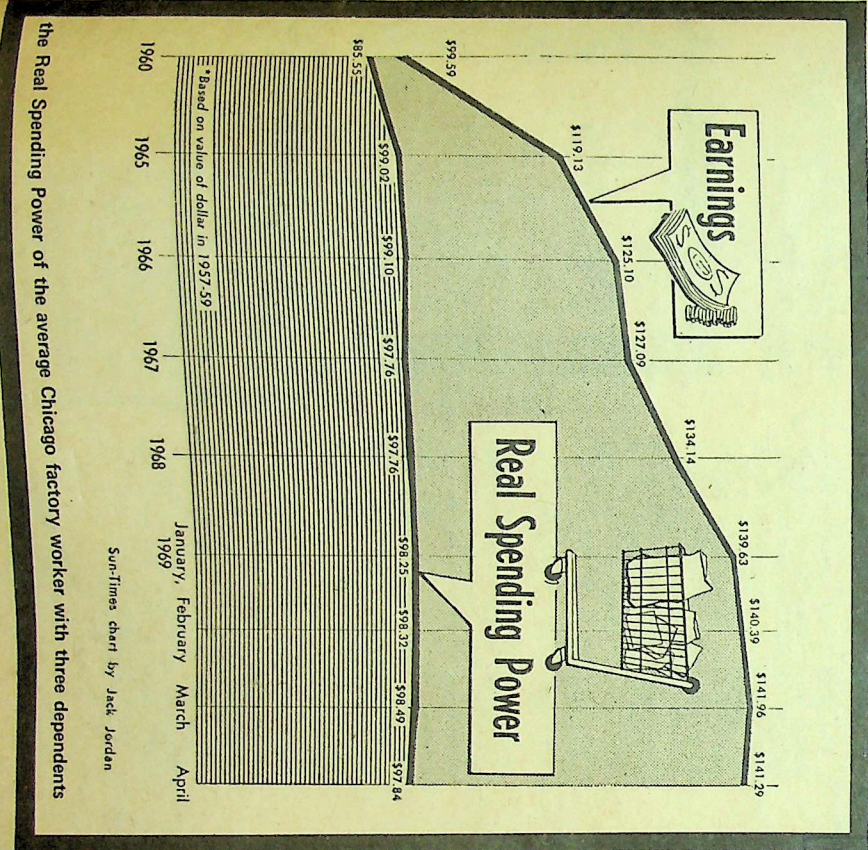
While on paper we earn more money than we did four years ago, our purchasing power has fallen. The 10% income surtax and rising prices are lowering our standard of living, and will continue to do so.

If you got a job on the line in 1965 and made \$96.21 a week, your real purchasing power was \$87.27. Purchasing power is our "real wages", after income tax and inflation are subtracted from our paychecks. Now, if on that job you got a raise to \$110.95 in 1969, your purchasing power is only \$86.03. That's \$1.24 a week less in goods and services you can buy.

While our "real wages" have fallen, corporation profits have risen enormously. In 1965 corporation profits were 45.1 billion dollars. In 1969 they will reach 53 billion dollars. And that's after taxes!

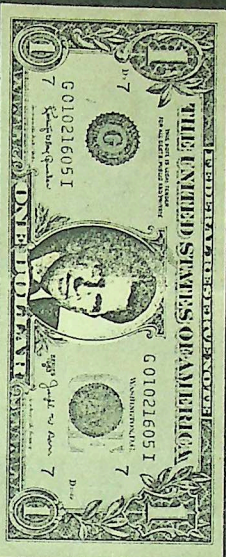
Profits are up 38%, our "real wages" are down, and at the same time our productivity for each hour worked has risen 3%. So we work harder, produce more—and get less! Capitalists make more off our work while we both pay for and fight their War. Maybe we should fight OUR war, which is against the corporations.

Comune di Padova
Biblioteca
Cod. Bibl. 01
BIBLIOTECA
N. 105 3336



the Real Spending Power of the average Chicago factory worker with three dependents

The Case of the Shrinking Dollar



Rising prices—and falling real wages—are going to be with us a long time. That's the straight word from economists. All this Nixon Administration talk about how "cooling off" the economy will handle inflation is just clever propaganda.

It is true that moves taken by the Administration and the Federal Reserve Board are slowing economic activity. With more expensive loans, there is less buying with borrowed money. With smaller real wages, the average family isn't purchasing as much.

A key part of the economy, auto sales, are falling. The Detroit auto corporations gambled on a new record year in sales, and the gamble hasn't worked. *New car sales are off by roughly 10%.* Chrysler, the hardest hit, is laying off more workers every month, and the construction of two new plants has been halted right in the middle. The *Wall St. Journal* quotes a Chrysler executive as saying: "We may be looking at only the top of the iceberg. I think they're going to have to cut back more."

All the key economic danger signals

are flashing red. In recent months

industrial production, total personal income and total number of hours worked all dropped. Sales of consumer goods has declined, with such important industries as *auto, electrical appliances and furniture* leading the downward rush. Unemployment is going up, as layoffs and short weeks great workers in plant after plant.

President Nixon has told us to rejoice in all this, because whatever may happen, at least these "deflationary" moves will "cure" America's run-away inflation. The bitter truth is that the future will show nothing of the kind. We will get more unemployment and less job security all right, but the cost of living will continue to grow like mad.

Economists predict this double-squeeze on us because it has happened in every recession since World War II. In the recessions of 1945, 1948-49, 1953-54, 1958 and 1960-61 the rise in unemployment didn't stop prices from climbing also. When sales stop expanding, capitalists simply maintain profits by raising prices. Simple for them, but hard on us. This is the truth behind all this Government propaganda on "fighting inflation".

The Facts: We're Doing Worse

Real Take-Home Pay of Working People

Period	Average Weekly Earnings (1)	Federal Personal Taxes (2)	Price Rise Since Escalation in Vietnam (3)	Purchasing Power of Weekly Pay (4)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
<i>Worker Without Dependents</i>				
1965—2nd half	\$ 96.21	\$16.26	\$ 1.91	\$79.95
1966	98.82	17.53	4.20	79.38
1967	101.84	18.46	7.74	79.18
1968	107.73	21.02	7.74	78.97
1969—1st quarter (Prel.)	110.95	22.68	10.15	78.12
<i>Worker With Three Dependents</i>				
1965—2nd half	96.21	8.94	2.08	87.27
1966	98.82	10.16	4.57	86.58
1967	101.84	10.98	8.51	86.29
1968	107.73	12.45	8.51	86.77
1969—1st quarter	110.95	13.74	11.18	86.03

But They're Doing Better

	Corporation Profits After Taxes	Dividends
1967	\$ 48.1 billion	\$ 22.9 billion
1968	51.0 billion	24.6 billion
1969—4th quarter*	52.9 billion	25.4 billion

* Seasonally adjusted annual rates
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

Editorials

Where We Stand

What America needs is workers' power.

We need to take things apart, and we don't mean just a reshuffle of bosses at the top. Through their ownership of the economy and their control of government, the upper classes run America their own way. They own the factories, control our union leaderships, and we do all the work. They own the army, and we do all the killing and dying. They own the government and make money off it, while we pay the taxes. They "inflate" the economy and we pay the rising prices. They "deflate" the economy and we suffer the unemployment.

The capitalist class never governed in the interests of the working class. Every program they have ever had has produced profits for them and crumbs for us. Whenever we have recognized this and fought back their control of society has weakened and we have achieved small gains. We got our trade unions and with them higher wages for some of us. We got Social Security and a pittance for the elderly. But we have always stopped fighting too soon. Most of our gains have been swallowed up in the profits of the rich. They have maintained their power.

The upper class can't even govern well. Under their rule America is sinking into ever greater chaos and violence. Every attempt at reform just increases the confusion. As food prices soar thousands of farmers are forced into bankruptcy. The major cities are tied up in unsolvable crises. In the richest society man has ever known, the basic human needs of housing, transportation, medical care and public safety cannot be solved. The more people justly demand, the more this system breaks down.

Only the working class can end this crisis. We already make this country run. We make the products, build the houses and factories, and we provide the services that make our way of life possible. What's more important is that we know how to work together. The very process of producing these goods and services has taught us that cooperation and democracy are the most efficient way to do things. We know we don't need the bosses and their foremen.

Using these social and technological skills we will build a new American society. We need our own organizations to fight for what should be ours. We need our own revolutionary movement to take and hold power.

We also need our own newspapers and magazines to exchange information and find out what's going on, and that's what *Wildcat* is going to do. *Wildcat* will stand for all working men and women. For all our struggles to control our lives.

We believe that in every plant, office or store, those who do the work should democratically decide how things are run, electing whatever administration is necessary. That people together should own the factories and control the society.

We believe that black and white workers, through our own organizations, will solve the problems of racism.

We want an immediate end to imperialist wars like Vietnam. Our troops must come home now.

We believe in production for use not profit. Housing, clothes, food, recreation, education, and medical care are the right of all.

We believe that everyone should work and that society must provide for all. From each according to his abilities; to each according to his need.

Living High On the Govt. Hog

The U. S. Senate recently shoved aside a bill to limit Federal farm subsidies to \$20,000 for any one farm. This came as no surprise. After all, how can Sen. James Eastland (D-Miss.) afford to give up the \$150,000 he gets from Washington every year for not growing crops on his plantation? And if his former field hands and their families go hungry, they can always go on Welfare—in Mississippi welfare provides a generous \$.04 per meal for each person. Four cents really buys a great dinner for a hungry child!

Even the rejected bill's liberal sponsor, Rep. Paul Findley of Illinois, understands what's going on. He complained that in rural country after country there are no emergency food programs—but in those same counties the big farmers are getting fat off of Government subsidies. In Texas, 46 counties refused to participate in even the scanty Federal food programs. In these same counties over \$26 million was given to wealthy farmers by Washington last year.

The Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs "discovered" that in America one person out of twenty is suffering from malnutrition and the illnesses it brings on.

That's ten million people, mostly kids. Yet billions of dollars are given to wealthy farmers—most of it as a

payment for not growing crops. While poor families suffer hunger and disease, the Government uses our tax dollars to keep food production down.

Distribute
Wildcat

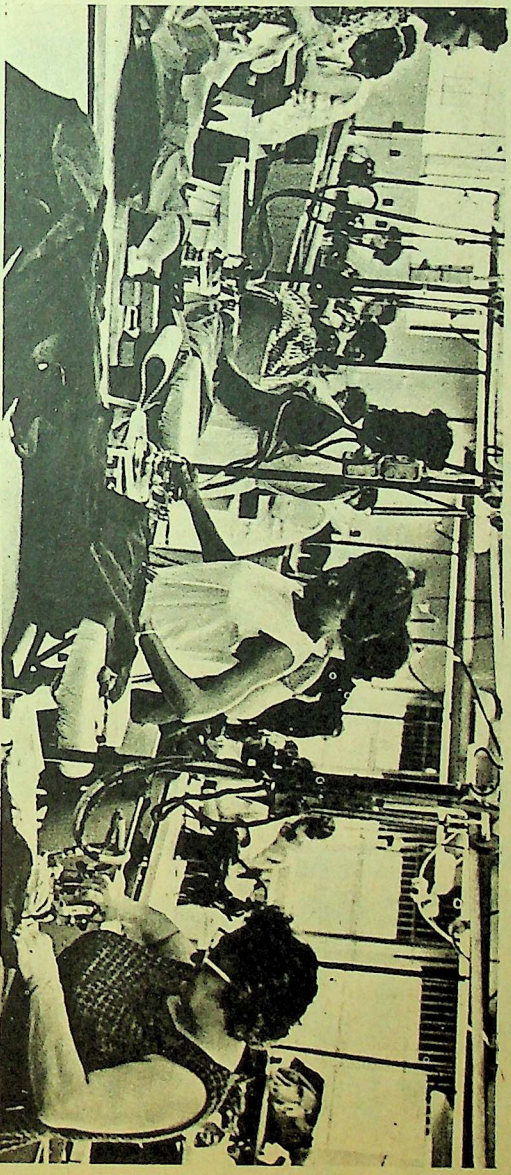
Wildcat

Wildcat is published by *Wildcat Press*
Post Office Box 91117
Chicago, Illinois 60690

Wildcat—New York City
202 E. 7th Street, N. Y.
YU 2-7451

GARMENT

20 yr. Veteran Tells Of Shop Conditions



Q. Is yours a large shop?
A. Well, there's about 70 workers. That's supposed to be considered quite large for New York City.

Q. What kind of work do you do?
A. We make suits and dresses.

Q. Is it what you'd call hard work?
A. No, the work isn't hard. The only thing is that he doesn't want to pay. Once over a 4 cent raise he said I'd ruin him. I'd asked for more money on some work, and the boss said, "You're ruining me!" I said, "You're ruining us, not we're ruining you."

Q. Do you work at piece rate?
A. We're all piece workers. Like, I get so much a dozen. The only ones that work "time work" are the ones that work on the floor, like they trim the threads off the garments, and so on.

Q. What kind of wages do most people get?
A. The minimum now in my Local is \$2.10 an hour. The minimum take-home is \$73.50 a week, and most everybody that works on the machines, the operators, they go home with that \$73.50. But they don't make that on piecework rate, the boss has got to put make-up pay in their pay envelope. There's only two or three in the shop that make over the \$73.50 minimum.

Q. Didn't your shop just get a raise?
A. See, two years ago we got 15% increase of the piecework price, but it had to be paid over a period of two years. So now they give us the 7% raise, big deal! Soon as we get a raise, 7% or whatever it is, they say, "Here comes the decrease!" They all say that. We call it a "decrease", not an increase.

We spoke up at the Union meeting. We said, "No, we don't want a 7% increase in piecework price, because we're not going to see it in our pay." They allow the boss to keep piecework prices down, and we still don't make more than the minimum. You could stand on your head, and you will not make that \$73.50 minimum. It's hard to get by on that amount, especially in New York. We want to raise the minimum.

But the Union keeps everything down. They shut you up. I know people that got up and spoke, and the Union officials say, "Look, we're having a meeting now, don't bring that up!" And we know we're underpaid, because our shop wants in blouses before and the boss still wants to pay us blouse prices. Then you were handling a small garment; now you're handling a suit or dress, a larger garment.

Q. Since you've been in the garment industry many years, are you starting to think of retirement and your pension?

A. We must get the lowest pension of any Union. If you retire at 62, they give you \$51 a month. You can't live on that pension! And you have to work 20 straight years without stopping. If you stop to have a baby and you're off one year, you're automatically cut off. And you have to rejoin as a new member. You lose all those years of pension rights.

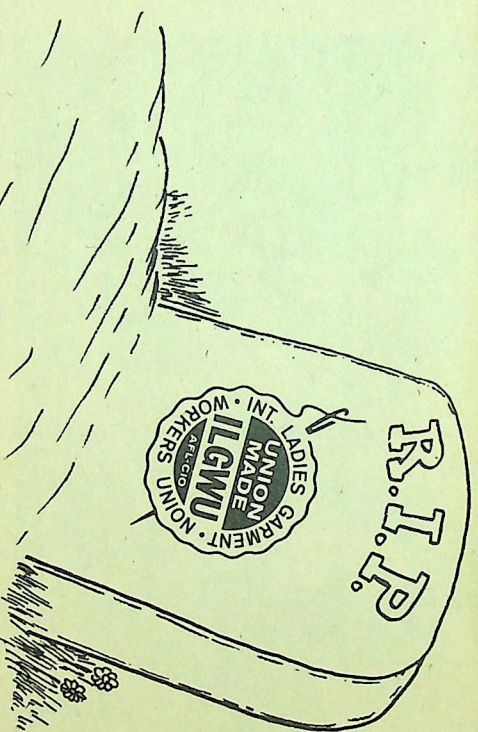
Q. Why haven't they raised the pensions?

A. Well, we bring that up, we bring it up at the Union meetings. But the Union shuts you up. They won't let you get up.

Q. They don't let the workers speak at ILGWU meetings?

A. No, if you did speak up like that, they just wouldn't let you talk. And if I call the business agent he doesn't do anything. He gets a good gift from the boss—all the business agents get a good gift from the boss. It's a kick-back. They want to keep the shops in New York in order to collect those dues. A lot of shops have been moving away. In order to keep them here, the Union appeases the boss.

I had a woman come to work in my shop, maybe she worked about a month or so. She was a good worker, but she was an elderly woman. Now the boss didn't want her, and I told him, "You can't fire her." He said, "I have no work for her." Once the boss doesn't want you, the Union goes along with them.



Another woman, she said to the boss, "I'm not going to do this other work unless you pay me what I'm making on my regular work." The boss didn't want to pay her that. So I look her to the Union. The business agent said, "You want another job?"

I said, "Look, she's got a job. I want you to correct her condition. It says in the rules that if you do other work than your own, you're supposed to get paid what you would get on your own work." So he said, "I'll find you another job."

So she went to the ILGWU employment office to register, and they wanted to send her out on another job. I went with her, and told them, "This woman has a job." So they sent her back to our shop, and the boss then had to take her back.

Q. Well, what are the business agents doing then?

A. They're having a good time, what do you think! With the Union money. They spend that pretty freely, believe me. Our hard-earned money!

Q. Do they get good salaries?

A. Oh yes, they get paid very good.

and then besides what they get from each boss. When the Union built those apartments over there on 8th Avenue, some of the workers went there to try to get an apartment. Nothing doing, couldn't get an apartment. After the workers went and asked, the Union said "Maybe in 20 years you'll get an apartment." But they had apartments for their officials! This woman, now she's head of the Union Label Department, she got an apartment in no time in that building. They save them for their own people. This was supposed to be for the workers.

Q. This was built with Union money?
A. That's right!

Q. What are your dues?
A. \$5.50 a month.

Q. So if you've got 20,000 people in your Local, that's over a Million dollars a year just from your Local.

A. They get that much. And before they used to have welfare benefits. A year ago I was in the hospital two days for a minor operation. So I got from the Union and I got from Blue Cross and Blue Shield. They took that away from us, and they just pay disability for the Blue Cross. And since January they raised the dues one dollar.

Q. Getting back to the business agents, how many do you have?

A. Well, in my Local...let me see, I think about 10 or 12.

Q. For one Local?

A. See, we're Local 23-25 combined. They combined these two Locals. Local 25 was for blouses, and Local 23 for sportswear. There's a difference in the minimum. So we figure, all right combine it, but we're doing sportswear so pay us sportswear prices. We're not getting it. They keep saying it's not completely merged yet, so they can't change anything.

Q. Can't you write a letter or article exposing this to the ILGWU newspaper, the "Justice"?
A. No, they wouldn't put it in. Did you ever read it? A lot of baloney!

Q. I know the business agents are appointed by the Union, but what about Union elections for higher officials?

A. The Union officials, they pick all the names and they make the slate. They hold a meeting, and they just say they approve. You're in, that's all. There's no voting, no opposition.

Q. Don't they even campaign for office?

A. No campaigning, no nothing. They have a slate. Even if you only get one person, one vote for you, you're in.

Q. And this was the way the Manager of your Local 23-25 got picked?
A. That's right. Appleton, the Manager, is President Dubinsky's son-in-law.

Q. How do 20,000 people talk to each other in one Local?

A. There's so many shops, and the shops are so small. That's another reason why you can't get together; when the shop's small the worker is afraid to get up and move.

Q. Well, do you have any communication with people in those other shops?

A. The only way, when we have a membership meeting I get in touch with the other Chartriades. Then I go to the Executive Board meetings we have every two weeks. All the business agents do is come around. We do all the dirty work, the Chartriades.

The Spanish girls will come to me, and they'll tell me, "No good, no good." I understand a little Spanish. So I'll go in and try to get more money for them. And one Spanish girl especially, if the boss won't pay her right she won't do the work. Yes, I say we should have a few more like her. That's the only way we're going to get anyplace. Not to go to the Union, not to call the business agent, get the workers to act.

Distribute
Wildcat

Electrical Workers Gain Little In Strike

The strike at Advance is over. Basically the workers have won very little. A 45-cent raise any way you slice it isn't much of a gain when you look at the way prices and taxes are going up.

A woman at Advance said: "People are not so happy about it. It's the same 45 cents offer we went out against. The working conditions haven't improved, except that it's even hotter. Foremen are still pushing people around."

When asked how people were feeling about the union and about the lack of a strike fund she said, "People are pretty angry at the union. It was a downgrading thing that happened. There should have been strike funds."

She also felt that the union had deliberately confused people about the terms of the wage settlement. Everybody we talked to certainly had a different idea of just what the real gains would be. That's the old "confuse and divide" tactic. It didn't work as well as the union had hoped. The vote was close—275 for continuing the strike and 355 against. It was tight—but the union bureaucrats got what they wanted.

The few gains that were made are all that the workers at Advance are going to get until the next contract comes up for renewal in three years. That is, unless they decide to take matters into their own hands.

The following is an interview with a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1031, taken during the strike at Advance Transformer in Chicago.

Q. What kinds of things go on inside Advance Transformer, what are the conditions that lead up to this strike?

A. Well the working conditions aren't the best, the place is filled with smoke fumes, oil fumes, tar fumes, soldering pot fumes. There is no adequate exhaust system in the joint to remove this. There's no ventilation to speak of, outside of fans blowing hot air out. Windows, they got them sealed up, you can't open them. The place is dirty. Not enough containers to throw stuff in. There aren't enough janitors to keep it clean.

Q. Before the strike did the union make any demands about this?

A. We've been making demands since we first installed the safety-health

RWDSU Splits AFL - CIO

The steady decline of the AFL-CIO is still going on. Sixteen locals of the Retail, Wholesale & Department Store Union, AFL-CIO, have just broken away from the AFL-CIO to organize a new union. Led by the 30,000 member District 65 in New York City, they have formed the National Council of Wholesale, Retail, Office and Processing Workers of America. Their announced strategy is to organize low-wage industries, with the help of non-AFL-CIO unions such as the Teamsters and United Auto Workers.



committee 3 years ago. Nothing absolutely nothing has been done on the part of the management to rectify the bad spots and conditions we found on any monthly tour.

Q. The union didn't do anything about this?

A. Well the union handles the grievance procedure and they said it would be done.

Q. How does the grievance procedure work in Local 1031?

A. Well, most grievances could be settled in the first stage if the foreman could say ok to this or that. But the

Pin Dick Down

"The Nixon White House, one top official told friends a few weeks ago, is not an intensely ideological atmosphere. Some there are very conservative. Some are very liberal. Some just worry about what's good for Richard Nixon." Asked where he would class the President, he reflected and replied, "I guess he's one of those worrying about what's good for Richard Nixon."

Wall St. Journal, May 14

foreman is either scared or has no authority to settle these grievances. They go all the way up to the final stage. It takes so long to get to the final stage you might as well forget about it. Everybody else has forgotten about it.

Q. What is the general wage structure here, do people get different wages for different jobs?

A. Well, I don't know what the general wage structure is throughout the whole joint. All I know is the average wage here for women and guys is about \$1.91 an hour, plus a nickel an hour attendance bonus. But if you are absent Monday or Tuesday you lose the nickel or if you're late too much, you lose that attendance bonus.

Then they have a bonus system. Certain favorite lines, those girls make as high as \$40 to \$50 a week bonus. Other lines that are not favored they make as low as 3 cents a week. See when you got a long run job you can make bonus, but if you got to change operations 4, 5, 6 sometimes 10, 12 times a day you cannot make a bonus cause you can't make that many pieces.

Q. I was talking to some of the women about that. They were saying that they get on a job in the morning where they can make 3 or 4 dollars bonus and in the afternoon they're switched...

A. And they lose that 3 or 4 dollars. They lose every bit of it. I've seen pay checks here where people get as low as 3 cents for a weekly bonus, for 40 hours work. You'd think the company would be ashamed to put that much down. Better they put nothing than to insult people with three cents.

Then too, it seems everytime this company gives the people a raise they finagle that bonus around and the amount of the raise is deducted from the bonus.

Q. This is the first strike in this company, isn't it?

A. Right, the first strike. Maybe years back they had a different quality foreman. But the type of foreman they got in here now is a very low caliber of foreman, a real low caliber. They slow up people, push people around, switch them around. Most of them, if they're younger guys spend more of their time trying to make some girl than they do trying to get the products out.

Q. Are these foremen hired from outside or do they work themselves up from the line?

A. Outside. That's one of the troubles of this company, is that these foremen are hired from out side. The group leaders on the assembly lines have to break them in. The company doesn't give the group leaders a chance to work themselves to foremen. If they did they would get more work done and better work. They hire these new foremen and people resent that. All these people have worked here all these years, they figure they should have a chance to advance.

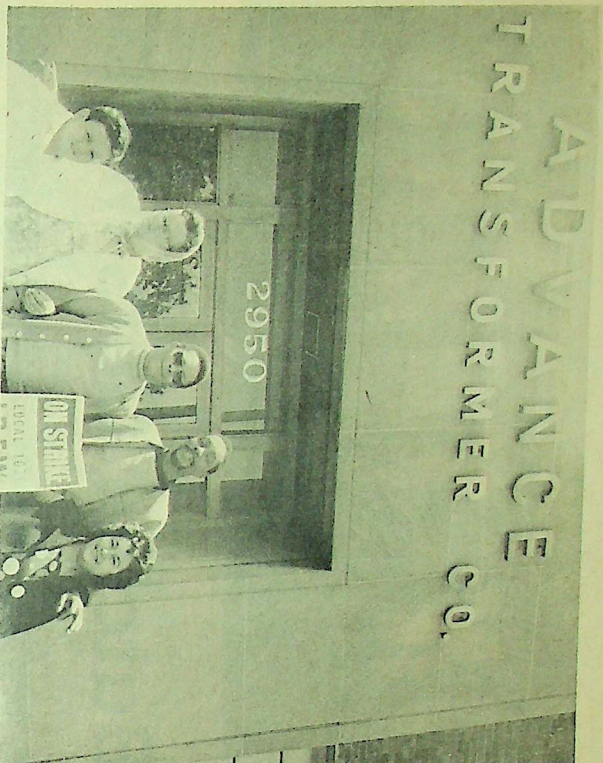
Q. Do you remember any times when you were working when you saw a foreman pushing people around like that.

A. Well, for example when we had our first vote, a woman was in line waiting for her turn to vote. The foreman from her line came over and says, "Get your ass over the line and go to work." The woman was there legitimately waiting to vote. In fact that's the type of stuff that's been going on

Wildcat Report

Subscribe to New York's monthly paper for working people. *Wildcat Report* pulls no punches, brings you the truth. Only \$1.00 per year.

WILD CAT REPORT
Box 574/Old Chelsea Sta.
NYC, NY 10011



around here. They push people. They push people, they don't treat them like human beings. They treat them like cattle.

When you got to take aggravation on top of low wages, that's when people here really hurt. They go home they beat up their kids, they beat up their wives or something cause they got aggravated here all day long by these petty foremen.

The petty foremen, they seem to have good wages, they have good pension plans, they have good insurance, they have good everything. They flaunt it in these peoples' faces.

Q. The contract that the company is offering now is the same contract you came out on strike against, isn't it.
A. Basically it's the same. Over a 3 year period the basic rate will go up 45 cents. The only difference between this contract and the other one is that over a 3 year period we'll earn \$300 more.

Q. Which as you said before isn't enough to cover the state income tax they passed.

A. Well basically these people want more money now on account of all these taxes that are going in. We haven't had a cost of living clause since this company has been in business. They have absolutely refused. It would be important to the people if they could know that when taxes go up, their wages go up. They're not locked in. They're practically frozen if they sign the contract for that small amount of money.

Q. A lot of people here seem to have worked for this company for a long time.

A. There is a lot of people here, 15, 16, 17, 20 year people. They still aren't making much over \$2.00 an hour.

Q. I hear there's no strike fund in your local?

A. No, there never was a strike fund in this union the way I understand it.

Q. What happens to all the dues they collect. I know they take about \$5 a month and this local has about 30,000 members.

A. Well, the dues are used around the local. That's not used for a strike fund. They give you free coffee which doesn't amount to nothing.

They have a big show every monthly meeting. If they took the money that they spend on that show and put it into a strike fund, every month it would build up, build up.

Q. When I was working at Stewart Warner, we heard Perry Como or someone instead of having a meeting.

A. Yeah, you get Perry Como, Jimmy Durante, those guys are expensive. They don't do this for nothing. They work for scale and over and entertainment scale isn't low. This is stuff they would never see in a life time, if they had to go and buy it. They get it free but it still don't pay the rent, it still don't give them no progress in the plants they're working at.

Q. What percentage of the people that work here are women?

A. Well, maybe 60% maybe a little higher.

Q. Do you think that one of the reasons that traditionally unions have not fought as hard to raise women's wages as they have men's is because

they think women don't have families to feed?

A. To my estimation, what you say is true. The unions do not go all out for the women to give them the equal rights and opportunities they do the men. There's a lot of jobs that women can do that they got men doing. That would give the women a little higher wage. Like they got men inspectors and women could be inspectors too.

Q. What kind of demands is the local making about the working conditions?
A. First we want this place ventilated during the summer when it's so hot. We would like adequate ventilation. We want these washrooms kept clean. Fact is, we got a man he's got to chase the women out of the washroom in order to clean it. It should be a woman to take care of the women's washroom, a man to take care of the men's. They run out of soap, they run out of paper towels. So when you get through working you got no soap to wash and you got no paper towels to dry yourself with. Until about a year ago 90% of the time you didn't have hot water. The water heaters were always going on the blink and they would never fix them. After about a million complaints they finally got new ones.

There aren't enough containers for different things to be thrown in. What containers they got aren't marked like for rags, paper or garbage, empty cans and stuff like that. There should be containers for everything. In the morning people start to work and all day long trash accumulates. When the containers get filled up they're not moved until the next day or that night. They should get moved as they get filled up. This stuff piles up and it goes all over the floor.

Gravy Train

The Chrysler Corporation has just announced that it will hire 4,450 new employees over a two-year period. What's the big deal about this? After all, Chrysler hires thousands of new workers every year—black, white brown, you-name-it.

The difference here is that the U.S. Dept. of Labor will pay Chrysler a staggering \$13.8 million of our tax money for this. This is like getting paid to breathe! Chrysler has to hire and train new workers anyway, but by calling it a "poverty" program they get the Government to foot the bill. And Washington gets to point out all the jobs they're getting the poor. If past experience is any guide, Chrysler will pocket the money and lay off most of these new workers.

Secrets?

We can't ever find out anything about "our" Government because all the facts are called "Top Secret". It looks like everyone knows what's going on except the American taxpayer. A Washington real estate developer, Edward Cook, was asked by county zoning officials to back up his claim that more housing was needed for National Security Agency employees. He replied that the Security Agency employs over 2,000 people. Surprised, the county zoning officials asked if that figure came from the Agency. Cook replied:

"Oh, no. I tried there first, but they wouldn't disclose it, so I called the Russian Embassy and they told me."

Czechs

The struggle in Czechoslovakia still goes on. Now the leaders are the Czech workers—and the battleground is the factory. On June 24th scattered walk-outs took place in at least five Prague factories, in protest against the puppet Government. More importantly, the N.Y. Times reported on June 30th that on-the-job slowdown and sabotage were wrecking the economic plans of the Russian stooges. One Czech economist was quoted as saying about the rebellious workers:

"They follow safety regulations to the letter, say they don't understand work norms or interpret them wrongly, and slow down plant tempos tremendously...In some workshops there is such an uncooperative labor attitude that you feel there are organizers behind it. But it's hard to spot them."

The puppet government is so worried that it's threatening a general purge in the trade unions of what Party boss Gustav Husak so rightly called "active resistance."

Wildcat Action Group

If you are interested in:

- **shop organizing
- **discussion groups
- **factory newspapers
- distributing Wildcat *****

write or call:

Box 574, Old Chelsea Sta.

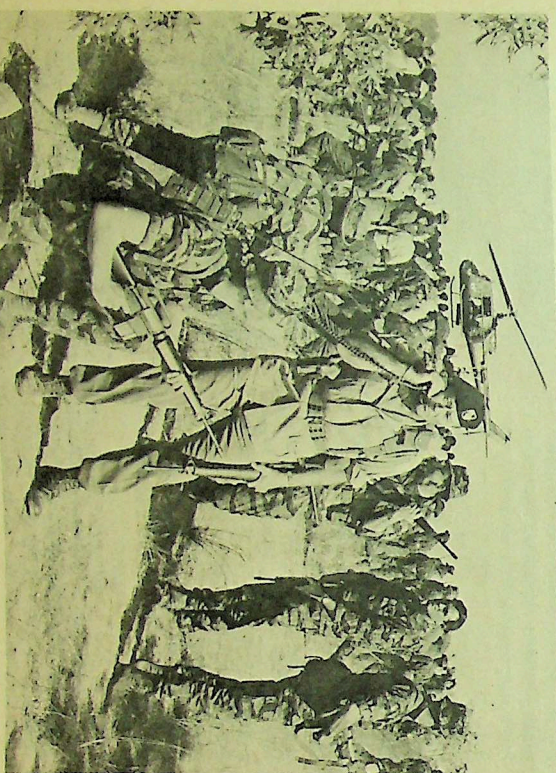
NY, NY.

YU 2-7451 nights

War In Real Life



War In The Movies



WHILE NIXON TALKS

Butcher Gets Medal

While President Nixon talks, the War goes on. Vietnam is already the longest war in American history, and the end isn't even in sight. This War has cost us more casualties than the bloody clash in Korea, and the dead and wounded still pour into stateside cemeteries and hospitals.

Far from ending the War, President Nixon is busy with a gigantic public relations fraud, designed to convince the American people that he's doing "all he can".

His 25,000 man troop pull-out is just one example. The three battalions of the 9th Division may be coming home, but only on paper. As 9th Division commander Gen. Harris W. Hollis told his men, "those who still have a significant period to serve here...can expect to remain in Vietnam." Some pull-out!

And who knows if there's really any troop reduction at all? It's a funny coincidence that when the first 800 troops in the pull-out landed at McChord Air Base in Washington, the planes were loaded with 800 replacements and sent back to Vietnam that day. It wouldn't be the first time the Government has lied to us outright!

The War itself is still a stalemate. All the new shouts that we've "turned the corner" towards victory are so much hogwash. The Viet Cong still commands the support of most of the people in Vietnam. And our allies in Saigon are still the crooked stumblebums they've always been.

What's new? Only the public relations job coming out of the White House. The best thing we could do for the Vietnamese and ourselves is to just get out—now.



Trying to convince us to swallow a bad thing, the Pentagon has awarded the nation's second-highest medal to Lt. Col. Weldon Honeycutt. In stories reporting how the Distinguished Service Cross was pinned on this butcher, much fuss was made over the fact that he was wounded twice during the May battle for Hamburger Hill. *What they forgot to mention was that both wounds were accidentally inflicted by his own side!*

Lt. Col. Honeycutt was the dim-witted ass who ordered his men to charge up that hill, right into 1,500 North Vietnamese who were dug in to beat all hell. For ten days this jackass sent our men to their deaths for a worthless piece of real estate.

The Administration called the battle for ApBia (Hill 937) or Hamburger Hill "a tremendous victory". We call it a goddamn butcher shop! Now the facts are finally all in—let's see what they show:

- 1) Ten percent of the total American casualties were due to our own artillery and air strikes! On both May 14th and 18th, helicopter-fired rockets struck the paratroop command post. In both "accidents" Lt. Col. Honeycutt was slightly wounded. At least two other incidents where our rockets and artillery hit our own troops are admitted by the Army.
- 2) The battle was worthless. If the Army had a "victory" like Hamburger Hill every day we'd be wiped out by Christmas. The June 2 *Newsweek* quoted a Pentagon lie that we had to take Hamburger Hill because it "was strategically important. It dominated the supply route from Laos to the Ashau Valley." These bastards don't even lie well. If Hill 937 was so "strategic", how come we've pulled off it?

3) The bitter fact is that the Brass have had us running up and down the Ashau Valley for years, and the whole area is still held by the VC. In November 1967 another Hamburger Hill was held in the Valley, on Hill 875 near Dako. For four days two understrength battalions of the 173rd Airborne charged straight up the hill. *They took the*

hilltop, but at the price of 50% casualties. How much "progress" was bought with those lives? NONE!

4) Khe Sanh or Hamburger Hill, all these big battles are the same. Worthless! Someday we'll leave Vietnam, and when we do it will all have been for nothing. In the meantime all the Brass are eagerly hunting up battles, in order to pile up "brownie points" and advance their careers. The GIs are just pawns, tossed away on meaningless "victories". Why should we play this game?

Killed!



On June 7th the Administration set another record—this time for getting a 15-year old American boy killed in Vietnam. Marine PFC Dan Bullock, from Brooklyn, N.Y., became the youngest U.S. soldier killed in action. He died of wounds suffered during an attack on his unit's base camp near Da Nang. Dan Bullock enlisted at age 14—with a little help from his "friendly Marine Recruiter". Unfortunately, it is known that there are thousands of other under-age youths caught up in the service.

THE WAR GOES ON

War Profiteers Get Fatter

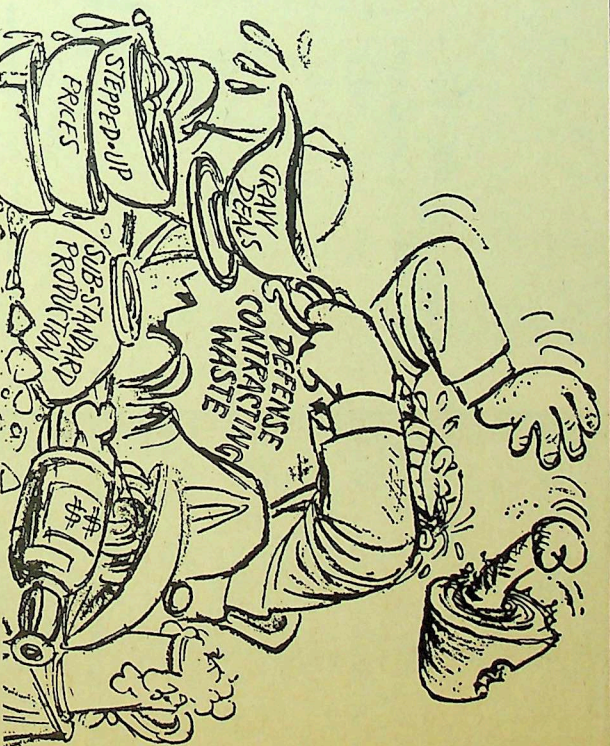
The war profiteers have it easy. Their customers often don't live long enough to complain! Don't think this is something new. In 1865 banker J. P. Morgan bought defective rifles for \$3.50 apiece and resold them to the Union Army for over a hundred dollars each. That may have happened in the days of the "Robber Barons" of business, but today's "defense" contractors are swindling just as well.

Take the case of the armored vests, designed to be worn in combat by GIs in Vietnam. Some 14,000 of them have already been bought from the Carborundum Company and sent to Vietnam. The cost? A fantastic \$400 each. But the worst part is that the lightweight ceramic vests are produced so shoddily that most of them are useless! A test batch of 64 vests disclosed that 53 of them were riddled

with cracks, holes and other structural defects.

Or take the "new, improved" version of the standard M-60 heavy tank. The Chrysler Corporation was given this \$250 million plum, and just got a second contract for even more tanks last year. The only trouble is that the "new, improved" M-60 doesn't work! 300 of these profitable mistakes are stored in warehouses, and 243 spare turrets are in the same place. Despite this, the Army has ordered another 243 more. Chrysler is happy!

Our Patriotic Award of the Year should really go to the U.S. Navy and its favorite contractors. They've taken that old routine—sign a contract at a high price and then raise it even more later on—and really gone to town. Last year the Navy contracted to buy

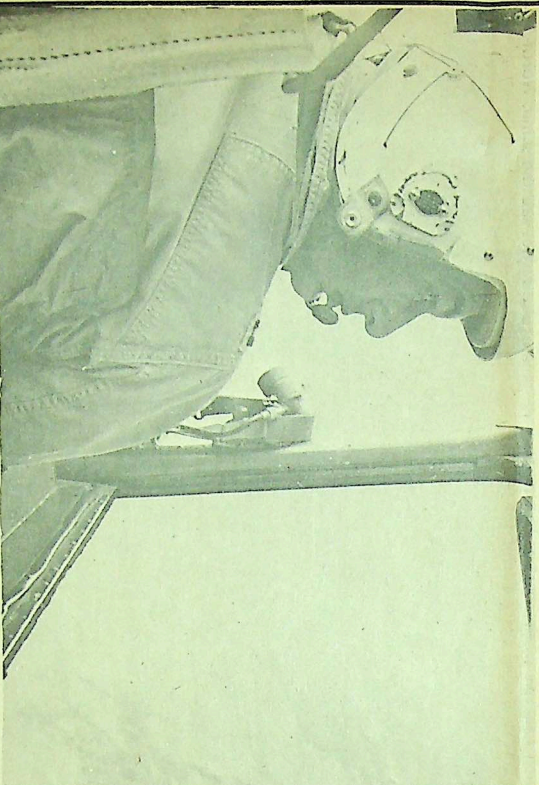


some deep-diving rescue submarines. Once the contract was signed, the contractor raised the price 2,700% from \$3 million to \$80 million! The Navy agreed it was all OK.

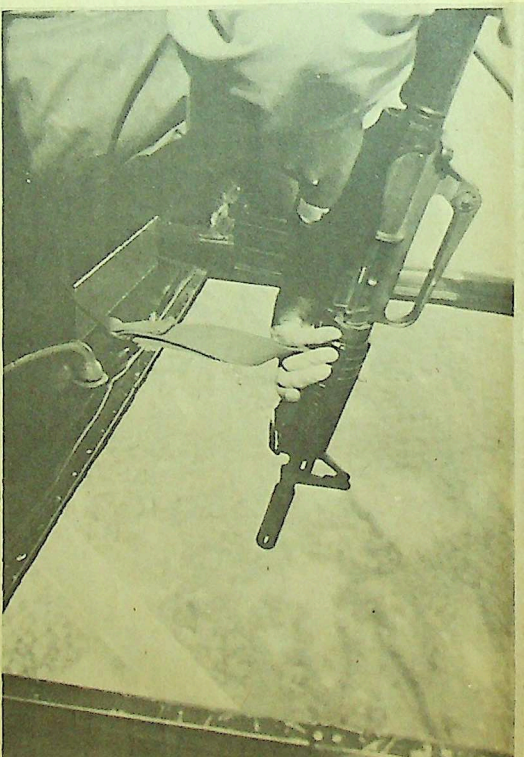
Big Business just uses "patriotism."

to cover up its greed for bigger profits. It beats the drum for "Defense" in order to sell more half-baked weapons at fantastic prices. And if some servicemen get killed as a result, why just blame it on communism—and try to sell more weapons.

FAC Pilots No Supermen



Pilot spots three peasants 1500 feet below.



Unsuccessfully empties his rifle at the fleeing Vietnamese.

Every war has its own heroes. Sometimes the Pentagon and the newspaper reporters have to make them up. In the Vietnam War a lot of glamour and publicity has been given to the Forward Air Controllers—the famous "FAC pilots". Flying slow, propeller-driven, little planes, these pilots operate close to the ground, as the "eyes" of the artillery and bigger strike aircraft.

Endless articles have been written about their gung-ho attitude in defying death, and their uncanny skill in spotting enemy targets. In building a colorful story around these career officers, the public relations boys have made them into supermen. Just part of glorifying this rotten war. As usual, it's all a thick slice of baloney.

Here's the story of a typical "FAC" mission, told in photographs taken by Joe Carey. Joe was an Army combat reporter in Vietnam, and this is the way he tells it:

"Our primary mission was to direct an air strike, but the low-hanging clouds caused it to be cancelled. The

Captain decided he hadn't done his bit for the day yet, so we took a little trip—looking for the Viet Cong.

"All the while I could hear the jet pilots lamenting the fact that if they couldn't find someplace to dump them they were going to have to land with their bombs and napalm.

"He found three peasants ("Viet Cong"?) standing in a field. The methods for determining who are Viet Cong and who are not Viet Cong from 1500 feet go beyond simple mysticism. Each pilot has his own method. Some can tell by the way a man walks. Some can tell by the expression on a man's face from 1500 feet. My pilot simply decided these men 'looked suspicious'.

"My pilot proceeded to empty his CAR-15 (rifle) at the three men who were now running. He didn't hit them, so he called for two gunships. He attempted to mark the spot where they'd hidden with phosphorous rockets, but his aim was about 50 meters off. The marksmanship of the gun-



Pilot lays phosphorous marker for gunships—but it's 50 meters off.

ships' wasn't any better. Both emptied their entire loads, never hitting the spot where the men had ducked into a hedgerow."

A typical fouled-up mission in a fouled-up War. Three planes and tens

of thousands of dollars worth of time, bombs, rockets and fuel weren't able to get three peasants running across a field. But it's OK, because the peasants probably weren't Viet Cong anyway—until now.

Behind The

Under relentless pressure from speedup and racism, on April 24th hundreds of black night shift workers walked out at Ford Motor Co.'s Mahwah, N. J. assembly plant (see Willcat, issue No. 1). The wildcat quickly spread, and the night shift was closed down.

Negotiations began between the company and the United Black Brothers, the black auto workers organization at Mahwah. The plant management offered to make concessions, including rehiring some of the suspended strikers and transferring a foreman whose racist remarks touched off the walkout. But this turned out to be just a stall, since "word" from Ford headquarters in Detroit approving the settlement was delayed—and in the end never did come.

The strike has ended as a draw, and racial tensions in the plant have been so great that at one point management had to close the plant altogether. The UBB is fighting on, trying to build a larger base of support for its next fight against the company.

Here are interviews with two members of the United Black Brothers, giving a valuable picture of why the auto corporations, with all their billions, are scared of these militants.

Interview #1

Q. What is your job? What do you do in the plant?

A. I'm a welder in the commercial department.

Q. Are you one of the three men fired for helping organize the strike?

A. Yes I am.

Q. What was this policy the company had now?

A. The company has a policy that if you've been out for a demonstration, they let things cool down for maybe a week or two weeks, then they bring you in the office, and they discipline you. But they don't discipline you for what you were out for. They tell you that according to your record, which they have built up on you, that you're being disciplined for your record, therefore it doesn't go down that you're being disciplined because you took off for King's birthday or because you were fighting for your human rights, this keeps them in the clear. You were disciplined because you've got a bad record. So this is what we are looking out for.

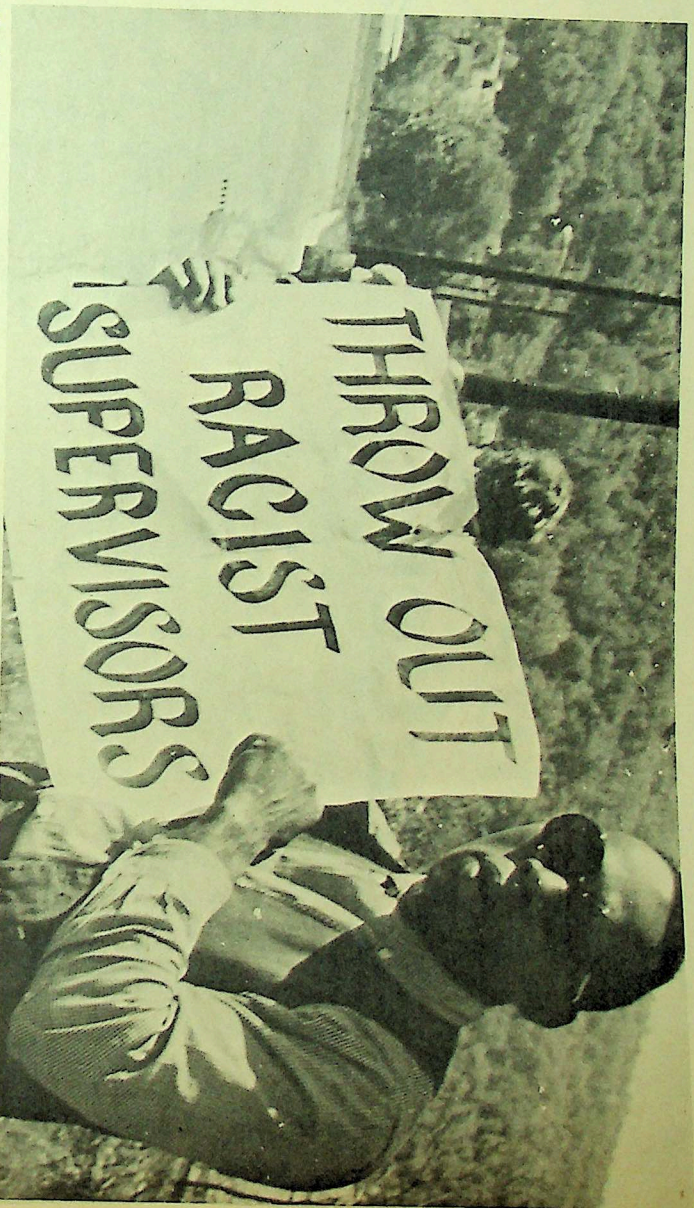
Q. How about the union meetings, what kind of turnouts and so forth?

A. We don't have too much of a turnout at the union meetings. Mainly we don't even have a quorum most of the time. At the last three meetings that were called, no meeting was held because there wasn't any quorum here. The people are disgusted and fed up, and frustrated. They lack faith in the union itself and the officials so they won't come out, they figure it's just going to be a regular bull session.

Q. This is especially true of the white workers?

A. Yes, because, the white workers are very complacent in the union and in the plant too. If we can get them to see that the problems not only affect us, but affect them too, maybe we could be more effective. We hope that maybe by them seeing our struggle and our fight, and when I say "our" I mean the militant whites and Puerto Ricans who are with us, maybe this will wake them up.

photo by marcia wooding



Q. Do they feel that it's hopeless trying to fight the union, is that the problem?

A. Many of them do. Like you've heard the old expression, "You can't fight city hall," so they feel that it's a waste of time cause you'll get the same old run around. Plus too, many of them feel that they've got too much responsibility to be jeopardizing, time off. So, whereas we feel that we've been hurt and we've been poor and broke for so long that it really doesn't matter. But many of those feel, I guess, that because of mortgages, bills and so on, their putting their kids through school they feel that they have to take it.

Q. It was mentioned that the company pays the union officers. Could you explain that?

A. Well, in all UAW unions, the company pays the union officials. This is something that we're strongly against. We pay between \$7.50 and \$8 a month dues. We have about 4200 workers here and we feel that with this large number of workers and this sum of money, we have enough money here to pay for our own union representatives. And we would like to find a way so that by paying our own leaders, they will represent us more fully. This way they only

Q. We have another man here who works at the plant here. What is your job?

A. I work on the final line.

Q. What's that?

A. That's the line where the car's completed before being transferred to car delivery.

Q. What are your reasons as a white worker here for coming along on this protest?

A. Well, I first joined the union, back in August of '67. The first incident I remember was an incident with a fellow worker by the name of George Times, who was called a derogatory name by a superintendent in the body shop.

He was informing a new white employee of his rights when he came into conflict with the superintendent and then he was called this derogatory name by the foreman. Action was supposedly taken by the union. But when a meeting was held of the membership of the union, anyone who

represent the company.

You know they thought they had won something when they originally got this thing in about the committee men getting paid TO WORK on the grievances. I think that's really what sent the UAW downhill. When the company pays a man to work on grievances it's in his interest, he doesn't want to have a hard job, he wants an easy job. It's in his interest to have as few grievances as possible.

Q. Do you have a check-off, a dues check-off?

A. They had a case here where a fellow was hired, he worked one day, and he was fired the same day. Well, he got his pay check and they took out \$20 initiation fee and the man took home \$9.

Q. Has anybody shown up from Detroit?

A. Yes, yes we've had 4 or 5 representatives from the Internation. Matter of fact Ken Bannon, one of the top executives, friend of Walter Reuther, was here Tuesday. And he brought with him two other representatives from Detroit, from the Human Relations Department, all old men from the old Reuther early '30s period. And they have no conception of the changing time. All they're afraid about is that we're gonna pull away

spoke up about it was immediately turned off by the then president, Aaron Resner.

And there's other reasons like I said. Myself, I was called derogatory names by the production manager, Jim Boss.

Q. Well do you feel that people that work in the plant should have more of a say about working conditions and speed of the assembly line and things like this?

A. They have no say now at all, none whatsoever, and definitely they should have more.

Q. What do you think people have to do to get this change to come about?

A. Well, they've tried to do things before, in the union, by the system. They haven't received any co-operation, and this is why it's become as it is now.

Q. Do you feel the movement that's going on here could be of benefit to

from the union, we're gonna be bad publicity for the union and all they wanna do is smooth things out quietly. "Go on back, we'll settle everything."

Q. Did they meet with your group?

A. No, we sent representatives over there though to meet with them. They presented a situation where they would form a committee of four black men to handle all problems that come up within the plant, racial problems. But here again they are choosing the people, two from Detroit and two from the local union. We just can't accept it. We say, "Let us choose who we want to represent us, don't you choose. Because you don't know who will speak for us."

Q. Do you have any message you want to give to workers in other auto shops who'll be reading these words about the conditions in your shop, or what you feel you've learned here about dealing with the company?

A. Well, I can only say this: I feel it is time that we all have to take a look at ourselves and say, "what am I and where am I going?" and "am I being treated as a man. Or am I just a number on a time card?" And I feel that if you're going to say that I am a man, and you have to be treated as a man with respect and dignity. And the things that we are demanding are only

white workers generally in the shop then?

A. Most definitely.

Q. Is this because of general changes in conditions that would apply to everybody?

A. Yes.

Q. What is your feeling about why many of the white workers aren't supporting it? What's the problem there?

A. The union leadership had kept the black and white and Puerto Rican workers separated, and insured themselves their caucuses, the white majority has been done to unify the union. It has never been a union. They're just divided among themselves because of their prejudices, and if they were to join together, you'd surely have a much more solid union.

How UAW Divides Workers

Ford Strike

right and just, and these things are really non-negotiable. So I just hope that the people wherever they are, wherever they work, will begin to get themselves together, and organize.

Interview #2

Q. You're not only a spokesman for the group, but a production line worker yourself?

A. I certainly am, every day. And I have been for the last four years.

Q. What proportion of the workers are black and Puerto Rican?

A. Well, in the plant you have approximately 4,200 employees, and out of this number approximately 1,700 are black and Puerto Rican.

Q. The racist incident that sparked off this strike, is it common? Has this happened before at Mahwah Ford?

A. This January, a black employee was working on the chassis line on the day shift. He was a relatively new employee, and he was having difficulty with his job. He was being verbally abused by his immediate superior, and on one occasion the supervisor called him a "sneaky, black M—F—."

Upon this, the individual retaliated physically, and in doing so was immediately fired. However, no action whatsoever was taken against the foreman, even though there were two witnesses to this incident, one white and one black, who testified to the attack by the foreman. And still nothing was done. The black man is in the street today!

Q. They seem to be looking to fire men—what's going on?



photo by marcia wooding

machine for it. We cannot just be machines. We can't expect to do 50 jobs today, and tomorrow—just at the will of the Company—be expected to do 100. You can't work the physical body the way you work a machine. And even if you could it would break down. This is something we can't and will not do.

They send you to lunch whenever they get ready to send you to lunch. You can't find the Committeeman to correct a problem that should be corrected. You can't get a medical pass, you can't get emergency relief. If you walk off the line to go down to the medic station because you may be injured, they'll take you to Labor Relations and you'll get a couple of days off—if you don't lose your job entirely.

Q. Are you getting support from the white workers? Or is there a difference between the older and younger white workers in terms of how they feel about these issues?

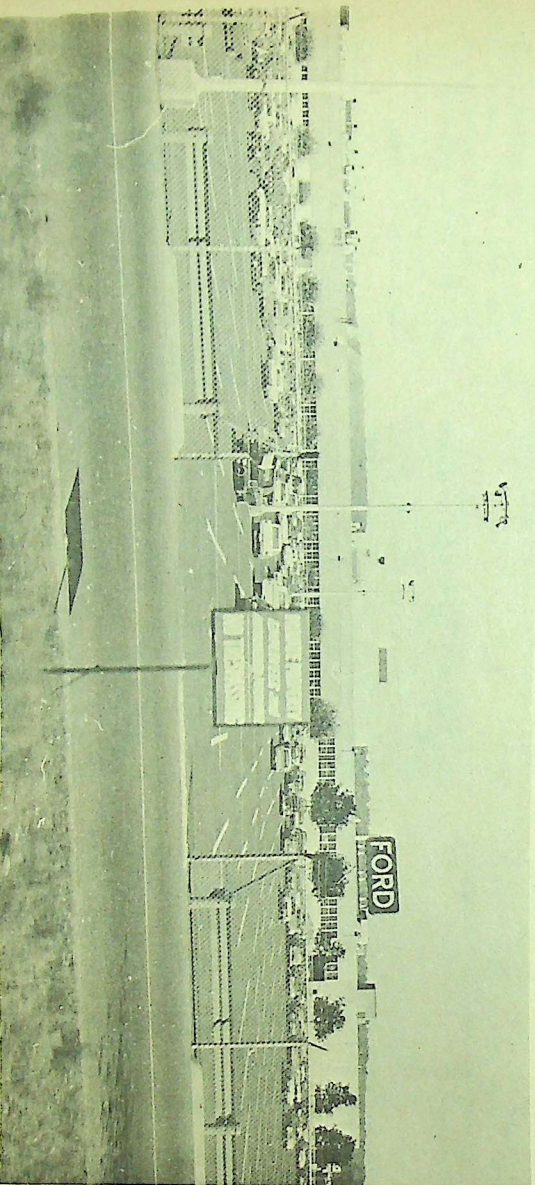


photo by marcia wooding

A. The '69 models have not been going very well, not as well as expected. So what has happened, the Ford Motor Co. has laid off a great many employees. Right here in Mahwah. However, the line speed has not slowed up one bit. We were producing 52 cars an hour when we had 4500 employees. Now that we only have, say, 4000 employees, we're still putting out 52 cars an hour. What they did is increase the work load, and say: "The rest of you have got to stand it!"

Where you've got a certain amount of work you do, they'll knock out two employees next to you and you'll get that extra work. This is what's been happening. The Union knows about it, and has done nothing about it. In fact, I think they cooperate with the Company in getting these things done.

Q. What about your pay?

A. Take-home pay for the Ford workers on the line is about \$140 a week, and they expect you to work like a

Company?

A. In this one instance we have seen—or the Union has demonstrated—that they are very definitely working with the Company. The very fact that they adopted a "hands-off" policy is clear enough proof. They don't want to protect the workers' rights. Now, whose rights are they going to protect? They don't have any of their own, so obviously they're going to protect the Company's "rights."

Q. Tell me something about your group, the United Black Brothers.

A. Well, the basic reason the group was formed was because conditions in the plant were so bad, and the Union was doing absolutely nothing about it. So we saw fit to form our own organization to effect some sort of change in this plant. Up until this time, we've worked within the scope of the Union, trying to put all sorts of pressure on the Union to get these things done—

and we have been unsuccessful. Therefore we had to take action.

Q. The UAW is always charging that groups like the UBB are run by outside agitators. Is that true?

A. This group is controlled by the rank-and-file. Now it is a fact that we have sympathy from outside organizations such as CORE, NAACP and other, student groups. They are in complete sympathy because we have made them aware of these problems. Allies, sympathizers, no more.

Q. Is the UBB a black-only organization?

A. No. We welcome all workers in the plant, and we certainly make every effort to enlist white workers' support 100%. We gave them literature, we let them know exactly how this would effect them, and we're still asking for full support.

Q. What are some of the arguments used against you—and how would you

answer them?

A. Well, the argument that they've been using against us is the fact that we're a splinter group. The Company says that the only bargaining agent that they are legally authorized to deal with is the Local 906, United Auto Workers. But in fact 906 has not been representative of the people, so therefore they are going to have to deal with somebody else.

Q. Nobody wants to deal with the people. And they keep saying that in America the people control the system!

A. Well, in fact they don't control the system. The system controls the people. This is why you have discrimination in your plants and in your factories and in your Unions. This is why you have unsafe conditions in your steel mills, and in your auto plants. If the people that worked in these conditions wouldn't exist. But in fact these plants and these factories are owned by the hierarchy of the rich, or the affluent, and of course they don't really care, do they?

Therefore they don't want to spend the extra money to correct these conditions, they'd rather see you get injured, because if you get injured, then you'll just go by the wayside and they'll pick somebody else to replace you. And you'll get very little from the compensation courts, because, of course, the courts and the companies and everybody else work hand-in-hand, because one is there to protect the other. And it's very few occasions that a working individual, an average, ordinary individual, can get any sort of justice whatsoever.

Q. Speaking of that, I understand you've had a lot of trouble with the city courts in Mahwah. Is that true?

A. You have to realize that the Ford Motor Company wields a great deal of influence in this area, right across the board, in the courts and everywhere else. So they can definitely have an effect on anything as far as the Ford Motor Company versus the black workers is concerned.

Q. How do you think these things can be changed?

A. I think it's been demonstrated that the people are very definitely going to have to organize to bring about some changes. They're going to have to direct this organization toward every institution that we presently have, the schools, the courts, the government itself.

You hear a lot of talk about justice in this country, crime in the streets. Sure we'll take a man who might throw a brick through a window and we'll give him 5 years in the penitentiary, but when a corporation like Con Edison in New York can in fact combine and overcharge millions of people millions of dollars, they get no action at all. All they have to do is pay a \$10,000 fine, nobody gets arrested, nobody gets put in jail. This is certainly not justice, or at least we have a double standard, and I think it should be recognized by all.

Q. Well, that brings another question to my mind. Do you think that it's possible to get the kind of changes that are necessary in society through the union? What I have in mind is in France where the unions came down on the side of the government when push came to shove.

A. This is true. We won't really know until of course we come to that ultimate moment when the confrontation does come about. However, as demonstrated in France, when the workers and the students and the people get



Orangeburg Killers Go Free

One of the bloodiest cases in recent courtroom history has finally ended. It is a case that has a lot to say about the cry for "Law and Order". Although the case is only a year old, it has been little publicized, and both victims and accused are now largely forgotten.

The scene was Orangeburg, South Carolina. The day was February 8, 1968. For the fourth straight night, black students were demonstrating to

"desegregate" a local bowling alley. Facing them were 66 troopers from the S. C. Highway Patrol.

Suddenly Captain Jesse Spell shouted "Now", and the troopers opened a deadly fire into the 200 students, killing three and wounding 27 others.

This was the infamous "Orangeburg Massacre".

In June, 1969, the trial of Captain Spell and eight other troopers was held

in Federal Court. Captain Spell's excuse that his men were being fired at

was denied by other Highway Patrolmen, who admitted that when the fatal order was given no shots had been fired at them, no hostile action was taking place, and no warning was given.

The FBI produced medical reports showing that 28 of the 30 victims had been shot in the back or side, as they attempted to escape the sudden gun-

fire. This was murder.

As we would all expect, the nine killers were found "innocent", and walked out of the courtroom to continue their jobs as "police". When it comes out of a politician's mouth, "Law and Order" sounds pretty catchy, like a TV commercial. But in real life it isn't so glamorous. Actually "Law and Order" is just a license for cops to commit murder.

Mahwah Cont.

together, they can affect major change, because they are the ones that support the country.

Q. The government now is beginning to try and cause a shortage of money to end inflation, at least that's their way of going about it. And they admit that that's going to throw alot of people out of work. What kind of impact do you think it's going to have here?

A. It seems to me that the only way they can ever seem to do anything is by affecting the working people. Well, we know how much money the government spends on defense and other areas, foreign aid. I think a more efficient way of ending this inflationary spiral so they call it, would be to cut some of this spending. After all, the government spends more than anybody else, don't they? Here's a man making \$130, \$140 a week, even \$100 a week, he's working, he's making less than the low level, or so-called poverty level, and yet they want to put the man out of work. I can't see any justification of throwing 5 or 6 million people out of work, no justification at all.

Q. Okay, is there anything else that you want to add?

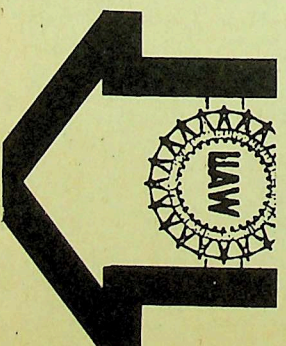
A. To the UAW in Detroit, Michigan, to those, our illustrious leaders Walter Reuther, Mazi, Ken Bannan, and the rest of you out there: If you don't want to see a complete collapse of the UAW as a representative of the people, you'd better get on the ball. Because like we out here at Mahwah are doing, it's going to be done at other places also. So you better get down here and try to represent these people, otherwise you're just going to lose control entirely. Either do your job or we'll do it for you.

NO CONTRACT FOR BUDD WORKERS

You can't accuse the United Auto Workers of being two-faced—they give both production line workers and the skilled tradesmen the same kick in the ass. Budd Corporation's Detroit plant (UAW Local 306) is a good case in point.

Budd is a very happy corporation. They are getting lots of Federal money to build the new, high-speed passenger trains. Last year was a record for them. They made \$11,200,000 profit, the highest in the corporation's history. And a big chunk of that profit was a "gift" from the UAW!

Since March 31, 1968, the 550 skilled tradesmen at Budd Detroit have been forced to work without a contract. When the skilled workmen rejected Budd's "offer" last year, and demanded that their wages be brought up to what the rest of the industry pays, their own union told them to get lost. The UAW told them to either accept the corporation offer or go



hungry.

Twice since then the International Executive Board of the union has refused the Budd workers permission to strike. Without union backing for a strike, the 550 men have brought pressure by refusing to work overtime.

Arrogant with the knowledge that the UAW leadership has abandoned its members, the Budd Corporation went into court. They demanded that the courts order the 550 men to pay Budd \$300,000 per day (since July 1, 1968), as a penalty for not working overtime! The UAW has even refused the Budd skilled tradesmen legal aid—not even one dime to defend themselves against this outrageous company attack.

Contributions and support are needed. The defense of the 550 men is being coordinated by the Local 306 UAW Workers Legal Defense Committee (PO Box 5084, Detroit, Michigan) and United National Caucus (PO Box 146, Centerline, Michigan).

Good Try?

On July 2nd, eight Congressmen and their families ended a week-long diet. Were they trying to regain a slim figure? No, they were bravely trying to live for a week on the national average welfare family's budget. That's \$18 a meal for each person.

How did they do? Rep. Abner Mikva (D-Ill.) complained, "I'm hungry". The 11-year old son of Sen. Mondale (D-Minn.) said: "You know, this diet really gets to you." Under the stress of hunger, the Congressmen and their families started to crack—one Senator's son stole the whole family's lunch one day! As always, the Congressmen looked out for themselves. Leaving their wives and children to face a "welfare lunch", they stuffed themselves at lunch in the Senate dining room.

Consumer Watchdog

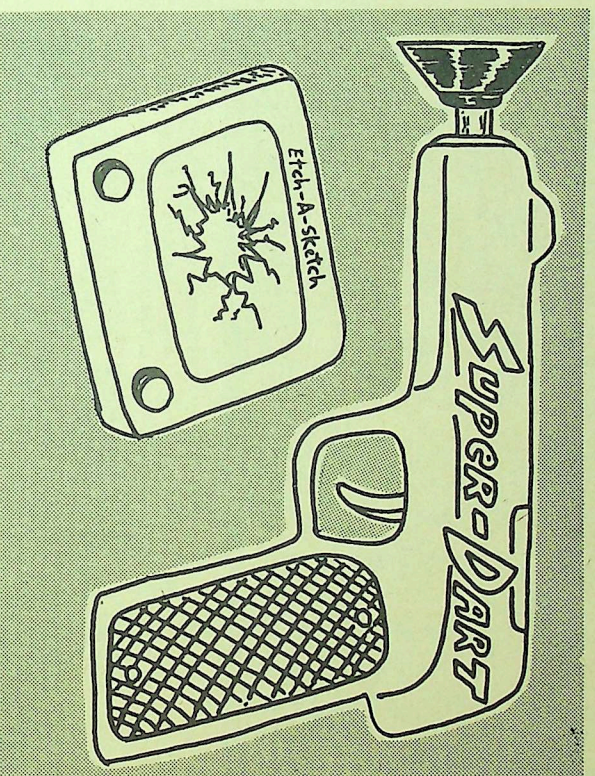
Deadly Toys Flood Market

The American toy industry does a \$3 billion business a year. The fact that many of the toys they sell are dangerous doesn't bother them a bit. They put up a big front and make a show of supporting safety legislation but it's all just so much hot air. The fact remains that 17 million children are injured and another 15,000 are killed at play. Bikes, trikes and playground equipment are the biggest offenders, but the toys your children play with at home can maim and kill too.

There's an infant crib that has been responsible for the strangulation of several infants. It's called the "Kiddle Koop" and is put out by Trimble Products, Inc., Southern Pines, N. C. This crib-playpen has a heavy lid that is supposed to be fastened by plastic straps. If the straps stretch or become unfastened on one side the baby can squeeze its head between the lid and the railing. With the heavy hinged lid resting on the back of its head, the baby cannot pull himself free.

One Miami coroner reported a total of 11 infant deaths caused by the "Kiddle Koop" to the National Commission on Product Safety. When the president of the company was asked to testify, he refused to appear.

For older children there are such



traps as the Little Lady oven that heats to 660 degrees, 100 degrees hotter than the average home oven.

Then there's the "super-safe" Suzy Homemaker oven heated by a bulb. Several children have been severely shocked and at least one killed by sticking their fingers into the bulb socket.

The Etch-A-Sketch toy has what

appears to be a plastic surface for children to draw on. Actually it's a highly breakable glass panel which has caused serious cuts.

All dart toys, whether shot from a toy pistol or blowgun are lethal, both to the child using the toy and his playmates. Eleven children in Philadelphia have had one-inch darts removed from their lungs. The children

In 1965 New York's Tiborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority finished a study of carbon monoxide poisoning in their tunnels. The results were so alarming that they quickly buried the study! Last month the union for the toll collectors and tunnel guards finally got their hands on a copy.

It showed that the lack of ventilation within the tunnels caused a carbon monoxide level TWICE the maximum danger mark. Further, the study confessed that the monoxide monitoring alarms in the tunnels were useless, since they were set to go off only at THREE TIMES the maximum danger level.

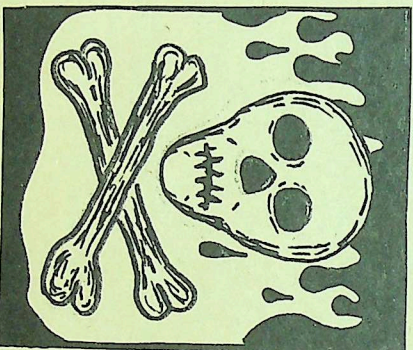
According to Local 1396, State, County & Municipal Employees, 22

Teen Zaps Air Force

On July 17th a surprise attack broke through the security patrols at March Air Force Base in California. 250 specially trained Air Police and sniffer dog teams were caught flat-footed as the attack force captured a B-52 Stratofortress bomber.

After stripping the giant bomber of small arms, ammunition, rations and other supplies, the attack force was finally captured as it was hauling the loot off the base. Was this an "exercise", with base security being tested by a crack Green Berets team? No, the successful assault was made by a 14-year old boy, who was finally released to Juvenile Authorities. Air "Farce" spokesmen explained the episode away as a "temporary deficiency". It's a good thing the kid didn't steal an H-bomb!

Tunnel Employees Gassed



tunnel employees recently took special blood tests, which showed "strick-

ing abnormalities" in their blood samples. Doctors have known for some time that carbon monoxide poisoning can cause gradual brain damage, and that the effects build up dose after dose.

To avoid paying for more ventilation, this so-called "public authority" deliberately suppressed vital information, knowing that its employees would suffer permanent damages as a result. And the performance of the union wasn't too impressive either. They knew that the Tiborough Authority was up to its usual dirty work four years ago, and they should have shut down these tunnels until the demand for a safe workplace was met. If a union won't do something as simple as that, what damn good is it?

REPORT DISTRIBUTE

Be a shop reporter. We want to start a shop grapevine column. We need short reports on strikes, job conditions, and struggles for this.

Be a distributor. Wildcat is a new publication. To build a readership we need first to build a staff of distributors. Let us know how many copies you need. Write us for additional copies.

CONTRIBUTE



Killed For Nothing

Although he was slow-witted and had trouble speaking, Donald Oughton had always gotten along all right. He carried a card in his wallet giving his name and address. But that wasn't enough to keep him alive when he met the Los Angeles police.

Looking for a reported sniper, Patrolmen Norman O'Malley and Henry Kennedy were cruising in their car when they spotted Oughton. They thought that the 29-year old white man looked "suspicious". So they stopped him for a frisk. Scared, Oughton reached in his pocket and drew out the card bearing his name and address.

Standing behind him, Patrolman Kennedy shouted: "Watch it, he's got a gun!" Kennedy then drew and fired, missing the "suspect" but nicking his partner in the finger. This second cop then started blasting, hitting Oughton in the face. For good measure, they then pumped two shots into Oughton's back, although he was probably already dead.

All this came out when the cops had to admit that Oughton had been completely unarmed. Mentally retarded, Donald Oughton just wasn't sharp enough to stop those two cops from murdering him in cold blood.

I Let John Wayne Shoot

Movie Review

Me For \$1.40 An Hour

WORLD PREMIERE TODAY!

The following is an inside look at the "Green Berets". The man interviewed worked as an extra in the film, while on duty at Ft. Benning, Georgia. We're leaving out his name because he is still in the Army.

Q. How did you come to work on "Green Berets"?

A. I didn't have any choice! I was in the Army, at Ft. Benning, Georgia, stationed with the 610th Maintenance Company. This was an outfit that had no mission, no equipment, no nothing. We were just detailed all over post, we hauled garbage, cut down trees, picked up paper, greased trucks and cleaned classrooms. Anything that had to be done.

So along came the "Green Berets" and they detailed our whole company as extras or "atmosphere" as they termed it. Each day we'd be signed out on supervised pass, loaded onto trucks and dumped out on the site of the movie.

Q. What did you do in "Green Berets"? Can you be seen in the movie?

A. Well, you can see me in a couple of scenes, I suppose I'd recognize my face. They had one scene where they blew up a bridge and a guy falls into the water—that's me. In another case where the Viet Cong overrun John Wayne's camp, I'm dressed up as a VC officer.

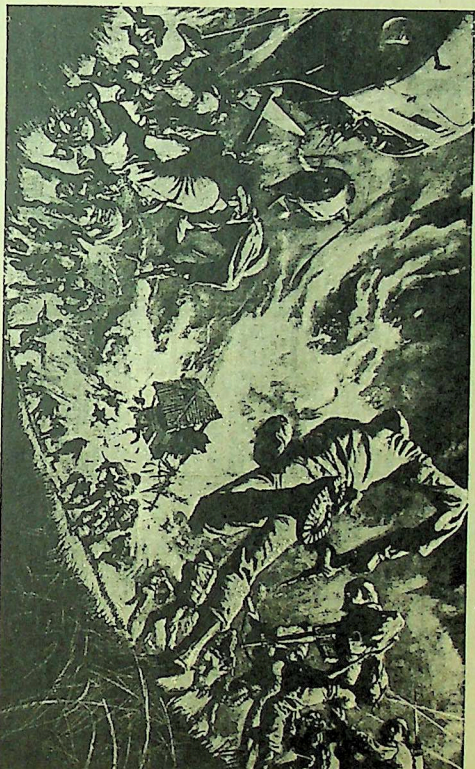
Q. Would you describe the Viet Cong costume you were wearing?

A. OK, it was a khaki uniform. We had wrapping around the legs like you see on a World War I American uniform. The collar had red markings on it and the hat looked sort of like a smashed down army helmet. It had webbing on it and we were supposed to stick a few sticks and crap in it.

We had a pistol belt around us with ammo pouches. It was fake but it looked pretty good from a distance. We also had a little toy rifle, mostly wood.

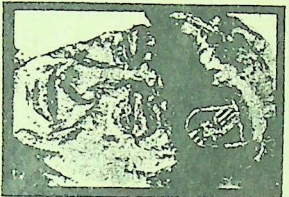
Q. Did you get paid?

A. Yeah, we got paid. We got \$1.40 an hour, or something like that.

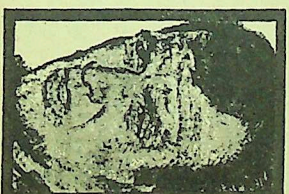


So you don't believe in glory. And heroes are out of style. And they don't blow bugs anymore. So take another look—at the special forces in a special kind of hell—

THE GREEN BERETS



JOHN WAYNE



DAVID JANSSEN

A BILING PRODUCTION BY ALDO RAY
STORY BY JAMES LEE BURETT. DIRECTED BY MICHAEL WANE. COSTUME DESIGNER JOHN WANE. EDITOR LARRY KELLOGG. PRODUCTION DESIGNER JAMES H. TROM. MUSIC BY BOB SHAPIRO. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JAMES H. TROM, BOB SHAPIRO.
WORLD PREMIERE TODAY!
WARNER THEATRE
PERFORMANCES CONTINUOUS
Broadcast at 47th Street, N.Y.C. 5-5711

Q. Did guys really want to take part in the movie?

A. A few guys were enthusiastic when they first started, but it turned out that post-wide they couldn't get the number of volunteers they needed. Most guys just didn't give a damn.

They had to detail whole companies as "volunteers". You either went or you pulled KP. Eventually a couple of us said, "Well, we'll pull KP instead of going out to be part of a bullshit movie."

Also, most of us spent a lot of time trying to hide out because it was getting towards fall and it was pretty cold. We couldn't wear jackets or anything, just those damn VC costumes they gave us. So they spent a lot of time with MPs out trying to round us up.

Q. What was it like, being in the movie? What did you have to do?

A. Well, we'd be waken up an hour early, about 4 am. We'd have our chow and everything and be signed out on supervised pass before 7 o'clock. We'd load up in chartered buses and they'd haul us out to the set. We'd be chosen in groups, given uniforms and make-up applied. Finally we'd be told what part of the set we would be on and we'd walk up there and sit around waiting for them to tell us what to do.

Q. Did you work an 8 hour day?

A. No, it was longer. Our normal duty day is from 7 in the morning to 5 in the afternoon. By the time we'd get done with the movie it'd be about 8 o'clock. At the end of the day they had the MPs search all the buses taking us back because guys were lifting all the props. They'd send MPs through the buses shaking everybody down, making sure they hadn't stolen any VC uniforms or green berets or Aldo Ray's bottle or anything. Aldo Ray was a big star in the movie. We always had to stand around because he was so drunk they couldn't start filming.

Q. Is John Wayne a big hero in the Army?

A. No, we think he's a joke. There were a couple of guys that really wanted to meet John Wayne and get their pictures taken with him and all. But then they said, "Hell, he's just an old guy with false teeth and a pot belly—he's all shot to hell!" Like in basic training some character who's gung-ho—trying to crawl through the

Q. You were in Vietnam, weren't you? I mean, was that anything like what they show in the movie?

A. Hell, no! I mean, they selected Ft. Benning because that's sort of what it looks like in the Nam. The equipment and all that's authentic because the Army provided it. You know nobody cares for the war, and the Army wanted something—what better way to whip up enthusiasm for the war than to show a Vietnam war movie with John Wayne doing the same thing he did to the Indians, only this time against the Vietnamese.

Since I've been back from Nam I've talked to friends of mine, some were in airborne, some were in the Green Berets itself. They all thought the movie was a big joke. It wasn't realistic at all.

Like the "Puff the Magic Dragon" (C-47 gunships), we couldn't just fly one of those over a VC camp and fire the machine guns for thirty seconds and wipe out everybody in the camp.

Or, another example, there's one scene in the movie where John Wayne's heroes get overrun but everybody escapes just in the nick of time. Then they come back and clean the VC out. God help the recruit who thinks that that's what war is like!

In one case from personal experience: we were preparing search lights for the 2/29th Artillery near Bon Song. There was a battle going on a little ways away, so the platoon of air cavalry men who were protecting us were sent to check this out. Then Boom! The VC swept through and killed five guys before we knew what was happening. The rest of us just hid in holes, hoping they'd go away. They did and we came out.

Q. Did you know any Green Berets while you were in Nam? Were they anything like they're shown in the movie?

A. Well, the only Green Beret outfit I can speak of knowing was one I saw outside of Pleiku, out in the Montagnard country in the central highlands. Like, man, those cats had it made! They had their portable television sets picking up armed forces TV, refrigerators, girls and everything. You know, they had trained the Montagnards to guard the camp, cook the food, and haul out the garbage and all that. They just laid around watching TV and screwing. I'd like to make a movie in technicolor about that!

Q. What do you think of the movie in general?

A. One bad effect of the movie is the fact that it tends to glorify war. They had difficulty doing it because a war like Vietnam is tough to glorify. I mean, lots of things that a movie won't show, like a small support outfit where the work is boring and guys don't care, where men spend their time drinking beer and smoking pot to forget where they are.

It doesn't talk about the isolated infantry unit that's stuck at a bridge the whole damn time over there, just waiting for the time its going to be overrun. It doesn't talk about support companies being detailed like we were once after the 52nd Infantry and the 101st Airborne got badly chewed up, and a couple of us had to sock them in the bags and ship the guys home.

The movie's not accurate about war at all because if they made a movie that would truly portray the war in Vietnam, it'd just be a boring, sickening mess.

Why Take A Chance?
Don't Miss An Issue
SUBSCRIBE \$1.00 A YEAR

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP CODE _____

MAIL TO Wildcat—Post Office Box 9117
Chicago, Illinois 60690