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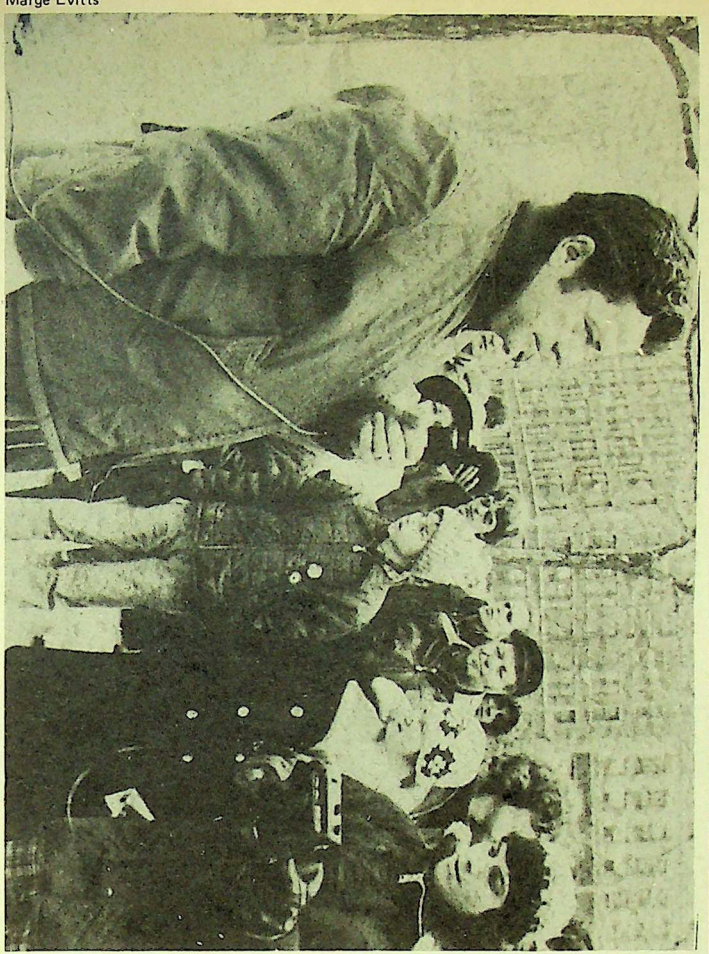
Modern TIMES

Vol. 3, No. 1

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February 1974

Donation 10¢



Marge Evitts

George Rynn, president of the CIT, addresses the MODERN TIMES support rally in Public Square. The crowd responded with an enthusiastic "Hell No!" when he asked them if they fell for the energy hoax, and another "Hell No!" when he asked them if they would tolerate a government which seems to think consumers are stupid.

Profit Scramble To Blame

After a year of skyrocketing prices, sellout labor contracts and phony shortages, working people now have another of the corporations' goodies to deal with: the threat of massive unemployment in 1974.

Heavy layoffs have already hit auto and airline workers. In auto, 200,000 workers were temporarily or "indefinitely" laid off in December or early January, many of them from Northeastern Ohio. So one out of four has been standing on the unemployment line recently! The airlines plan to cancel almost one million flights this year and dump over 25,000 people from their payrolls.

Who gets SUB pay??
How do the auto layoffs hit workers? Don't they draw up to

95% of their working wages under the company-paid Supplementary Unemployment Benefit plan? They're supposed to, for up to half the time they've been with the company, if they've put in more than a year. But many of those laid off don't have much seniority. A lot of them are workers on the job less than 90 days, who can't collect a cent of the SUB money and aren't even in the union.

Who is hit hardest, in any lay-off, in any industry? Who's got the least seniority? It's those who can least afford it, those who are struggling hardest for their jobs and their lives—young workers who may be just starting a family and have no money in the bank; blacks and other minorities who are fighting hard to achieve real

equality of employment opportunity and gain skilled, secure jobs; women who are just establishing their economic strength. (At the Linden, New Jersey General Motors plant, which makes Cadillac and luxury-model Oldsmobiles, every one of the 350 women workers was laid off.)

Energy crisis an excuse
Auto companies and other corporations have been expecting to lay off for a while now. The "energy crisis" is just a convenient excuse. Auto companies, banks, oil monopolies and other multinational outfits have been worrying about keeping up their profit on a disturbing international scene—even though 1973 was a record year for profits (imagine putting 47% more in the bank in 1973 than in 1972, as the oil industry did!)

Truckers' wives around the country are getting together to form support groups for the truck strike. The Women's Council of the Ohio Drivers Club based in Akron held a rally on Monday, February 3, and plans to hold rallies every Monday until the government rolls back fuel prices.

"We have a special role as women," one woman explained. "We are both truckers' families and consumers and we feel this on both ends. We have to face high prices in the supermarket—just like all other women. So we don't want a freight rate hike. But with fuel costs so high, our husbands can't even earn a living. There's got to be a rollback on all fuel prices."

The Women's Council is encouraging women all over the country to organize weekly Monday rallies and other activities to support the truckers. (see statement on page 5)

Truckers' Wives Broaden Strike

The Women's Council of the Ohio Drivers Club can be contacted through Post Office Box 6117, Akron, Ohio 44312.

In addition to the rallies, the Women's Council has been busy getting its story to the public in other ways. Several women tapped a program for educational radio which is being sent around the country.

Bumper stickers are being sold with the slogan, "Save Fuel, Burn Nixon—Support The Truckers." According to Betty Woodard, the Council's president, the bumper stickers are selling like wild.

Meetings are planned to get publicity and other committees organized so that more people get the truckers' side of the story.

"Many people think independent truckers make lots of money," a trucker's wife explained. "That's simply not true. When you consider the truck payments, fuel costs, costs of permits in all the towns we drive through we are not breaking even any more."

If you, our readers, have any ideas for forums where truckers or their wives could speak, contact the women's group immediately.

Asked why the government came down so hard on the truckers, another woman summed up the struggle this way: "Our husbands love to be independent—that's why they're truckers. But this government can't stand independent people. They want to break us. And if they break us, then they feel they can break anybody."

The Women's Council is tentatively planning a march on Washington and hopes the public will march with them.

"We are for the people," one woman told us. "And we hope people will come out and support us."

AS WE GO TO PRESS...

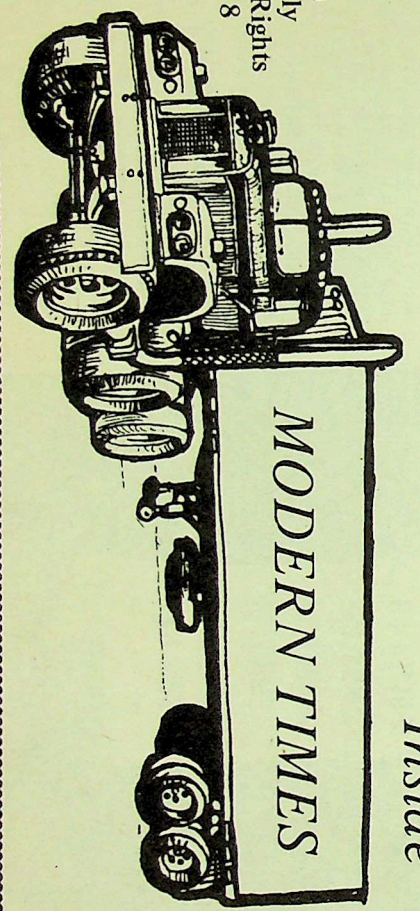
Akron, Ohio, Feb. 10, 1974.
**500 members of the Council of Independent Truckers voted unanimously tonight to continue the truckers' shutdown. The truckers booted the government proposal, which to them was nothing.

**Leonard Fleet, the truckers' high-priced lawyer who declared earlier this week that the shutdown was over, failed to show up at the meeting and was asked to resign.

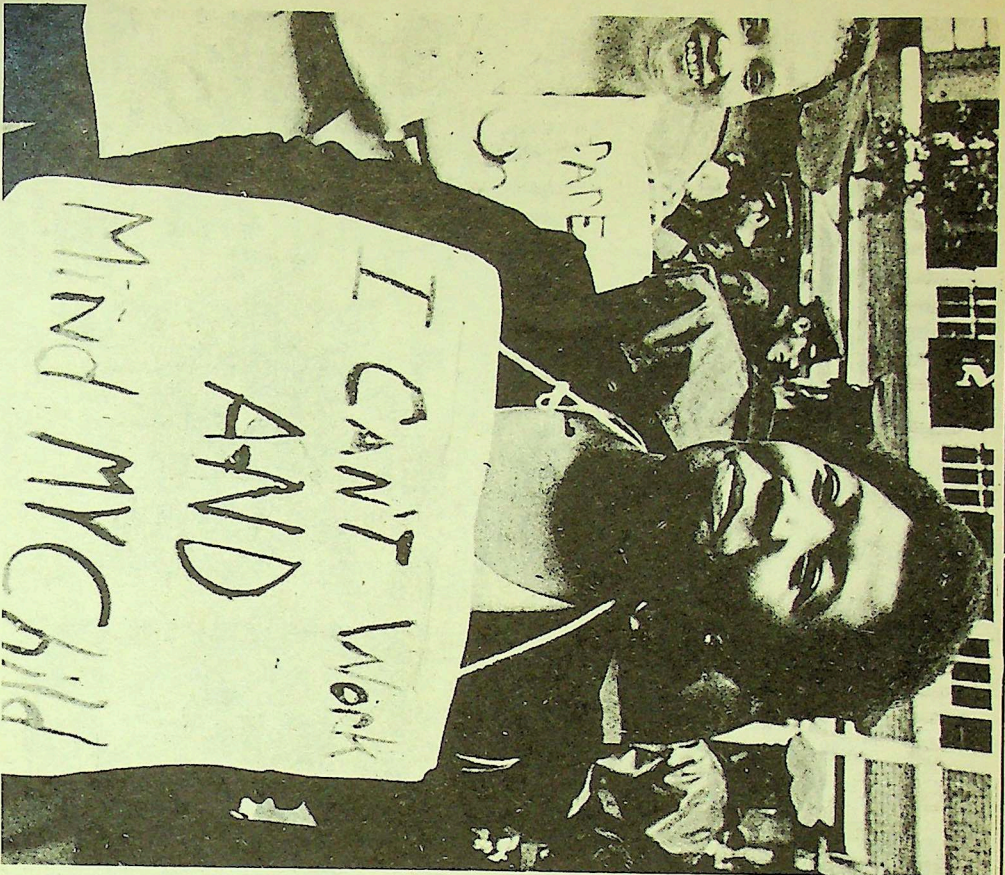
**The Council of Independent truckers joins truckers in over 35 states who are still shutdown.
RIGHT ON TRUCKERS!!!

Thousands Thrown Out Of Work

- Truck Stop Diary
- Truckers' Stories
- Wives Speak Out
- A Strategy to Win
- Public Square Rally
- Truckers' Bill Of Rights
- See pages 4, 5, or 8



SAVE FUEL--BURN NIXON!! SAVE FUEL--BURN NIXON!! SAVE FUEL--BURN NIXON!! SAVE FUEL--BURN NIXON!! SAVE FUEL--BURN NIXON!!



Story For Working Parents

Ron was getting a lot of flack from his foreman at Westinghouse for "hardness". He had been late and absent pretty often during the last months. No one was surprised when he hadn't shown up by 8AM one morning in early January.

But when Ron came in, put his little baby down beside him on the line, and picked up assembling lights where he'd left off the day before, people in his group were very surprised. The foreman freaked out and called the security guard to get rid of the trouble. (Another version of the story says that Ron came in to work and tried to leave his baby in the guards' office for them to watch, but security wasn't having any.) The ending of both versions is that father and baby were very quickly sent home.

Finding someone to watch your kids is a real problem for working parents. Most people rely on relatives or try to find a good babysitter. But what can you do when that breaks down? What do you do when a child is sick? It's your problem to solve individually as best you can.

Usually it falls to the children's mother to stay home so that the kids can be taken care of properly. Many mothers are left no choice but to be fulltime housewives. For those women who have outside jobs as well, a child's problems or repeated illnesses threaten their employment. A friend of mine was recently fired by Ohio Bell and forced onto welfare because, with the flu and the hospitalization of one child for neurosurgery, she missed more than the permissible 5 days absent.

While responsibilities for looking after the children fall most often on the mother, the kids' father loses too. Working one or two jobs trying to support the family, he doesn't have much time to share in bringing up his children. If he plays an active part

in their care, he's left like Ron with the choice of staying home or bringing the baby to work. Men and women both desparately need time to be with their children *and* time to do other things with their lives.

Day care centers, run by the parents and the community would give parents and especially women time to work since they have to, and to explore some of the other things they would like to do. At the same time, day-care programs could provide a safe and fascinating place for kids to be with each other for part of each day.

Nixon has cut back funds for daycare since it "breaks up the family" (working doesn't?). And I know of no Cleveland corporation which even allows days off to take care of children, let alone pays for daycare facilities for its employees.

We're beginning to demand that the people we work for finance childcare that we would run. After all, children could certainly mess up their production quotas and their orderly procedures. If we all brought our kids to work one week . . .

Some of us tried to watch the State of the Union address on TV the other night. At first we couldn't figure out just what country Nixon was talking about. When we did we just gave up. Mike fell asleep on the couch. The rest of us wound up in the kitchen drinking coffee. It's not that we expected all that much. But Nixon is so out of touch it's really amazing. And that wouldn't even matter if he didn't have so much power over us.

Some of the stuff he said was really incredible.

"There will be no recession in the United States of America."

Who the hell is he trying to kid? Most people are paying 55¢ for a gallon of gas, \$1.20 for a gallon of milk, and 60¢ a loaf for bread. Many people are getting laid off. Nixon can afford to play all those statistical word games because he gets waited on hand and foot in the White House. Most people know there's a recession in this country and most people know the suffering recession brings a lot more than Richard Nixon knows it.

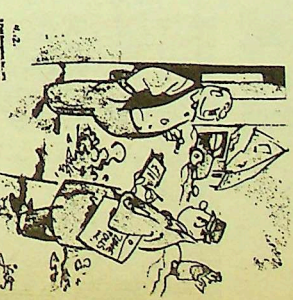
But TV speeches are just political vaudeville shows. In a written version of the speech Nixon promised that "output will rise if the if at all, unemployment will rise somewhat and inflation will be high." Isn't that a recession?

Remember last year's State of the Union message? Nixon promised that inflation would slow to 3% and that farm prices would stabilize. Last year inflation climbed to 9% and farm prices soared up 52%. Come on, Mr. President, grow up. We don't need a goddamn cheerleader in there.

"... America is the greatest single force for peace anywhere in the world."

That's pretty hard to believe when U.S. money still supports fascist regimes in Greece, South Vietnam, South Africa and a lot of other places. And we still run

Nixon Is A



"I believe that inflation will be beat, I believe that wages and prices will stabilize, I believe the war will end, and I believe in magic!"

like scared chickens every time the Russians move some troops around.

"... we have organized a massive national effort to protect the environment."

What about all the air and water pollution guidelines which were dropped right after the oil companies stopped pumping oil and started complaining about not making enough money?

"Let's do everything we can to avoid gasoline rationing in the United States."

Why don't we do something to avoid higher gasoline prices in the United States?

"... the time is at hand... to bring comprehensive, high quality health care within the reach of every American."

It's simple, Mr. Nixon. We don't need bureaucratic insurance plans. All we need is free medicine.

"... the time has come for a major initiative to define the nature and extent of the basic rights of privacy."

Remember the plumbers, Dick? Please don't give us any definitions about our rights. Just get the goddamn bugs out of the closet and the goddamn taps off the phones.

"I urge the Congress to join me in mounting a major new effort to replace the present welfare system

NEWS

Kentucky Miners Strike Faces Bosses' Threats

The United Mine Workers of America is organizing again. Several hundred miners have been on strike against Duke Power Co. in Harlan, Ky., since August. Their success (or failure) will be felt all over eastern Kentucky coalfields.

Issues of the strike are safety (the strikers want a union safety committee that can shut the mine; the company wants a no-strike clause) and portal-to-portal pay (Duke Power says you're on your own free time from when you go down in the mine until you actually start hacking at the coal), and a medical program.

The strike is taking place in Harlan County, scene of some of the most violent strikes of the 30's. The bosses are using some of the tactics today—court injunctions to limit the number of pickets at a mine entrance to 3; large fines for violators; foremen taking pictures of strikers and telling them "you'll never work again." A blacklist is no idle threat in a place where mining is the only job you can get.

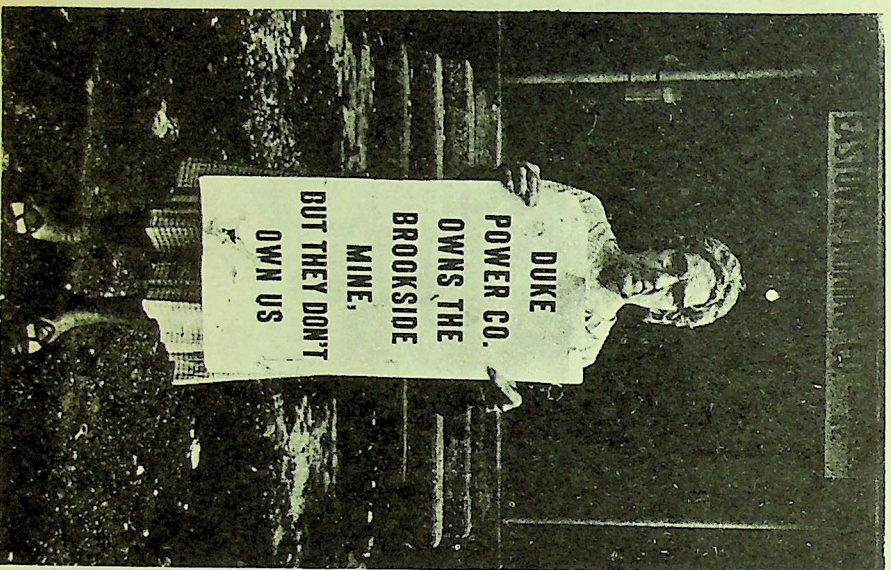
Duke Power made \$80 million net income last year, a record for the company. This year they are asking for a 17% rate increase. The Brookside mine has been cited for numerous safety violations by US government agencies; the violations have not been corrected.

Let Me Call You Sweetheart

The entire West Side of Cleveland is waiting with bated breath to discover who will be named Sweetheart of the West Side. Finals in the all-W. 25th and Washington. Admission is 25¢.

Contestants from 17 West Side churches and organizations include Modern Times—will compete in dress, talent, and bathing suit. There will be something for everyone—feminists will get a chance to retaliate, admirers of the male body will get to see some skin, and male chauvinists will get their condescendance.

All judges will be women, except for a token male. We invite our readers to come—the Sweetheart of Modern Times needs all the support he can get.



Goofball'

"With one that works."

Remember, Dick, people are starving to death right now.

"It may well be that one of you freshman members of the 93rd Congress will deliver his own State of the Union message... in the year 2001."

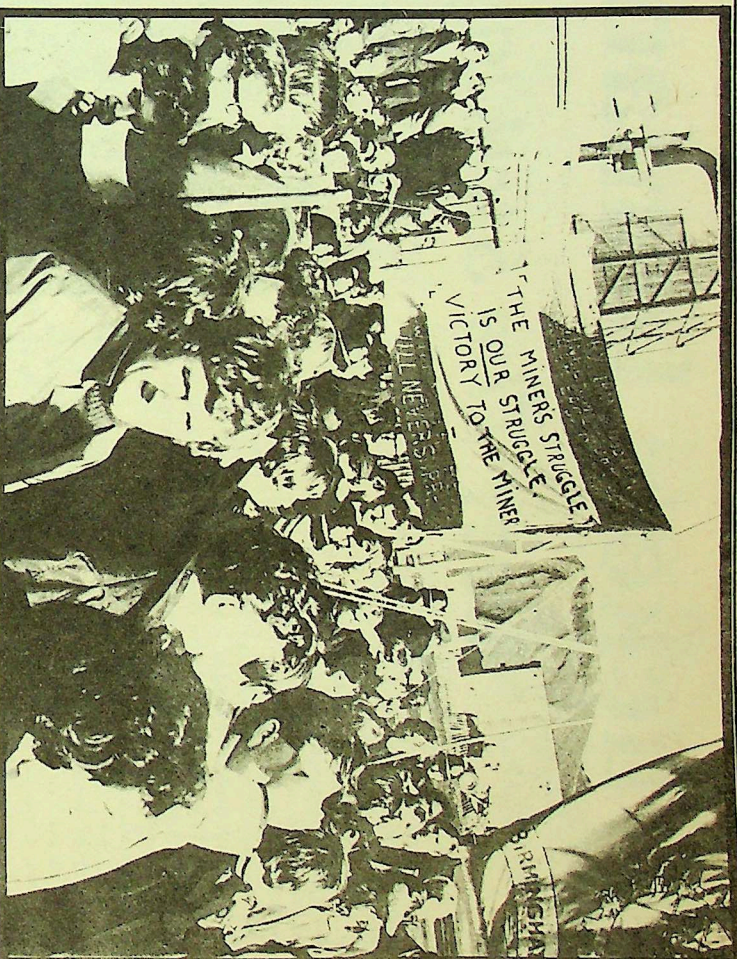
That's what he said. What he meant was that "You fuckers out there better not impeach me. You have as big a stake in this game as I do." The flunkies in the Congress were falling all over applauding for that one.

"I have no intention whatever of walking away from the job that the people have elected me to do ..."

Please, Dick. Do us a favor... *"One year of Watergate is enough."*

We agree, Dick. But you're the goddam criminal. Why don't you stop.

Boy, it's really hard to get excited about impeachment because Jerry Ford doesn't look to be a whole lot better. But we've really got a goofy SOB in there now. And that's nothing to laugh about.



British Industry At War

Miners Challenge Government

"If the Government wants a bloody scrap let's have one."

So spoke one of Britain's coal miners, getting ready for a strike which could well bring down the government.

Britain is in crisis. Prime Minister Edward Heath has already announced plans to reduce much of the country from a 3-day week to a 2-day week — all to blackmail the miners. He has also called a general election Feb. 28, hoping to win big by isolating the miners.

But it's not just the miners and mining community that is challenging the government. In December the electrical workers were on overtime ban, causing electricity blackouts all over Britain. Then the Railway engineers started "working according to the rule book" and even went on a couple of 24-hour strikes.

Heath Apes Nixon

This combined offensive is leaving government economic policy in ruins. Prime Minister Heath has been trying to follow in Nixon's footsteps by imposing wage and price controls in Britain. Of course the same thing happened in Britain as happened here. There were almost no controls on prices and the government has been making every effort to hold wages down. This adds up to a general wage cut.

It is the poor — and there are a lot of poor in Britain — who are suffering most. Food prices have skyrocketed. The pay-increase ceiling of 16.5% which Heath is trying to hold to, doesn't even begin to cover some basic foods which have doubled in price (butter, eggs, bread). As one worker put it, "We've all been tightening our belts since the war while the government tells us what boom

years we're having, but inflation eats up our wage increases before we get them."

Traditionally, it is the miners who lead any offensive against the government in Britain. In 1926 there was a General Strike which shut down almost all industry for ten days in an attempt to prevent the miners from taking a direct wage cut. They lost that fight after being out for nearly seven months.

But the mines were nationalized soon after. That wasn't much better; government control of the mines proved to be no solution for the miners. Over the years their pay packet became smaller and smaller compared with other workers in industry. Finally in 1972 they said no.

They went on total strike for pay increases that amounted to as much as 30% in some cases. They also made it clear to the government that they didn't really care if the mines ever opened again. If the government was to be prepared to pay a wage that people could live on for the dirtiest and most dangerous job in England then they would rather go on welfare. They won the strike!

It is also traditional (in a country of many traditions) for the miners to receive support from all sections of the working class. One reason for this is that everyone knows what a horrible job mining is. After going down the shaft in a 'cage,' a face miner may have a very rough two-mile crawl to the coal face, through mud and water. Sometimes the tunnel is only two or three feet high with a strong wind blowing coal dust into the miner's eyes, throat, and lungs. One miner summed up his situation by saying, "I'm bloody near killing myself for sweet

(continued on P. 7)

BRIEFS

'Justifiable Homicide'

Cleveland has about 300 murders a year—and usually 80% of the victims are black. But few are quite as dramatic as the murder last month of 15-year-old Robert Dennis.

Dennis was killed by an East Cleveland cop after a joyride in his mother's car. The cop said Dennis made a "threatening gesture" (which is supposed to justify killing him); eyewitnesses told the Cleveland Press that Dennis didn't budge after the car was forced to stop. In other words, he was murdered in cold blood.

A Grand Jury ruled the case "justifiable homicide."

What the hell is "justifiable" about it? This race-murder was about as justifiable as the gasoline burning race-murder in Boston that made national headlines a few months ago. Only in this case, the killer got off scot-free a week later.

Racism means that Robert Dennis would be alive today if he had been white. Racism means that if the victim had been white, his murderer would now be in prison, charged with at least manslaughter. And racism means that it's going to happen again.

Farah Losing His Pants

The 19-month-old Farah Slacks strike and boycott is finally having an effect. Owner Willie Farah has been forced to shut down two of his eight U.S. plants entirely.

Over 3000 workers, mostly Mexican-American women, have been striking Farah for union recognition since May 1972.

Farah now has only two fully operating plants — in Belgium and Hong Kong. His 6 U.S. plants are open 2 days a week.

Farah still has enough money to do nationwide advertising including spots in the football playoffs. The football players feel differently, however. After the playoffs were over, eight Minnesota Vikings showed up at a Farah boycott picket line in Minneapolis. Right on, Vikings.

Farah has also tried to sell his pants under other labels, in order to get around the boycott. So don't buy these labels: K-Mart, Cliff Mark, Beau Mark, Golden Scroll, Passport, Club 20, Par Excellent, Su Par Jeans, Daire, and Kimrod.

Metropolitan Areas	Number Days Reported	Min	Max	Percent of Days at or above 100
Akron	123	20	170	15
Canton	126	23	153	12
Cincinnati	123	19	205	35
Cleveland	130	33	258	60
Columbus	123	22	161	21
Dayton	128	28	207	33
Ironton	121	20	176	13
Lake County	125	19	139	8
Lorain	126	19	116	8
Mansfield	38	18	114	11
Portsmouth	122	24	147	17
Steubenville	130	34	298	61
Toledo	130	32	207	42
Warren	52	16	131	15
Youngstown	121	24	220	47

Cleveland Has 'Killer Smog'

A Cleveland chemist says our pollution is the same kind that causes the huge killer smogs in London.

Richard A. Dell, an air pollution chemist for the City of Cleveland, testified to that effect last month before the Board of Building Standards.

He was responding to a request by CEI to continue burning high sulfur coal in its Lake Shore plant.

A CEI witness told the committee not to worry, since CEI only causes heavy pollution one day at a time. And health effects occur, he said, only when pollution stays high for more than one day. The additional "daily" pollution from the steel mills is not taken into account.

Unfortunately, he was lying. (see chart) Official state statistics show Cleveland was above federal *maximum* pollution standards 60% of the time—which you can't do one day at a time. This included, according to Dell, six air pollution alerts lasting 2-4 days each. CEI emissions were a factor, he said.



British Prime Minister Edward Heath

Truckers Demand Price Roll

Interviews With CIT

Meet The Striking Truckers

The main thing about the striking truckers is that they're people. And that they're people who are fighting for everybody.

It's easy to forget that when the newspapers are screaming about criminals who would let every one else starve to death for their own gain. The shutdown is a lot more than that. It's a struggle to preserve their way of life, which has been nickled and dimmed to death. It's a struggle of these people to have some control over their own lives. And our government and the corporations which own it just can't afford to let them win. Come out and meet them. Come out and support them.

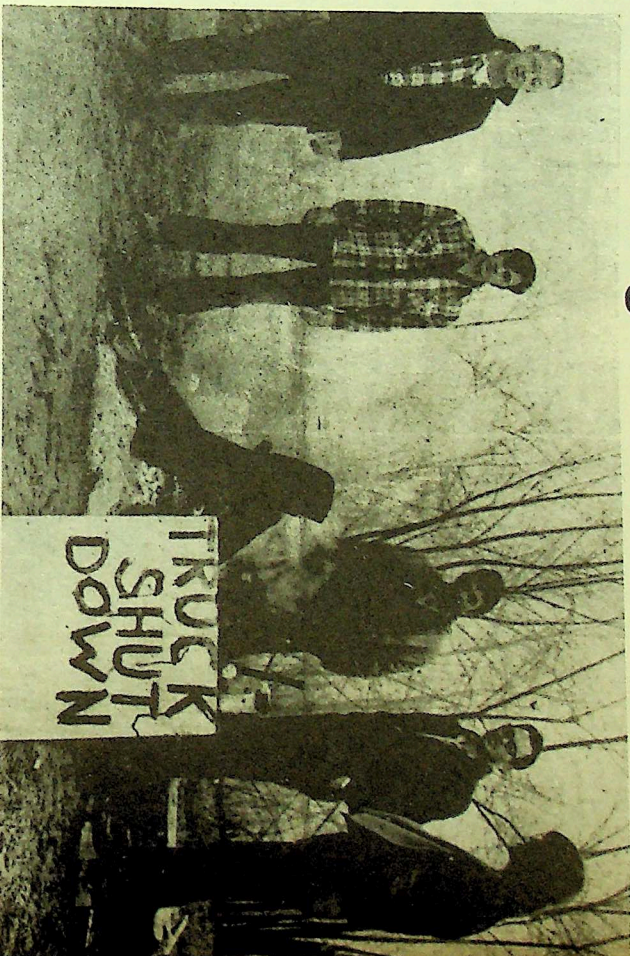
Here are some of the people we met in the last few weeks:

P. She's married to a trucker, mother of two, and a former real estate broker. She got out because she couldn't take ripping people off for a living. She's working hard on the Women's Council now; one day last week she called over two hundred peo-

ple got into trucking because he "just dug the hell out of it." L.'s truck has been parked for a month now and he's far behind on the payments. He's not just fighting for a rollback or a rate increase. He's fighting to remain independent, to avoid being forced into a job kissing ass from nine to five.

He says if people don't start fighting now it won't be too long until we'll all just be following all the orders the government comes up with.

C. She's a middle aged woman who's working hard on the Women's Council. She's a wonderful speaker not because she knows a lot of big words but because she's absolutely sincere about what she's saying. She's speaking out now because she means it and she's fighting now because she has no choice. Speaking in public is hard for C. because she spent so many years in the shadow of her husband. She says she's learned a lot about herself and the people around her in the past few weeks. She says things won't be the same



strike and he'd rather burn it than sell it to a trucking company.

B. She also works on the Wo-

'Just six months ago he bought a new truck because he was faced with a \$3000 repair bill on the old one. He called the bank two weeks ago and told them they would just have to wait until the strike was over. He says he'd rather let the truck rot than drive it during the strike and he'd rather burn it than sell it to a trucking company.'

when it's over.

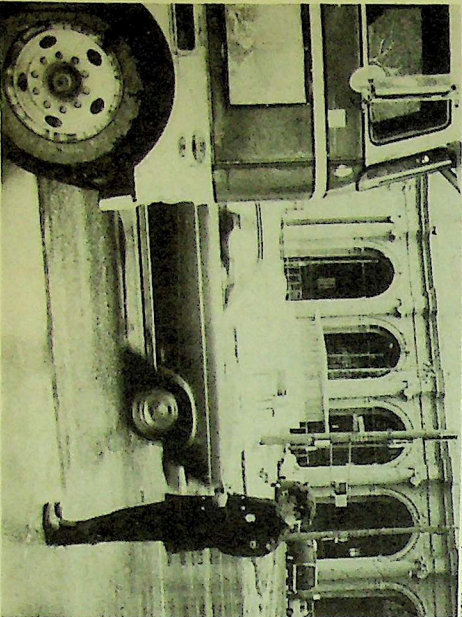
T. Only 24 but he's from a trucking family and has been driving since he was 19. Just six months ago he bought a new truck because he was faced with a \$3000 repair bill on the old one. He called the bank two weeks ago and told them they would just have to wait until the strike was over. He says he'd rather let the truck rot than drive it during the

men's Council. Her husband parked his truck a month ago and she's been out on the picket lines ever since. It was her idea to call for a national organization of truckers' wives and nationwide demonstrations in support of the shutdown. She talks all the time about the need for women to join the fight as women and consumers. And she'll talk to anybody who wants to give support.

Public Square Rally Clevelanders Hear Rynn

Over 100 people braved snow and cold Feb. 2 to attend a rally in support of the truck shutdown at Public Square.

The rally was co-sponsored by Modern Times and Breaking the Ice, an Akron paper. George Rynn, president of the



Marge Evitts

A Cleveland cop tickets George Rynn's truck at the MODERN TIMES support rally in Public Square. He was in a hurry; he was soon deseged by George and a crowd of supporters who promptly tore up the ticket!!

Council of Independent Truckers (CIT), addressed the crowd, as did several other truckers, both in and out of the CIT. They spoke of the government's attempt to buy off truckers with a rate increase and said truckers wanted more than just more inflation. They went on to say that the truckers fight is for all people.

The rally unanimously endorsed three demands:

1. Immediate rollbacks of fuel prices.
2. Full disclosure of reserves and books by oil companies.
3. Living wage for all — working or not.

The police continued their harassment of the truckers at Public Square. Although Modern Times had arranged with Cleveland police to use a truck for a speakers platform, police ticketed it immediately when it arrived.

Rynn took the ticket and tore it up in the cop's face. The cop went home.

D. He's been a driver for more than 30 years. He was a company driver for a while but needed to be his own boss and went independent. D. doesn't support the violence that has accompanied the shutdown. He says the trucking companies will be forced to shut down as soon as they run out of the raw materials which only the independents can haul. He's got four trailers parked in his backyard and says they'll stay there until they're worth running again.

J. A black driver who's been running for 25 years. He's been taking care of the CIT efforts to help blacks join the organization. He says CIT isn't just for one race or nationality. The important thing for him is that independents

Truck Stop: A

"If you got it, the truckers brought it!" went one of the sloganers in Akron Feb. 4 as truckers' wives, truckers and supporters demonstrated in front of the City-County Safety Building. The truckers tried blockades in December and were beaten by the brute force of police and National Guard.

January brought shutdowns which effectively used the power enjoyed by the truckers and made police violence and force less effective. The truckers occupy a crucial position in this society in terms of making the economy work. Their existence has become nearly impossible, as the cost of living and operating an independent operation becomes outrageous. The independent owners/operators are using the power they have to try and stop the unhindered growth of corporate profits and power at the expense of the people of this society.

The Council of Independent Truckers (CIT), the Fraternal Association of Steel Haulers (FASH), the Steel Haulers of America, and Roadmasters are the organizations spearheading the fight. The Akron-based CIT has been in existence only about three months and was the first to shut down. CIT claims 22,000 members in forty states.

everywhere are being destroyed. And for J., there's not much more to say. It's just that simple.

G. He's the president of CIT. He's a gifted leader who has the confidence of people in CIT because he's been involved in shutdowns and picket lines before. He's under incredible pressure now from the government and the companies who are piling up millions of dollars of lawsuits on him. He's strong, though, and survives on catnaps and McDonaldburgers. He says the whole goddamn country can sue him and it still won't force him or anyone else in CIT to get back in the trucks.

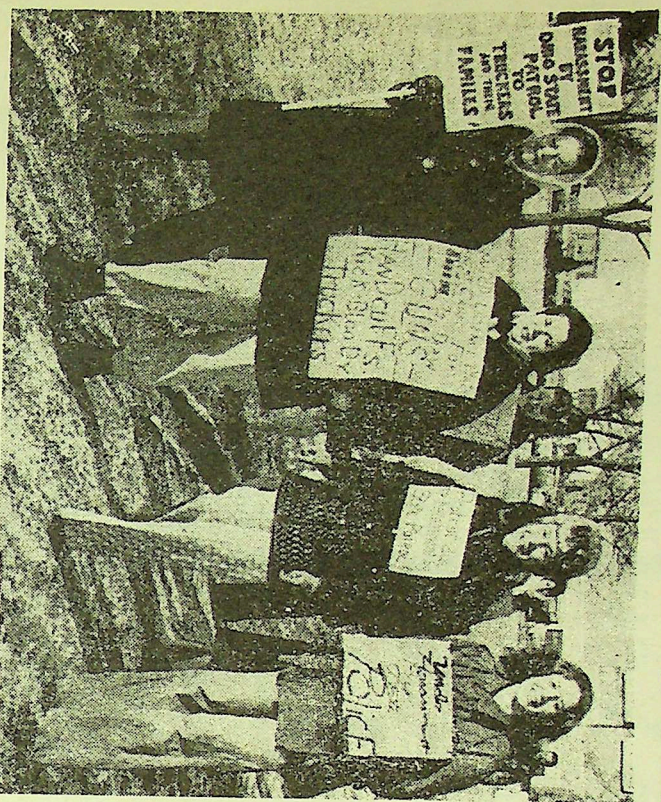
There are approximately 100,000 independent owner-operators and 200,000 long haul drivers working for freight companies. There is considerable sympathy among the company drivers for the shutdown. The Teamster Union leadership, as usual, has placed itself on the side of the government and corporations. The public response has been extremely sympathetic, despite TV and newspaper preoccupation with violence and food and fuel shortages.

Stoppage Is Basic

The truckers' basic tactic is the work stoppage. A real kick in the ass for the basic industry of this country. Steel and auto were first and hardest hit. Picketing, flagging down trucks, explaining to other drivers the meaning of the shutdown, and sabotage are the ways in which the truckers reinforce the stoppage.

The government has countered with police violence and harassment and the mobilization of the National Guard to patrol the highways. Court injunctions have curtailed picketing. Police have been fining truckers for the "crime" of stopping on the side of the road. Truckers' houses have been broken into on the pretense of looking for machine guns and drugs. The

back As Blockade Rolls On



Trucker's Wife Speaks Out

[The following article was written by the wife of a striking CIT trucker.]

Our main purpose and concern is as wives. We have all got one thing in common as homemakers. We can no longer support the rising cost of homemaking. All laborers' wives are in the same position. We are the consumers and we have to pay the same price for all of our needs and wants. All of us must stand up and be heard on this subject.

As truckers' wives our budgets must be stretched even further to absorb the rising costs of operating our husbands' trucks.

It only stands to reason that if operating costs continue to rise, production costs in turn will rise

and will obviously be absorbed by us the consumer. A possible solution would be to try and reverse this process. If operating costs were lowered, production expenses would be less, and in turn we as consumers would feel some relief to this unbearable situation. Remember our Constitution reads "We the People" and *not* "We the Business." So let's get together as "We the People," and help each other keep our country free and return some respect to the people!

In summary, truckers' wives are in the position of seeing the strain on our husbands' business, trying to operate their trucks to perform their service to the country and also feeling the strangulation-hold that big business has on all consumers.

We as truckers' families are inadvertently the beginning (supply) and the end (demand).

We are hoping to accomplish

our goal by having rallies, meetings, and speaking to groups and publishing newsletters to inform people of the facts.

The people are in the majority! Without people (working people) business cannot survive. Big business has forgotten our importance to them, and is taking advantage of us all. We will bring this to their attention with your support!

Women's Council of the Ohio Drivers' Club, an affiliation of the Council of Independent Truckers

Truck Stop Diary

January 17 . . . Council of Independent Truckers (CIT) calls for shutdown on the 24th.

January 20 . . . picketing of truck-stops, flagging down trucks on highways in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

January 21 . . . scattered reports of gunfire and sabotage against trucks.

January 22 . . . continued picketing and sabotage.

January 23 . . . Ashland Oil truck burned, roofing nails thrown on highways, arrests begin.

January 24 . . . CIT begins nationwide shutdown.

Steel Haulers of America vote to shut down in Youngstown.

January 25 . . . picketing etc. continues, truck traffic decreases significantly.

January 26 . . . CIT sued by Lawson's.

January 28 . . . continued picketing etc., driver wounded.

January 30 . . . government makes offers: ICC reimbursement for higher fuel costs, 110% fuel allocation over 1972 for trucking industry, IRS to triple staff that checks truck stops for price gouging.

January 31 . . . Fraternal Association of Steel Haulers and Roadmasters join in shutdown, driver killed in Pa.

February 1 . . . shutdown nearly 100% effective in some areas, quickly spreading nationwide.

February 2 . . . Ohio National Guard called out, demonstration in support of truckers in Cleveland, massive layoffs reported, steel, auto, food and fuel industries affected most.

February 3 . . . trucks escorted by police and national guard.

February 4 . . . layoffs continue, economy reeling.

February 5 . . . government and truckers meet, continued trucker and police activities, demonstration in Youngstown.

February 6 . . . truckers reject government offer.

Strategy To Win

police have also been examining truckers' books in an attempt to both harass and jail activists. Riding shotgun for truck convoys has become standard operating procedure as the corporations rush to the police to keep the profits rolling in.

The inflation felt by all except the rich people has hit the independent trucker especially hard.

Rising fuel costs, rising repair costs, lowered speed limits, and rising taxes are combined with fixed freight rates are responsible for the current job action.

The truckers realize that raising freight rates is not the answer. They are demanding a rollback in all fuel prices, full public invest-

igation of the major oil companies and a freight rate increase to be worked out *after* fuel prices have been adjusted.

The government has offered to allow a freight rate increase. In other words, make the inflation merry-go-round even faster and dizzier. It's strange that the same government which refused a minimum wage increase on the ground that it would fuel the raging inflation fire now has no such qualms about raising the transportation industry costs.

As of this writing, the militancy and hard work of the truckers has both sustained the stoppage and refused to swallow the crumbs thrown from Washington.

Fazio's Hires Armed Guards; It's No News To Farmworkers

For all of you that have been supporting the farmworkers boycott of Fisher Fazio stores here in Cleveland, there's more fuel for the fire.

In an effort to break the truckers' shutdown and endanger the lives and safety of their drivers, Fisher Fazio has put armed guards

in their trucks and at the warehouses. You can bet your bottom dollar that the silk suited parasites who own this chain were not riding in the trucks and risking their necks.

All people must join with greater energy the farmworkers protest against scab products sold by Fisher Fazio. These people need to be shut down too!

Book Review

Teamsters' Early Struggles

Teamster Rebellion, by Farrell Dobbs, Monad Press, 1973
Teamster Power, Farrell Dobbs, Monad Press, 1973. \$2.95

With truckers fighting for their economic lives (and ours) right now, these two books couldn't have come out at a better time. They relate how the drivers and transport workers in the 30's built the Teamsters union (IBT) in the Midwest.

Their pages read like yesterday's Plain Dealer. The press attacked these truckers with every charge imaginable: they were violent, communist, lawless, cutting off the food supplies. The bosses and the government wasted around the workers' demands. The guard and the cops were called out to restore "law 'n order" (by shooting strikers down).

Minneapolis General Strike

The author, Farrell Dobbs, was one of the chief figures in organizing thousands of workers into the IBT. He rose to leadership in the struggle of IBT Local 574 for recognition. This struggle led to a virtual general strike in the city of Minneapolis.

Teamster Rebellion is an exciting (no shit) account of how the union organized everybody from taxi drivers to coal haulers to shut the whole thing down. Their success put the whole work-

ing class of the city behind them. Everyone saw that victory for Local 574 would lead to victory for all in making "Minneapolis a union town."

Dobbs tells of the strategy and tactics used in maneuvering between a solid united front of bosses and a conservative pork-chop bureaucracy in the IBT. For instance, in this strike the workers (not the "leaders") developed the roving picket squad.

The Minneapolis drive won astonishing success. It made Minneapolis a union town. From there, the dynamic new leadership set their sights on the over-the-road drivers. *Teamster Power* recounts how an area contract for the entire North Midwest was won. Once again, the union had to out-manuever both the bosses and the conservative forces within the established unions. And once again, they won on both fronts.

Class Struggle Unionism

Farrell Dobbs was more than a crack union organizer. He was first and foremost a revolution-ary socialist (and a member of

the Socialist Workers Party)—he believed the workers themselves should take over and run society. He saw this union drive, not as a way to advance himself to a cushy position in the labor movement. Rather, it was a way of pushing forward the power of the entire working class.

The brand of unionism which resulted from this view he called "class struggle unionism." It relied on the strength of the rank-and-file, not the legal skills of some "labor statement." That, of course, is why the old-guard of use AFL (first class labor statement!!) viewed it as such a threat. Because, as these books show, when push came to shove, class struggle unionism won and it won big. As Jimmy Hoffa (who needs no introduction) said, "I wouldn't agree with Farrell Dobb's political philosophy or his economic ideology," but that man had a vision that was enormously beneficial to the labor movement."

(By the way, both books are available at Debs Hall Books, 4420 Superior Ave., Cleveland.)

Sabotage means to push back, pull out or break off the fangs of Capitalism

W.D. Haywood

Getting Unemployment: They're Out To Trip You

Shopfloor rumors about collecting unemployment are as confusing as shopfloor rumors about layoffs. Here are some important things to keep in mind:

—To qualify for unemployment we have to be unemployed through no fault of our own; we have to have worked at least twenty (20) weeks out of the last 52; we have to be physically able and available to work any shift; and we have to be looking for work.

—The amount we can claim is figured out according to how much we earned at our old job and how many dependents we have. The rates are supposedly tied to the cost of living, but it's no surprise that they're going up a whole lot slower. Right now the maximum for a single person with no dependents is \$77.00 per week. The maximum for a person with four or more dependents is \$114.00 per week.

—If we only worked for 20 weeks before we applied we can only collect for 20 weeks. If we worked for 24 weeks we can only collect for 24 weeks. If we worked for 28 weeks we can only collect for 24 weeks. If we worked for 32 or more weeks we can only collect for 26 weeks.

—If the government wants to, it can declare that we're eligible for more than the maximum 26 weeks of benefits. This is called "extended benefits," and they usually declare it during periods of high unemployment. They haven't declared it this time around, though.

—The maximum we can collect is based on a total number of dollars and not the total number of weeks. This is pretty confusing, but what it means is that we can

spread our benefits out over the whole year. We can do this by working part time and collecting only partial benefits. That generally works out pretty good.

—Everybody has to serve a "waiting week" before the actual benefits start. That's so the bureaucracy can wallow around in the swamp for a while.

—We have to fill out a separate claim for each week that we're going to collect. The main thing this does is make sure that we enjoy our benefits here in Cleveland and not down in Florida on some beach.

—It's easy to bullshit through the part about contacting three employers each week for a job. There's a story going around Fisher in Elyria about a townmotor

driver who collected for nine months and just couldn't find any work. He contacted every McDonald's, Burger King, and Red Barn in Northern Ohio and none of them wanted a townmotor driver!

—Remember, even though we don't pay directly into the Unemployment Compensation Fund, the money comes out of our pockets in the long run. Employers pay us a lot less than our work is actually worth and stores charge us a lot more than the products are worth. Most of the difference winds up in their pockets, but some of it goes into the unemployment fund. So we're not asking anybody any favors. We're just collecting what was ours all along.

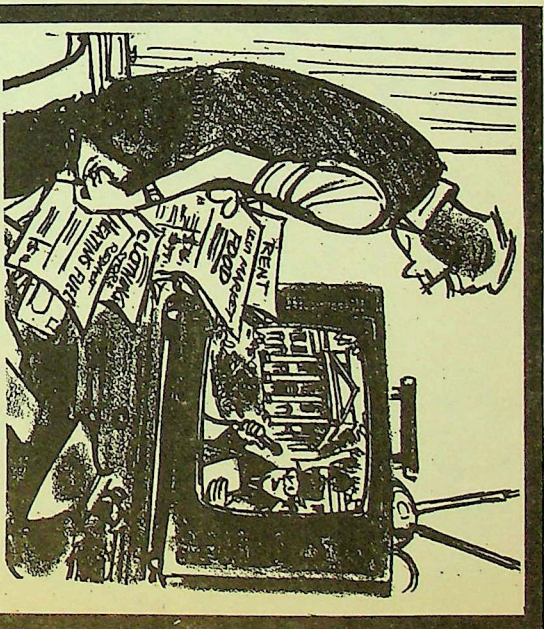
Layoffs And Energy

(continued from P. 1)

ing feel the crunch too. For one thing the economy slows down more when so many people have no money to buy anything. For another, labor's bargaining power is weakened when so many workers have to worry about being next out the door, or being replaced by somebody who's been out of work a while and will gladly work for less.

Quite a blow, considering that zooming cost of living. Consumer prices went up almost 9% last year and are expected to do the same in '74. The government keeps okaying those big price increases for cars, gasoline and other commodities, and, as usual, blaming workers' wage demands for inflation.

Working people are again be-



'To Work Or Not To Work: That Is The Question'

[The following was written by a Modern Times staff member who just got laid off at Fisher Body in Elyria.]

Layoff. It had been hanging over my head ever since I walked into that goddamn plant. And when it finally came I was almost glad to get it over with. But after being on the streets for a few weeks, I hate being laid off almost as much as I hated working. The point is that it's one hell of a choice to have to make. Man, if it were up to me I'd choose to stay home in bed.

Everybody had been expecting the layoffs for a long time. The bad news had been piling up since the summer: low car sales, energy hoax, recession. . . . And so the layoffs rumors hit me the first day I walked into the plant. Every time I went to the coffee machine somebody would be talking about it: 50 this week, 200 next week, 1000 after that. It was incredible. Here we were working 50 hours a week all summer and people were still talking layoff. And the point was that nobody, including the hot-shits in the office upstairs, had any idea what was happening. But that didn't stop everyone from talking about it. For a lot of people the layoff rumors were just like checkbook or the numbers: just little things to chat about while killing time.

After months of rumors the layoffs finally began right before Christmas. The first to go in our department was a guy named Mark. He was 23 years old and he was married with three kids and a new home. I worked beside him on the line every day for six months and haven't seen him since. Then right after Christmas they started laying off about 150 a week until now they've laid off about 700. I'll never forget the night I got it. I just walked around saying good-bye to people. I wrote down a few phone numbers but mostly I tried not to be too melodramatic about the whole goddamn thing. I found out later that about 30 of my friends (one who was a woman 4 months pregnant) got laid off TWO DAYS before they qualified for unemployment. Boy, you know that was no mistake.

And then I had to make the trip down to the unemployment office. It really was a trip, 'too. First I had to wait in line for about two hours. I tried to talk to some of the people there, but everybody had about the same

thing to say: "Yeah, I just got laid off. Yeah, I'm in a bad mood.

Yeah, I don't want to talk about it." Then I got to the front of the line. "Fill out this bullshit form, that bullshit form, take this one home with you and come back next week." After a while I found myself giving a hard time to the woman behind the counter. They wouldn't stand for it and I can see their point. To them, I'm not much different from the bucket seats I used to make back at the plant: just a pain in the ass, just something in the way. I was really glad to get out of there.

Is It All That Bad?

After a couple of days of doing nothing, I started looking for a job. I hate looking for a job. Reading the want ads. Filling out these applications about where I went to grade school. Taking all day to fill out three applications. The worst part is the interviews: kissing some bureaucrat's ass for a job we both know a two-year-old kid could do. Then the relief of finding a job, and then hating it two minutes after I got hired.

I just don't know what to do when all this shit gets piled up on top of me. Sometimes I try to tell myself that it isn't all that bad: that I don't mind working at the job, that I can forget about it when I go home, that I'll quit as soon as I get caught up. But those answers mean less and less now. I hate working these bullshit jobs, especially when they're making somebody else rich. My whole life revolves around my job, 'too.

When I'm not working I'm either sleeping it off or getting ready to go back. And I'm the asshole who ran up all those bills. I'll be paying for them the rest of my life.

Right now I just feel trapped. If I don't get another job now the whole world would just pass me by, and the people who I've been making rich would just find somebody else. And if I don't stop working soon I'll be kissing ass and trying to catch up for the rest of my life.

But the thing that makes all of this really devastating is that just about everyone I know feels as angry and as helpless as I do. Everyone is trying to fight back. But it's really hard to figure out just who your enemy is. And most of the time fighting back takes too much energy.

But sometimes people get pushed just a little too far and they find themselves fighting in spite of themselves. That's how I feel right now.



"For me, basketball is just a game. It's a good thing to trip around in. I play because it's fun. If other people want to take it

Walton: 'It's Just A Game'

too seriously, that's their problem. . . . Face it: on a world scale basketball doesn't mean very much."

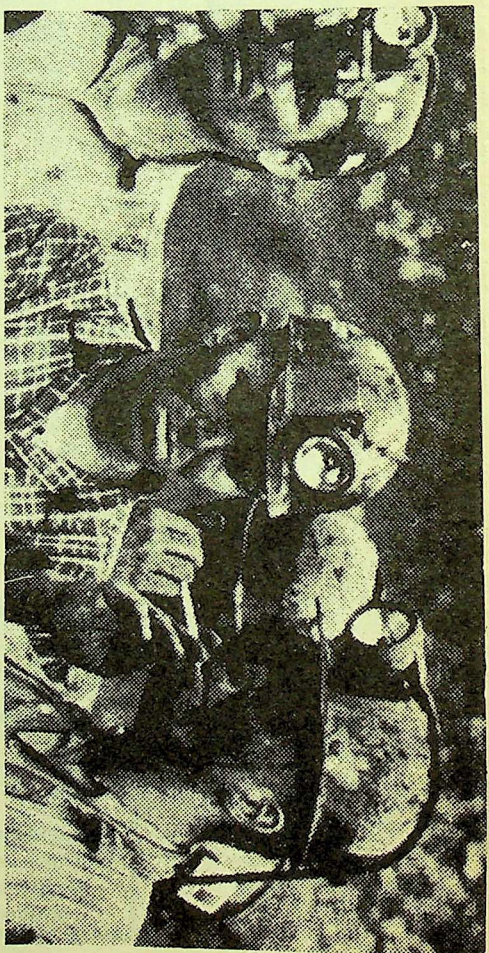
"I think I've gotten twice as much publicity as I deserve because I'm the Great White Hope in a game that has been dominated by Blacks. If I were Black, I would be just another center who plays well. In basketball I want to be judged for my play, not my color."

"I was never discriminated against, so I don't know where my sympathies stem from. But I'm ashamed of the way whites have denied rights to blacks. I don't want to hear about how things are better than they used to be. I wouldn't blame the Blacks for any step they took, violent or non-violent, to get where they should be."

"The history of this country teaches that it took violent revolution to get our freedom, but people tend to forget that. They hold up George Washington as a hero, but he was a revolution-ary. . . . Today Washington would be in jail. . . . I'm fortunate I won't be drafted, but I sympathize with those who go to jail rather than to war, who have to turn to Canada and Sweden to dodge the draft."

When I first started to realize the inequality of everything, I was in the later stages of elementary school and I had started to become a good basketball player. My team would play a game and after the game people would say the reason we won the game was because of me, and it wasn't true. Then I started getting written up in the papers. This is when I started to disbelieve everything I read in the press and the media. I figured if they were going to print what they want to print about me in athletics they can print and say anything they want to. And a lot of people use it as their sole source of information. All they know is what's happening in the *L.A. Times*. Their source of information is pretty limited, so what they get is not the truth."

The thing that surprises me is how easily people forget. So many athletes come from lower income areas, not all poverty and ghetto, but they're not coming from Beverly Hills and Encino.



Then when they make it, they change. They're just doing it for themselves. If they can make it, that's cool. If they can get some money then they're just going to ride along until the money is out. They're going to ride the system until it's comfortable."

"We're in Vietnam because of economics. We live in a capitalist society. Our country has been built up so much it has reached its peak level. It can't go any further. But we still have to keep producing things, and since there's no place for these things to go, we have to produce things to be destroyed so we can produce

Miners, Govt. Face Off In Britain

(continued from page 3)

nothing. Twenty-nine quid [563] after deductions. Call that a living wage?"

Goal: Destroy 'Wage Norm'
The best allies the miners have at the moment are the railway engineers. These two groups have an agreement not to stop their action until they both have settlements which are satisfactory. A satisfactory settlement is one which will totally destroy the 16.5% "wage norm."

The Government's response to this has been to try and blackmail the whole population and especially the mining community by putting the country on a 3-day work week and causing massive black-outs.

TV goes off the air at 10:30 p.m. Some 750,000 workers have

more things. It's production—destruction. One way to produce and destroy is through war."

"Vietnam is a great place to spend money. They make things, send them over there, and destroy them. Our economy is in terrible shape, but just think what it would be like if we didn't have the Vietnam war."

"Money doesn't mean anything to me. It can't buy happiness and I just want to be happy. I'm built for basketball and I have the potential to be a top player, but I'm not sure that I want it for a profession. I think I'd rather become a criminal lawyer and

offer free service to those in the ghettos who are discriminated against by our society. I could make more of a contribution to mankind that way than by basketball or by giving away the money I'd make. And I want to do more with my life than win a few games."

(Reprinted with thanks from the I.S.S.S. Newsletter, published by the Institute for the Study of Sport and Society, Hales Gymnasium, Oberlin, Ohio, 44074. Interviews by Roger Rapoport, SPORT Magazine, Daniel Hopstick, L.A. Free Press; and Bill Libby, NEWSDAY Magazine.)

been laid off. Heath claims he can't give in to the miners and railway men because every other group of workers would push for the same. And he's right. Already the Engineering Workers Union has put in a claim well above the norm. This is despite the prayers of the Trade Union Council (the English version of the AFL-CIO) which wants the miners to be considered a "special" case and to hell with the rest of the working class. But most people realize the 3-day week is a hoax. New estimates have been made which suggest that there is enough coal to last right through the winter.

Plus Britain gets a lot of oil from local production. And the government didn't even have an Arab oil boycott to deal with.
It is also becoming clear that not just money is at stake. Be-

Clevelanders Urge End Of Aid To Saigon

The sight of a tiger cage in Cleveland's Public Square may have shocked many people as they took their lunch breaks on Jan. 29. The tiger cage, like those used in South Vietnam's prisons (paid for by the U.S. Navy, and built by an American firm), was the main feature of a demonstration called by the Indochina Peace Campaign. Literature about the principles of the Peace Agreement of Jan. 27, 1973 and the many violations was distributed.

Through the Indochina Peace Campaign's educational projects thousands of people have learned about conditions in Vietnam since the agreement and about continued U.S. involvement.

A Police State

Saigon is a police state. Labor strikes and peace demonstrations are banned. Neutralism is outlawed. Refugees who try to re-

turn to their homes in communist-held areas are punished. — One who opposes Thieu is jailed. — Prisoners include people of all ages and religious and political beliefs.

The peace agreement demands the release of political prisoners and forbids violence against them. But 200,000 remain in prison and torture is standard procedure.

Here is one prisoner's account:

"I was arrested one day in the park with my wife and children. The police attached electrodes to my genitals, broke my fingers and hung me from the ceiling by my feet. They did these things to my wife, too, and forced my children to watch."

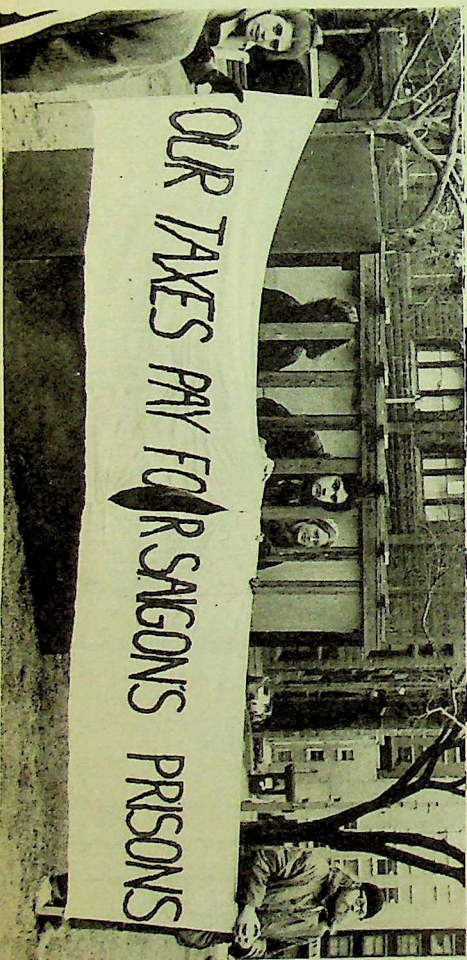
The IPC has encouraged writing to congress about individual prisoners and military support for Thieu's regime. Economic and military aid has been cut but has not been stopped. We still pay 90% of Thieu's budget, and 8,000

civilian advisors and technicians are working for Thieu's army and police. Military reconnaissance flights over North Vietnam have been resumed. These are some of the violations of the agreement.

The Indochina Peace Campaign is calling on an intensified focus on congress to end U.S. aid and encourage a political settlement in Vietnam based on the Paris Peace Agreement. For more informa-

tion about what you can do, call or write:

Indochina Education Project
1695 Magnolia Drive (Rear)
Cleveland, Ohio
231-8234



Steve Cagan

ALLIANCE TRUCKERS SPEAK

THE TRUCKERS' BILL OF RIGHTS



We are certain that the public is aware by now of our determination to overcome the schemers in Washington. They have placed personal profit and greed above the welfare of the citizens.

The following TRUCKERS' BILL OF RIGHTS was written by independent drivers out of Alliance, Ohio. It was first presented to the November 10 meeting of the Ohio Council of Independent Truckers. At this meeting, the Ohio CIT voted unanimously to reject the latest government offer and to continue the shutdown.



It is our contention that President Nixon's emergency laws are in direct violation of Article I, Section 10 of the United States Constitution. The emergency laws impair the honoring of contracts already in force and would in fact nullify all contracts. The emergency laws are in violation of the ex-post-facto laws which protect the former rights enjoyed by all citizens.

1-President Nixon has increased the cost of oil by thirty per cent at the well. This had triggered the rising costs of all products. We now demand that he reduce the costs of all products with a thirty per cent rollback in prices. We independent truckers absolutely refuse to float the increased costs down to the consumer. Isn't it odd that they had an abundant supply of oil during the Viet Nam War? Now the war is over, but where did all the fuel go?

2-After much research on our part, we stand firmly opposed to any reduction in the present speed limits. The tax payers have payed safety experts to determine safe speeds. New signs will cost forty per cent more than the old ones plus there will be new installation fees. Reduction of speed will result in more frequent repairs to our modern, high performance engines. It will result in a general slowdown of the public by the State Police. Because of all of these, we conclude that the real reason behind the reduction in speed is the bilking the public of their money.

3-We insist on immediate closure of all weigh stations in Ohio. They are in violation of the 14th amendment of the United States Constitution. Their operation is a discriminatory practice against truckers. They deny us equal protection under the law.

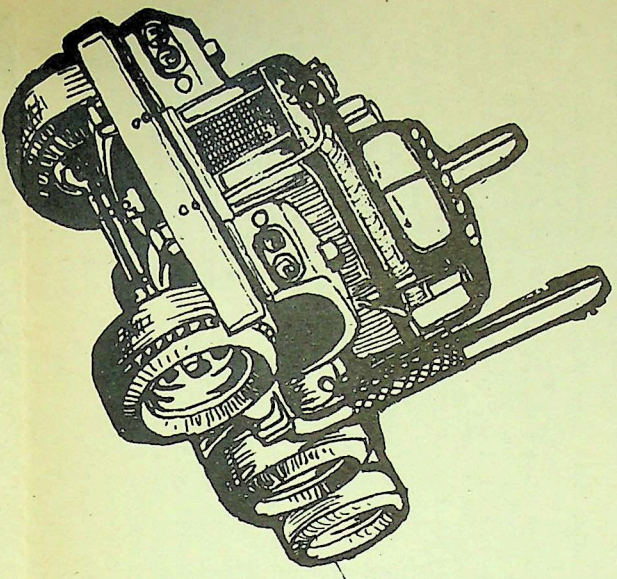
4-We have reached the point where constant surveillance by air and highway will no longer be tolerated. Truckers resent the tactics we have been subjected to by the Ohio State Police. The armed robbery which is being perpetrated against us has forced many of us to exceed speed and weight limits in Ohio. The robbery has sometimes caused drivers, their wives, and their children to do without the daily necessities of life.

5-Citizen band radios are of great importance to us. They have proven to be an asset in times of breakdown, a value in determining road conditions-ahead, and fast contact through relays to any emergency at home. We citizens of the United States are protected by the rights enumerated in the United States Constitution. We find today that a foreign power seeks to impose its will with the end result being a depredation of our constitutional rights. This foreign power has become known to all as the Federal Government, which the Constitution of the United States does not recognize. Therefore, we citizens of the United States are not obligated to obey any of its rules and so-called regulations. We feel it is our duty to inform our fellow citizens of this fact. The rules of the Federal Government violate the First Article of the Bill of Rights (Free Speech) and the Fourth Article of the Bill of Rights (the right to own Private Property). Therefore the Federal Communications Commission is not a legitimate function of the United States government.

Being knowledgeable in these respects, knowing full well that a bench bar monopoly exists in our hand, we end with this saying of the truckers:

COME ON!! COME ON!!

-INDEPENDENT TRUCKERS OF ALLIANCE



We independent truckers would like to thank all citizens for the support extended to us during this National Economic Crisis. We give special thanks to the president and vice-president of the McClain's IGA Grocery Company.

I would like _____ copies of Modern Times to distribute at work.
Names will be held in strict confidence.

I would like to donate \$_____ to Modern Times

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Tax Tips From H. & R. Blaggh Read The News Today, Oh Boy!

by The Red Baron

TAX TIPS FROM H. & R. BLAGGH. It's income tax time again, and we at Modern Times have some nifty suggestions on how to make the crunch a little easier this year.

1. *Give your papers to a library.* Donate your driver's license, birth certificate, doctor bills, old insurance policies, auto license plates, letters, notes and doodles. You can deduct the entire value of the gift from your taxable income. If you're not sure how valuable they are, have them appraised by someone who knows their true worth — your husband, wife, sister, or best friend. A good rule of thumb is at least \$1.00 per sheet.

And don't be intimidated into thinking your papers are not worth as much as President Nixon's. After all, libraries are overflowing with papers of vice-presidents, ambassadors, and corporation heads — but how many papers do they have from auto workers, secretaries, or postal workers? You might even figure them at \$2.00 a throw. But follow Nixon's lead on one point — don't try to actually sell them, or you may be disappointed.

2. *Personal depletion allowance.* If your work in any way depletes you as a person, you may take a "personal depletion allowance." We figure 44% is a good amount. That's twice the 22% the oil companies get — but remember, they can always drill new wells to restore their resources. We, on the other hand, aren't getting any younger, so our deductions should be greater. If you wish, you may itemize your deductions for various categories of personal depletion — aging, fatigue, boredom, alienation, illness, unsatisfactory sex life.



Guess You, Red Baron!

When you stop to think about it, it's a wonder they have the nerve to tax us at all.

ONE LAST TAX TIP. It's best to have someone else fill out the forms, so you can claim ignorance. We suggest your 7-year-old or your dog. Our two cats, Max and Harry, did a fine job for us.

ELEPHANT SWEAT. Gulf Oil Co. announced last month that it has made a deal to acquire (that means buy) the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus. That's nice, considering how Gulf and friends have been telling us they need all that extra profit to find new oil. Possibly, we hear, Gulf may be planning to use elephant sweat as a new energy source.

AND WHILE WERE ON THE SUBJECT, we'd like to announce a new contest. We've all heard quite a bit lately about "excess profits." The Red Baron hereby offers a free box of Modern Times back issues to the best explanation, in 25 words or less, of the difference between "excess profits" and "profits."

PORK FOR SENATOR. Fresh off his astounding re-election victory (60% of the vote running against Nobody), Mayor Ralph Pork has announced he's running for the U.S. Senate. It's hard to see why Ralph wants to leave his beloved Cleveland and its "little people" (dwarfs, munchkins, pygmies, what the hell are we?) to go to Washington, where the local "little people" are mostly black, definitely not munchkins, and never even heard of kolbasi. But one thing is sure. Pork will be running against a millionaire, and aside from screwing working people, that's his greatest talent. With a Senate race, he can do both. Just doing what he knows best.

