IUE Charges Unfair Labor Practices

INGRAM WORKERS OUT ON STRIKE

Workers at the Ingram plant continue their struggle against the cynical management. 180 members of IUE walked out on strike demanding better benefits.

Profit Chosen Over Safety

CONSTRUCTION OF TEXAS NUCLEAR PLANT CONTINUES

The recent nuclear accident in Pennsylvania at Three Mile Island's (TMI) Nuclear Project has brought to national focus the hazards of nuclear energy.

A serious threat to human life was created due to plant malfunctions and human error. For the safety of the people, evacuation was necessary, although officials tried to cover-up the real danger.

The TMI accident has serious meaning for the people of San Antonio and S. Texas as a nuclear plant is presently being built in Texas. The possibility of such an accident is therefore present in this state.

The South Texas Nuclear Project (STNP) being built near Bay City & Galveston will be the largest nuclear plant in the world when completed on the projected date of April 1982. San Antonio City Public Service, the City of Austin, Houston Lighting & Power, and Central Power of Corpus Christi are all owners of this nuclear complex. Although S.A. is already a 28% partner, via CPS, the continued participation in the project has been questioned by concerned citizens.

This issue has been hotly debated in recent months and the City Council has been asked to place it on a referendum for the public to decide.

Two of the major points of concern are the cost of the plant and the safety & health risks involved.

In 1973, CPS projected the cost of $738 million for S.A. Today, it is $756 million with a total plant cost of $2 or 3 billion. The cost is due to rise with the TMI disaster as more safety regulations will be demanded.

Anti-nuclear (make) forces have told the public all along that technology is too flawed for market use. But pro-nuke forces are intent on nuclear production, safe or not. And if the public demands more safety regulations then the utility companies make the public pay for it as it is an extra cost to them.

The TMI disaster and rising utility bills do not proclaim all aspects of safety and cheaper energy made by pro-nuke forces.

The distortions & lies presented by government and utility officials on the TMI accident clearly indicate a higher concern to make profits from nuclear power than the welfare of the people. Cheaper energy for the citizens will not happen as the STNP is in control of the CPS company, infamous for their utility shut-offs and not for the concern of human needs.

Presently, Centeno, Cockrell, & the majority of the City Council favor participating in the STNP. As they are pro-nuke and pro-business they contend that to stay in the STNP is an indication of successful economic growth and expansion. But we know growth & expansion for who.

Therefore, the S.A. working community must seriously question their participation in the STNP. It is an issue (Continued on Page 2)
PERSPECTIVA FEMENIL

While clothing costs continue to soar the garment industry continues to pay low wages and have unfair working conditions for their workers. As a result, a new Garment Industry labor movement has spread from San Antonio to Los Angeles to Mexico to make huge profits.

This is not at the expense of thousands of women whose energies are being drained by the garment factories. Mexican women, primarily immigrants without documents, have taken up the majority of the garment industry's labor force in the Southwest.

Working conditions in the garment industry have always been bad. Working hours are long or decreased according to the company's needs. The $2.90 minimum wage is not guaranteed. In fact, piece work (wage paid according to how many pieces are produced per hour) pushes women to work at a very fast rate to make only enough money to survive.

Women often work 6 to 8 straight hours with no breaks. When they must go to the bathroom they are often timed by their supervisors who act like the company's robots.

A former worker from Finisilver, a multi-national company in S.A., told EL PUEBLO that women continuously suffer allergies from the cotton dust. With the added poor ventilation, this creates the possibility of future disease.

But today, as in the past, garment workers are uniting to overcome their misery. In 1972 workers from Farah, a major manufacturer of pants, went on a strike that lasted almost 2 years.

Over 2,000 workers in Texas and New Mexico demanded their right to organize and form a union, and got it. A national boycott was organized in support of the strikers, cutting $30 million from the sales of Farah slacks.

This strike and its support showed that when working people unite, they have the strength and power to change their conditions.

But it is a long hard struggle that does not stop with a union. Workers must also struggle to assure the union continues to represent their interest.

The garment industry is a billion dollar a year enterprise, virtually non-union, of which women are an integral part. The women, in fact, create this wealth for the garment industry. They therefore have the right to demand a share in these profits in the form of better wages, better working conditions, and job security.

But they can only obtain this by uniting.

The garment company's try to prevent unity by dividing workers. By pitting Mexicans against Mexicans, men against women, women against women we cannot fight the real enemy - the profit before people industries.

Next month PERSPECTIVA FEMENIL will discuss another tactic garment companies and other multi-national corporations use to divide workers and make more profits - "run-away shops".

Campa: Workers' Unity Is Invincible

A public forum was held on April 9th, in the Guadalupe Community Center. Coincidentally, this date also marked the 60th anniversary of the assassination of Emiliano Zapata, who struggled all his life for the agrarian ideals.

One of the speakers at the forum was Valentín Campa, a long time active organizer who has spent over 50 years at the front of an authentic labor movement in Mexico.

He spoke on the deplorable economic conditions in Mexico pointing out figures on the enormity of interest that this country pays to the US. This is typical for an economy based on dependence.

Speaking of Mexican workers, those that are in Mexico as well as those that are undocumented, residents or those born in the US, Campa said:

"We must have faith in the collective strength of the working class. We must keep in mind that due to the very structure of capitalism, the owners cannot exist without the workers.

"On the other hand, the working class, as has been demonstrated not only in theory but in practice as well, can exist and better the working conditions without the existence of the bourgeoise."

Also speaking at the forum was Jaime Martinez, international representative of the IUE labor union.

In addition to pointing out that Local 1013 was on strike against Ingram Manufacturing, Martinez spoke on the wage and price guidelines imposed by Carter. In essence, Carter said that workers will be limited to a 7% pay raise, while company profits have no limits.

Valentin Campa talked with community people in San Antonio during his recent tour of the U.S.

News Briefs

Chicagao: As dictator Anastacio Somoza hides in Kansas, USA, the people of Nicaragua are consolidating their struggle against the hated dictator. The Popular Committee joined forces and are fighting open battles with Somoza's National Guard units.

Somoza is yet another ruthless dictator who comes to the U.S. to hide from his own people.

Los Angeles: The long campaign in solidarity with undocumented workers continues to bring positive results.

The most recent victory was forcing the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to stop harassing and arresting undocumented workers.

Under fire for its widespread abuse of Latinos, LAPD Chief Daryl Gates issues a statement saying that his officers will no longer harass or arrest undocumented workers simply for being "illegal."

Bay Area, Tex.: An International Day of Protest will be held next June 2nd to protest the construction of the nuclear plant being built under the South Texas Nuclear Project. Groups from San Antonio, Austin, and other cities will be participating in the protest. For more information call 225-2064.

San Antonio: Texas Pharmacal, a pharmaceutical company, decided to discontinue a line of cosmetics. This line of products accounted for 1/4 of the production in the U.S. factory. The company decided it was cheaper to shut down the entire factory and take the plant somewhere else. As a result 150 men and women workers are now unemployed.

The Garment Industry

This year alone, the oil companies have had a profit increase of 265% over last year's level - which was a record year for oil company's profits.

The forum was attended by over 65 people, who showed a keen interest in what the speakers were saying.

Workers Strike Can't

port and solidarity. People can support them with donations, by joining the picket lines, or by pressuring the City Council to stop buying equipment from Ingram until the strike is settled.

For more information call Jaime Martinez at 224-0177.

Nuclear Plant Can't

effect us all and we must not let the few make that decision for us. We must demand that the City Council put the participation of the STNP on a referendum for the majority of the city to decide. An agreement that is fair and reasonable and based on an honest interest for the working community,
Housing Cam lid
Unresolved

By: Juan Muri

After futile attempts to arrange a meeting with international contractor H.B. Zachary, residents of three homes in subdivisions on San Antonio's West and South sides, turned to Communities Organized for Public Service (COPS) for assistance in trying to settle a serious controversy.

The controversy between some 180 families and the H.B. Zachary Company involves houses that are literally falling apart.

"It's just like a tornado hit them," said Albert Benavides, a spokesman for the group. "These houses are splitting, coming apart at the middle house, the roofs are caving in, the walls are cracking, sewer and gas pipes are leaking.

The main issue in this dispute is the overall bad construction and the use of cheap materials such as plastic for sewer and gas pipes.

The houses in question were built by Zachary at a cost of $7,000 each and FHA appraised at $20,000 each. Each house was built in halves and when completed moved to a lot where both halves were joined together.

It is at this juncture where most of the houses are falling apart. In addition, the plastic used in the construction is laid in a trench which was then filled in with rock and dirt.

The houses were sold to federal programs such as VA and FHA. They carried a 7 year warranty and were publicized by Zachary as being "maintainable" type homes.

According to Fr. Benavides, Zachary now turns around and states that people fail to maintain these houses. This is just a clever trick to place the blame on the people.

In their attempts to solve their problems, COPS obtained the help of the "minority status" campaign (1 Black and 5 Mexican) to arrange a meeting with Zachary.

The closed-door meeting resulted in a compromise between COPS and Mr. Zachary.

This compromise was not entirely satisfactory in two responses:

1. Zachary told COPS that if they find anything wrong, they would pay for it.
2. Only 30 houses, those with the worst problems, will be repaired, out of 180.

Zachary proposed that the cost for repairs be split 4 ways: Zachary, City Public Service Board (CPSB), the Water Board, and the City pay 1.

COPS is cautious about 2 points:

1. This caution must be expressed in hiring an outside engineer to identify the needed repairs which Zachary should pay. Zachary is an international contractor and has many ties with many engineers in the area.

And that Mayor Cookrell is now saying, after previously rejecting the proposed solution, that it is illegal.

She claims the CPSB and Manor Board cannot force money to private developments.

So, two critical questions:

1. Why should the people pay 3/4 damages done by Zachary?
2. Funds from CPSB, Manor Board, and the City belong to the people.
3. Who pulls the strings and wields the power that people fail to?

We can't afford good food, our prices are high, and our home is falling down.

May 1st: International Workers' Day

May 1, 1986, is a historic day that must not be forgotten by working people. In this day thousands of U.S. workers, Chicago, are going to demand an 8-hour work day. We want to show that workers are not identical and that women can and will face up to ruthless bosses with blood, sweat, and tears.

This day of 350,000 workers, paraded throughout the U.S. striking for the 8-hour work day. In Chicago alone 30,000 to 40,000 walked out in support.

Thousands of workers refused to work, and political affiliation marched side by side.

May 1, 1986, is our unity年起, the rich bosses, politicians, and the commercial media attacked and condemned the 8-hour movement.

They tried to turn public opinion against us. Hundreds of workers and labor leaders were murdered by police and local disputes.

But the striking workers continued, and the battle was won.

May 1st, has since been commemorated throughout the world as a day of workers' unity.

Here in the U.S., where it all began, the rich who control everything have made sure this historical day is ignored.

It is ignored by history books, the media, and also by the schools.

Today's labor movement is a continuation of a long history of struggle and sacrifice.

May 1, 1986, is an important part of that history, which must never be forgotten.
EDITORIAL

On Elections And The Workers

The City Council elections are over and the rich men's biannual circus has folded its tent. Now the working people of S.A. must once again demand immediate and aggressive council action to improve the deplorable S.A. economy.

It is a known fact that S.A.'s economy has long been controlled by a few rich businessmen. Zachary, Mallister, McCombs, et al have wielded tight control over every aspect of city life and have run the city as their own business enterprise. They give the orders and set the rules, while council (with a few exceptions, particularly in recent years) obediently 'manage the store' for them.

The results have been:

One of the highest unemployment rates in the nation.
One of the worst school systems.
Not a single medium or large industry has moved to S.A. in years.

A financial deficit of at least $6 million in 1980's budget.

Today, in fact, federal grants keep S.A. from bankruptcy.

The point is that the few who control this city have successfully blocked true economic progress while themselves benefiting from their false development projects. Why? Because they fear competition for economic and political domination of the city by incoming industry.

For example, Mallister was recently honored, among other things, for having 'fathered' Hemisfair.

Mallister's San Antonio Savings & Loan Association was the main lending company for all of Hemisfair projects. This left Mallister with a profit of millions of dollars and the City of S.A. with a huge debt.

Meanwhile, as the economy gets worse, local and federal politicians tell us to sacrifice even more. At the same time, Carter's wage and price guidelines do nothing but protect rich businessmen & their greed for more profits, while the poor are told to tighten their belts!

Regardless of their demagogic rhetoric, politicians elected under the current 'rules of the political game' cannot be trusted to protect the interests of the majority.

The reason is simple: they lack honest concern for the working people. They may have 'charisma,' 'looks' money, a fast tongue, any or all of the 'qualities' that politicians use to sell themselves to the voters.

But once elected they lose sight of who they should represent - the working class and not the few rich.

EL PUEBLO believes that the City Council CAN be made to improve the economy in the interests of the S.A. majority. But only thru the unity of this majority - the working class.

We must realize that the rich, although now they are powerful - are only a few while we are many.

The majority of S.A., which is mainly Mexican, does have the power to make these changes. Only the working people can carry out positive changes. Thus unity, the working people can look out after their own interests.

The demands upon the new council and the evaluation of each politicians performance must begin at once.

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PRECIOSA (S) EUSADO

With our unity we can stop injustices!

School Districts Taken To Court

Immigrant Children Denied Education

By: Isaias Torres

Anti-immigrant attitudes have long historic roots in the U.S.

In spite of all the great contributions immigrants have made to the economic and cultural development of the U.S., their presence has been constantly attacked.

Immigrant workers are accused of causing unemployment, depressing wages and working conditions, draining the tax base, abusing the welfare rolls, raising the crime rate and importing new diseases.

These accusations are as false today as they were one hundred years ago.

A series of cases by M.I. T. Professor Wayne Cornelius indicate that there is no proof that undocumented workers displace U.S. domestic workers.

Studies by the U.S. Department of Labor, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the Orange County Board of Supervisors, and the Arizona Department of Economic Security indicate that undocumented workers contribute greatly to the tax base while only slightly using tax supported programs.

Indeed, the 1976 Department of Labor study indicated that of those undocumented workers apprehended, 77.32 paid social security taxes and 73.22 percent of federal income taxes while only 5.5% secured welfare payments.

Nonetheless, a rush of recent state and federal legislative activity has unfairly singled out the undocumented worker.

For example, Texas House Bill 1126 became a law amending Article 21.031 of the Texas Education Code.

This state law in effect denies free public education to undocumented immigrant children. This law has led school districts in Texas to require tuition-fees from the parents of these children.

Soon after this enactment, several Chicanos plaintiff from Houston challenged the constitutionality of Section 21.031 in state court.

In a case styled Hernandez v. H.I.S.D., the State Supreme Court upheld the statute.

Meanwhile, MALDEF filed a suit in Tyler, Texas, in federal court. Although MALDEF won that case, the judge limited his ruling to Tyler. That case is now in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Centro Para Inmigrantes Inc. of Houston thereafter brought four federal suits:

Two against Houston, one against Pasadena and one against Baytown. A ruling in the Houston area suit is soon expected.

A crucial concern of the legal workers involved in these school cases is the extent to which the Chicano/ Latino community organizes around the issue.

The legal battles and victories are short-lived without community mobilization. As quickly as a statute is struck down, a new statute can be enacted by the legislature.

Only through the mobilization of the community's strength can an effective defense of the immigrant worker's rights be safeguarded.