

the rank and file in action

Labor Today

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Volume 15, No. 11

439

November 1976

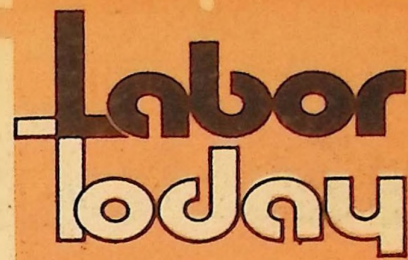


MAKE
YOUR VOTE
COUNT



FOR UNION DEMOCRACY

Sadlowski names running mates



by JIM WILLIAMS
Editor, LABOR TODAY

PITTSBURGH--The growing movement for a new direction in the United Steelworkers' Union took a giant step forward here October 11, when Ed Sadlowski, candidate for President of the United Steelworkers, announced his slate of running mates for the national election in February, 1977.

The Sadlowski team is:

VICE PRESIDENT: Marvin Weinstock, 56, a USWA staffman, originally from USWA Local 1330, U.S. Steel Ohio Works, Youngstown.

VICE PRESIDENT-HUMAN AFFAIRS: Oliver Montgomery, 47, USWA Local 3657, originally from Youngstown Sheet and Tube, Youngstown, Ohio. Montgomery is an Executive Council Member of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and has been a leader in the fight for increased Black representation in the USWA. He is presently on the USWA research staff in Pittsburgh.

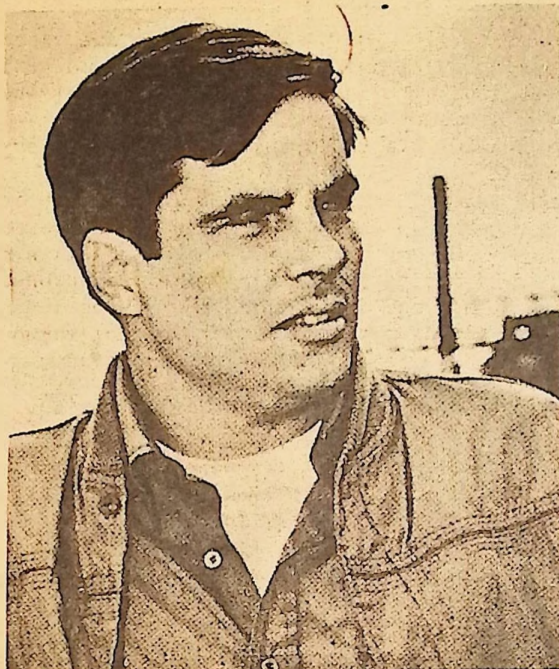
SECRETARY: Ignacio Rodriguez, 46, President, USWA Local 1549, American Can Co., Los Angeles. A leader of the Mexican-American Steelworkers National Council, Brother Rodriguez began his working career as a member of the Mine-Mill and Smelter Workers Union Local 560 in Arizona as a copper miner.

VICE PRESIDENT: James Kmec, 56, a USWA staffman since 1956. Kmec is a CIO veteran from U.S. Steel Container in Camden, N.J., USWA Local 5272. He devoted much of his early career to organizing for the CIO among oil workers and telephone workers. He is President of the Staffman's Organizing Committee for maintaining active staff.

Upholding the I.W. Abel-type of leadership is the slate of the "Official Family": Frank McBride, District 34 Director for President; Frank McKee, District 38 Director for Vice President; Leon Lynch, a USWA staffer, formerly from USWA Local 1011 in Gary, for Vice President-Human Affairs; Lynn Williams, District 6 Director, Ontario, Canada, for Secretary; and William Moran, District 9 Director for Treasurer. The McBride slate is white, with the exception of Lynch, the first Black man to serve as a national officer of the USWA. Without exception, they are committed to continuing the policies of the Abel Administration, including the Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA).

The Sadlowski team stands in sharp contrast to the McBride slate. They emphasize the need to bring more democracy to the union, to provide the right to vote on contracts, the right to strike in contrast to the no-strike ENA, a tougher stand on health and safety issues, and the shorter work week.

"The old line union politicians and bureaucrats have proven they are out of touch with the membership and cannot deliver what is needed," Sadlowski says. "Their (Abel's) approach--that what's good for the companies is good for the workers, that union leaders can be comfortable partners with top corporate management--simply doesn't work. The proof is the growing number of our brothers and sisters suffering from layoffs, speed-up, and unemployment."



Ed Sadlowski

Oliver Montgomery, candidate for Vice-President-Human Affairs, said: "For over a decade, Blacks and other minorities have sought to secure either the nomination of a minority group member for the International or District office or else to expand the number of offices available. And the Abel leadership team consistently and successfully opposed both efforts. Only when Ed Sadlowski came on the scene

did the insiders suddenly see the light and create more International offices. And I am proud to be running for one of those offices, not as the hand-picked agent of our authoritarian leadership, but as a man who seeks the support of the membership he will serve."

...ST in the Fe- elections include the directors of U. districts of the Steelworkers Union in the U.S. and Canada. The Sadlowski campaign will undoubtedly have an effect on those elections, with some of the incumbents supporting Sadlowski and Sadlowski supporting insurgent candidates in some districts.

No Black or Latino has ever been elected a District Director in the Steelworkers Union. Until the recent convention in Las Vegas, no Black had ever been named to a top post in the USWA, despite the fact that over 25 percent of the union's membership is Black or Latino.

While the Sadlowski movement has taken a big step forward by adding Black and Latino workers to its slate for the top posts, the ultimate strength of the rank and file movement will be consolidated only if this commitment to minority representation is reflected in the District Director races.

Ed Sadlowski can be contacted through Steelworkers Fight Back, 9271 South Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60617.

SO EVERY MEMBER CAN VOTE

Steelworkers issue new election rules

by LABOR TODAY Staff

New rules issued by the United Steelworkers Union has brought significant changes in election procedures for election of International Officers and District Directors.

An important change has been made in the nominations procedure as the result of a Labor Department suit. Under the new rules, candidates for International Office and District Directors can no longer be nominated from the floor by those members attending nomination meetings.

Instead, the name of a candidate for nomination must be submitted by a member of the local at least 48 hours in advance of the nomination meeting to the Financial Secretary of the local union.

The notice of the nomination meeting must inform members of the new 48-hour rule. Only names submitted in compliance with this new rule may be submitted for voting at the nominations meeting. No additional names may be submitted from the floor of the meeting.

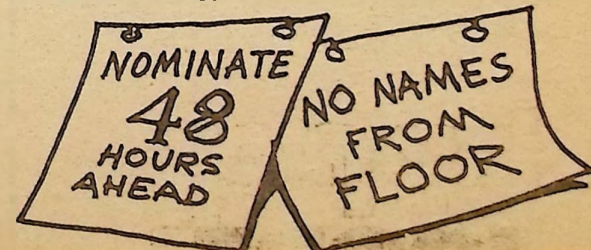
This rule results from a Labor Department suit that contended that elections and

nominations must be held in such a way that all members will have an opportunity to vote regardless of work schedule.

Campaign fairness rules continue to allow a candidate or the candidate's representative to address the nominations meeting. If a local allows the representative of one candidate to address a meeting, it must also notify all other candidates in advance and give them an opportunity to address the meeting as well.

Lists of names and addresses of local union Recording Secretaries are made available to all candidates who request them from the International Secretary-Treasurer of the USWA.

Copies of the new elections manual have been sent to all local unions. Members should contact their local union officers to obtain a copy.



'LABOR NEEDS OWN PARTY'

UE looks at '76 elections

Resolution on Political Action adopted
by U E Convention, September 13-17, 1976

The American people approach the 1976 Presidential and congressional elections in the wake of 16 years of Democratic and Republican rule characterized by catastrophic failures domestically and internationally.

During those years, Democratic Administrations committed the country to the most disastrous war in its history which, because of its huge cost, laid the basis for the worst recession and inflation in four decades.

Disillusioned by the devastating policies of the Democratic Administrations, a slim majority of voters turned to the Nixon-Agnew ticket in 1968 while millions didn't bother to vote.

It was those Republican Administrations that further extended the Vietnam War before a determined Asian people and an outraged American public brought it to an end. It was the Republican Administrations that imposed policies which launched the country on a wild inflationary spree accompanied by the highest level of unemployment since the 1930's.

These attacks on the economic well-being of the American people were carried out amidst shameless corruption on behalf of the powerful financial and industrial forces which financed the Nixon drive to power.



Then, dismayed by these economic and political policies of the Republican Administration and its corruption, the American people two years ago voted in a Congress heavily Democratic in the hope that it would stand up to Nixon's appointee, Gerald Ford. But that promised "veto-proof" Congress proved to be a mirage as it upheld 45 of the 55 Presidential vetoes and approved the highest military-expenditure budgets in U.S. history thereby denying the country urgently-needed civilian programs--job-producing programs.

The 1976 Republican Presidential candidate stands on his record and promises more of the same. This includes depriving working people of jobs in the name of reducing inflation and ending up giving us both inflation and unemployment. He stands on the Nixon-Agnew policy of encouraging racially-divisive policies nationally and locally.

The Democratic Presidential candidate campaigned for the nomination with promises to make the creation of jobs, the reform of



Albert Fitzgerald
President UE

the federal income tax, the rescue of the cities, the control of the multi-national corporations among his major concerns.

Since winning the nomination, he has declared his intention of postponing his promised job-creating programs and make inflation and budget-balancing his first considerations; assured a group of financiers that he will delay reforming the tax structure and would eventually do so in a way which they would not disapprove of; he has hedged on aid for the cities and praised the multi-national corporations. He has moved towards the Republican opponent's platform.

Although the labor movement represents the largest number of organized men and women in the country, the experiences of the past 16 years, at least, are proof that the needs of its members are treated with disdain after the candidates are chosen and elected.

These experiences show that political parties cannot serve two masters--the industrialists and financiers on one hand and the mass of people on the other.

As long as working people do not have a party of their own, they will be tossed periodically between the swamp of one party and the bog of the other, never able to direct their organized strength to advance their own and the country's welfare.

A majority of the people feel that they have no voice in the political system. They are fed up with the corruption that permeates every area of the political structure from the White House, down through Congress, the judiciary, state and local governments. They are tired of politicians who make promises they rarely keep. The people respond to all this by staying away from the polls in ever-increasing numbers.

The UE believes that endorsement of candidates for Presidential, congressional and other offices who attempt to be all things to all men can only perpetuate and worsen the harmful conditions of the past 16 years. In the absence of a political party of its own, labor must engage in energetic independent political action aimed at electing people from its own ranks at every level of government, in cooperation with organizations of Blacks, other minorities, women, professionals--all who are fed up with the corruption and corporate control of American politics.

We should support candidates who can be trusted to fight for the people's needs whether they are Democrats, Republicans or independents.

Through such independent political action, working people can put brakes on the readiness of politicians to serve the employers.

Through the struggle to advance independent political action, labor can not only play a greater part in influencing the major political parties, but can also lay the basis for a new national party which would serve one master--the American people.

The 41st UE Convention re-dedicates itself to those goals in the interest of its members and of the American people.

BRITISH MINE LEADER:

'We elect miners to Parliament'

(ED. NOTE: At the recent UMWA convention, LABOR TODAY interviewed Joe Gormley, President of the National Union of Miners of Great Britain. The following remarks were directed towards labor independent political action. Gormley was interviewed by Fred Gaboury.)

Joe
Gormley



Are there any miners sitting in the British Parliament?

We sponsor miners to run for Parliament. At present, we have 19 miners who serve as Members of Parliament (MP's) That's out of about 340 Labour Party MP's.

Are there steelworkers sitting in Parliament?

Oh yes, they have MP's as well. We all have our own representatives--but the miners have the largest number. And out of those 19 MP's, we have three who serve as Cabinet Ministers.

In our Congress we have doctors, lawyers, real estate agents and what-have-you. Why do you run miners?

For the people to speak for miners, they must be miners. Lawyers can speak for anybody but they usually speak for the ones who pay them the most money. We have lawyers in our Parliament, but not as many as you do here in the United States. Look, there are organizations that sponsor lawyers. There are organizations that sponsor doctors. There are already enough lawyers in government, so we don't need anymore lawyers.

Our miners' MP's have come up through the Miners Union. They've been educated industrially, politically and socially. So they know how they ought to be doing their job. We don't tell our MP's how to vote on this issue or that issue. They know we expect them to vote the way the policy of our union dictates. If we don't think they're doing a good job, then we have the right to remove them and not sponsor them in the next election.

Labor
today

Volume 15, No. 11

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LABOR TODAY--"The Rank and File in Action!"--is published monthly except August by Labor Today Associates, a non-profit Illinois corporation, 343 S. Dearborn Street, Room 600, Chicago, Illinois 60604. Phone 312/922-5560. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607 AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

1 year \$3.50; 2 years \$5.00; 3 years \$7.00
FOREIGN: \$6.00 per year Air Mail Only
Printed in U.S.A.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION THREATENED

'Voluntary compliance' replaces Civil Rights law

by LABOR TODAY Staff

A new move by the U.S. Department of Labor, shrouded in Watergate-style secrecy, threatens affirmative action programs to provide jobs for women and minorities across the nation.

Assistant Secretary of Labor, John Reed, announced September 15, that firms doing business with the U.S. government may now satisfy "affirmative action" provisions of their contracts by merely training minorities and women, instead of hiring them and training them on the job.

This is only one of several proposals in federal contract regulations which affect corporations employing nearly one-third of all workers in the U.S. Under the 1964 Civil Rights Act, federal contracts are supposed to go only to "equal opportunity" employers. Although enforcement of equal opportunity provisions in federal contracts had been poor and lax, they have raised strong oppositions from big corporations who resist hiring minorities and women, and having to make up for past discriminatory practices.

Another major change in the government regulations would take the teeth out of its enforcement. The present regulations force employers to "show cause" as to why they should not be denied government contracts

because of discriminatory practices. Major companies are required to submit draft affirmative action plans before contracts are awarded.

The new regulations would drop this procedure and substitute a weaker procedure of "voluntary compliance." Workers would no longer be able to deny government contracts to discriminating employers--instead, they would have to file complaints with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, a body with a back case-load totalling four years.

The new regulations would also exempt employers of fewer than 100 persons from compliance.

The new move to destroy affirmative action was uncovered by a Chicago-based group, Women Employed, which represents office and clerical employees in the downtown business district. Its campaigns have won back pay settlements and affirmative action programs from a number of banks and businesses in the famous "Loop" area. They have since rallied women and civil rights groups across the nation against the Labor Department move. Groups have until November 16 to stop the action.

Protests may be registered by cabling U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor John Reed, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C.



BIGGEST TURN-OUT EVER! Arkansas labor puts R-T-W repeal on ballot

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.--The Arkansas AFL-CIO and its affiliates are engaged in a direct form of independent political action this election. They have sponsored an initiative to can the hated "right to work" law that bans union shops.

On July 16, the Arkansas secretary of state certified that the "Right of Labor" measure would, indeed, be on the ballot. The state labor movement turned in 147,850 signatures and needed only 55,000 good names. The secretary of state's office stopped counting after they reached about 60,000 registered voters.

J. Bill Becker, state AFL-CIO president, reported that "the decision to undertake this campaign was approved overwhelmingly by delegates to our state convention." Too, he said, more than 1,000 local-union members turned out for the 16 community meetings in which the issue was explained and petitions distributed. "It was the biggest leadership crowd in the history of Arkansas labor," Becker added.

As Becker pointed out, it has been over 25 years since "this conflict has been fought out as a ballot issue." And, he added, "We believe our Bicentennial Year is the time and Arkansas is the place to make the stand."

While the unionists were circulating petitions, they also engaged the public-relations counsel who was on the winning side in the Ohio fight 18 years ago, formed coalition citizens' committees, and collected funds to finance the drive.

Working against the union efforts are the National Right-to-Work Committee, which is raising money nationally to fight the drive, and the state Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries of Arkansas. Arkansas has no state reporting requirements, Becker pointed out, so there is no limit on the amount of money they can raise and spend.

The Chamber of Commerce heralded its attack as one to "resist this vicious union bossism effort to wipe out the rights of Arkansas working men and women." It said that "AFL-CIO union bosses have started a campaign to destroy Arkansas' Right-to-Work law, which the voters of our state approved more than 30 years ago as Amendment No. 34 of 1944."

The RTW Committee, from its Virginia headquarters alerted its Arkansas members in February that letters from them to "key office-holders" would be necessary to help stop the labor drive. "Their minimum requirement of 54,975 valid signatures will be surpassed with ease if your state's 96,000 union members and their spouses can be persuaded to support the drive," the RTW Committee said.

As Becker commented, "National forces fear that if we are successful in Arkansas, our victory will spread to the other states with compulsory open-shop laws."

UP THE DOWN STAIRCASE

2 1/2 million more workers forced into poverty

Profits and poverty go together.

As corporate earnings skyrocket upward, the federal government issued some down-to-earth statistics Sept. 25:

The number of people "officially" defined as poor increased by 2.5 million last year, the largest jump in a single year since Washington began compiling poverty statistics in 1959.

Officially, one out of every eight Americans--over 25 million--is classified as poor. Unofficially, the number is higher.

A family of four, for instance, is not considered poor unless it has a yearly income of less than \$5469. That comes to about \$118 a month per person to buy clothes, pay rent, get to school or work, buy food and pay for other basic needs.

The sharpest proportional increases in the number of people living below the poverty level came among those who do not ordinarily dominate poverty statistics: whites, families with a male head and the nonelderly.

The dramatic increase in the number of poor people is a direct result of the economic crisis and government policies directed toward increasing profits at the cost of higher consumer prices and unemployment. As the economy shows signs of temporary improvement, however, there has been no improvement in the life of the masses of people.

UNEMPLOYMENT

In 42% of the cases where a family fell below the poverty line, the reason was that the head of the household had been



either "unable to find work during the entire year" or "unemployed 15 weeks or more," according to the Census Bureau.

The statistics also laid bare the myth that unemployment funds solve the financial problems of those fired or laid off.

In all, 4.3 million people were unemployed for so long last year that they exhausted their unemployment benefits, the Census survey found.

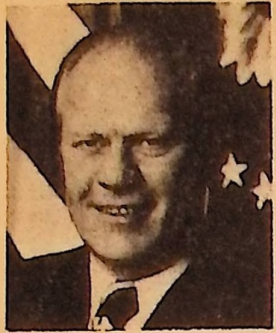
Blacks continue to be forced into poverty; they account for 31% of the official poor even though they are less than 12% of the population.

Women who worked full-time and year-round had incomes 58.8% as large as those of comparable male workers. About a third of all persons below the poverty line are members of families headed by women.

The Census report also showed that while the median family income rose slightly in 1975, it was a hollow increase: inflation cut the purchasing power of those incomes by 2.6%.

A separate set of statistics released recently--the Consumer Price Index for the month of August--indicates that this loss of purchasing power is likely to continue. Consumer prices rose 0.5% in August. The index then stood at 171.9, meaning that goods and services bought in 1967 for \$100 now cost \$171.90

Labor Today's President



GERALD FORD
Republican

Gerald Ford did not answer LABOR TODAY's questionnaire. However, LABOR TODAY thinks Ford's record speaks for itself:

Ford pardoned Richard Nixon.

Ford vetoed 59 pieces of legislation that would have provided money for education, public services and jobs.

Ford's COPE voting record as a Congressman from Michigan lists him voting 109 times "wrong" and only 19 times "right."

While in Congress, Ford voted 25 times against cutting the military budget.

Ford voted 14 times against ending the war in Vietnam.

Ford voted against the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

Ford voted against the Equal Employment Opportunities Act of 1971.

Ford voted against public housing, medicare food stamps and increased minimum wage.

Ford voted FOR preventive detention, wire taps without court approval and "no-knock" police raids.

Ford endorsed appointment of racists Carswell and Hainsworth to the Supreme Court.

Ford voted against the Fair Employment Practice Bill of 1950.

Ford voted against the Voting Rights Act of 1965.



JIMMY CARTER
Democrat

Jimmy Carter did not find the time to answer LABOR TODAY's questionnaire. Perhaps he is not interested in having to give a straight answer to the kinds of questions working people are asking.

However, Carter did find time to give an interview to the editors of the big-business magazine, FORTUNE, in May 1976. We think some of his answers to their questions are pretty revealing.

FORTUNE: Would you resort to wage and price controls under any circumstances?

CARTER: I would like to have standby wage and price control authority that could be used for a limited period of time...

FORTUNE: How far do you think you can get inflation down?

CARTER: If we get down below four percent unemployment, you would have very high inflationary pressures as you tried to reach lower and lower levels of unemployment. I think that if you reached a level of say, three percent unemployment, the inflation rate would probably rise above 10 percent.

FORTUNE: How would you go about the creation of more jobs?

CARTER: I would consider the private sector to be the primary supplier of jobs. I hope that everything the government does will be oriented to magnifying the influence of taxpayer's money by providing more jobs in the private sector.

I would provide direct federal job opportunities in some categories of the unemployment for instance, chronic welfare recipients who have no defect to keep them from working. If they didn't accept it, I would not pay them any more welfare.

FORTUNE: Would you provide public jobs for people, other than those chronically unemployed, who weren't able to find jobs in the private sector?

CARTER: I don't believe we can afford that on a permanent basis. This would create in our nation an inclination to circumvent the private sector.... It creates an atmosphere or an attitude of permanent commitment and a dependence on the government for jobs, and I just don't think that's a good thing for us to do.

FORTUNE: Do you think we need more planning in the overall economy?

CARTER: I don't like the prospect of government planning that would be binding on private industry.... I don't favor domination of private industry with government plans.

FORTUNE: You have said that you would sign the repeal of 14-B (The Taft-Hartley provision that permits states to prohibit the union shop), but would not promote the appeal?

CARTER: That's right. And that's the same position I took as Governor. Of course, on a state level you don't call it 14-B, it's the right-to-work. But, yes, that's the position I'd take.



EUGENE McCARTHY
Independent

"After each recession, there is a tendency to accept a higher rate of unemployment. We used not to accept anything over four percent; but some economists now suggest that we can 'tolerate' a rate of six percent or more unemployed. The question is: Who can tolerate it? Perhaps the employed can, and perhaps the government can. But the unemployed cannot.... We must redistribute work by shortening the work week or the work year. We can use tax incentives for industry to spread employment in this way. With proper incentives, it should be possible to create several million more jobs--for example, by shortening the work week from 40 to 35 hours--yet still assure approximately the same wages for those who are already employed.

"At least eight things should be done to provide both short-term and long-term improvement of the economy:

"We should have limited and conditional wage/price controls.

"We should have selective credit controls, so that the limited supply of credit will be directed to meet social needs and to relieve the most critical inflationary pressures.

by JIM WILLIAMS
Editor, LABOR TODAY

LABOR TODAY decided to ask several Presidents on issues affecting the working people.

We asked them:

- 1) JOBS--What is your position on federalism to the minimum acceptable level? What is the shorter work week of 35 hours or less? Humphrey Bill and the Harrington Youth...
- 2) MILITARY SPENDING--How much of a cut in propose? Are you willing to ease all re...
- 3) HUMAN RIGHTS--What steps are you willing minority citizens are relieved of the b affirmative action, etc.)



"We should have selective excise taxes to discourage wasteful production and consumption.

"Proven devices such as investment credit and accelerated depreciation should be used selectively.

"The Federal Reserve Board should be made at least partially subject to Treasury policy...

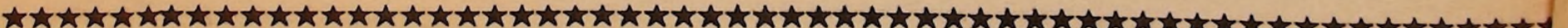
"We should eliminate unnecessary expenditures in the military budget...

"We should reduce spending in some other areas, such as the space program and the highway-building program."

PEACE AND TRADE

"If we were spending \$10 billion a year in foreign aid for the last 20 years instead of increasing defense expenditures 10 to 20 billion dollars a year, I think things would be different in some countries in South America, for example, and they'd be better in places like Africa.

"Our foreign policy should be an extension of our domestic national commitments and strength. There is our economic potential to produce all that is required to meet the needs of our own people and beyond that, to help people of other nations to improve their standard of living. In the roughly 23 years since the Korean War, the order of values in our foreign policy has been military first, then economic and material, and only in the last position, conceptions of individual rights and of society. The order must be reversed."





VOTE INDEPENDENT

Make

al Survey



al candidates just where they stand

unded jobs to bring unemployment down
our position on legislation to provide
What is your position on the Hawkins-
Bill?

ilitary spending are you willing to
actions on East-West trade?

take to assure that Black or other
ens of racism? (Busing, equal housing,



GUS HALL

COMMUNIST

"Of course I'm for the shorter workweek,
for the six-hour day with no cut in pay.
That should be established by law and en-
forced. This would make six to eight mil-
lion new jobs. I also call for an end to
regional wage differentials in the South
so that there are no runaway shops and
an end to the differential against Black,
Chicano, Puerto Rican workers, and against
women and new workers. In other words,
a wage program that is really meaningful
for workers, that does produce new jobs.

"Secondly, I think the Hawkins-Humphrey
Bill needs to be strengthened to have as
its objective the right of every worker
to a job, therefore ending unemployment.
We need to pay special attention to minor-
ity and young workers. We need to seek
and end the 'last-hired, first-fired'
principle which is used to divide the
working class and which has been used
against Black and Latino workers. I
think the Harrington Youth Jobs Bill is
a good bill. It is a big step forward.
It tackles the problems of young workers.

MILITARY BUDGET

"I think the military budget should be
slashed by 80 percent. This would make
about 100 billion dollars available for
the needs of the people. That could
leave about 20-30 billion for the milit-
ary until ~~access can be accelerated~~ mutual
army out candidates in the many Congre-
sional and state races that deserve the
support of the labor movement. These w-
include those candidates who are membe-
of the Black Congressional Caucus, who
have been among the most consistently
pro-labor of all, and many others--som
Democrats, some Republicans, others in-
pendent--whose dedication to labor's
cause and people's needs is unquestion-
able. The rank and file movement cannot affo-
situations like that in the New York p-
mary where a low voter turnout made it
possible for a bum like Patrick Moynihan
to defeat Bella Abzug with her 100 per-
cent COPE voting record.

"I'm for opening the doors for east-west
trade, for increased trade with the
socialist countries. This trade can pro-
vide some 8 million more jobs in the next
two years. For example, Bulgaria made
an agreement with General Motors for
trucks--perhaps the biggest truck order
that GM has ever received. This would
have meant an additional million jobs
for U.S. workers. But because of the
Vanick-Jackson restriction on trade with
the socialist countries, those jobs do
not come to the United States, but to
GM workers in other countries. That is
just one example as to why the Vanick-
Jackson restriction must be repealed and
discrimination against trade with the
socialist countries ended.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Our Party calls for federal legislation
that would make the practice and advocacy
of racism a crime, subject to prison and
fine. This means that the full power of
government would be used to outlaw racist
practices, such as those that exist in
housing. This would go far to end the
racist, segregated practices in schools.

"The centuries of criminal oppression of
Black and native Americans, Chicanos and
Asian people in our country has to be
ended and uprooted. This can be done
and must be done. This means no more pro-
pitteering on racism by the corporations
and private industry.

"Thus, our program can be summarized as
a Labor Charter for this country.

- A program for reconstruction of the industrial centers.
- A program for a job for every person.
- A program for a decent home for every family.

"It means a total program of construction
of schools, hospitals, daycare centers,
to meet the needs of the people, to over-
come the damage done to this economy by
the big monopoly corporations and big
business. This is what needs to be done
and that is what I think workers, as a
whole, want to see done.

"The main force for the achievement of
these goals has to be a united working
class movement, in a struggle, not only
on election day, but every day. That
working class struggle must unite with
all other sections of the population
who are victims of the monopoly rule."



FRANK P. ZEIDLER

Socialist

"The conditions of continuing inflation
and rising unemployment should be reverse.
by price ceiling on major commodities,
energy, utilities or services, and by di-
rect government employment of the unemplo-
ed. There is no other way to contain infla-
tion and yet provide full employment,
unless a boom and bust cycle occurs.

"Controls and direct government employment
will require, however, a democratically
achieved national plan of goals for goods
and services and research. This plan will
require allocation of scarce resources and

of credit, so that capital is not wasted
but is directed toward the public good. To
deal with the problems of monetary control
and stable prices will also require the
socialization of the Federal Reserve Board
so that it becomes the instrument of Cong-
ressional policy rather than the instrument
of private corporations and their bankers.

"A national plan will provide for *employment on needed public works*. Such public works will include farm, forest, and recreational area restoration, publicly constructed homes for low-income families, elimination of blight in urban and rural areas, railway rebuilding, public works of all types including sewer and water systems, libraries, municipal buildings, parks and playgrounds. Public transportation facilities also need to be greatly expanded."

PEACE

"The United States should stop shipping
arms everywhere. The economy of this na-
tion will improve if the money spent on
arms is spent on life-giving and construc-
tive enterprises. Also, profits from sel-
ling others arms is blood money."

HUMAN RIGHTS

"The nation, the governments, and the people
at every level should continue to work at
improving race relations. This means equal
opportunity for housing, education and jobs.
Preservation of ethnic heritage is impor-
tant, but ethnicity should not be stressed
to the point of dividing people along
ethnic or racial lines.

"The Socialist Party believes in integrated
education in schools of excellence. We hold
that where public transportation of pupils
is required to achieve such ends, we en-
courage the use of such transportation."

"The arms race should be stopped as quickly
as possible. This means that the United
States should take the first steps by it-
self toward slowing down the arms race, as a
signal to the Soviet Union, and we should
expect the Soviet Union to respond also by
slowing down its arms expenditures.



REV. F. D. KIRKPATRICK

(ED. NOTE: Although Rev. Kirkpatrick
is not on the ballot in any state, he
is the only Black candidate for Presi-
dent of the U.S. He is an Independent
and is sponsored by the National Black
Political Assembly. He is a WRITE-IN
candidate.)

The Right to a job--no level of unempl-
oyment (not even 3%) is tolerable. Jobs
should be guaranteed by the government
to totally eliminate unemployment immed-
iately. I favor enactment and enforce-
ment of a federal requirement that Blacks
and Third World workers be hired in pro-
portion to their ~~community size~~ during
ul: both periods, millions of people were or-
st ganized in mass movements demanding change.
co The marches of the unemployed, the Flint
Re sit-down, the San Francisco General Strike,
--these were the real votes for the New
Deal legislation of the 1930's. Montgomery,
Selma, Birmingham, the Freedom Rides and
Mississippi Summer--these were the argu-
ments that made a President Johnson and a
Democratic Congress pass the Voting Rights
acts of the 1960's.

No matter who takes office in January, the
problems will remain. LABOR TODAY will be,
as we have been in the past, in the fore-
front of the battles to make both the
Legislative and Executive branches of the
Federal Government resolve these problems
in favor of the needs of people rather
than the profits of big business. A large
independent vote for the office of Presi-
dent will provide a base that will make
that task easier.



Southern textile workers organize fight on Brown Lung



On November 12, in coordinated actions in three cities, 70 disabled textile mill workers filed claim for workmen's compensation for Brown Lung. The mass filings were coordinated by the Carolina Brown Lung Association.

Brown Lung, which is the common name for Byssinosis, is a disabling respiratory disease caused by the inhalation of minute particles of cotton dust over a period of years. There are estimated to be 30 to 40 thousand Brown Lung victims in the Carolinas and as many as 100,000 nationwide.

One group of Brown Lung Association members from Greensboro and Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, delivered 30 claims for compensation to the state Industrial Commission in Raleigh and met with three of the commissioners.

Twenty-seven claims were brought to the South Carolina Industrial Commission in Columbia by some 60 Brown Lung Association members. They met with the head of the Commission, who promised to "do everything possible to help."

In Spartanburg, South Carolina, ten members held a press conference at the County Courthouse and dashed to the mailbox together in the rain to send their claims up to Columbia.

FEW CLAIMS PAID

Until this action by the Brown Lung Association, less than ten claims for compensation for the disease had ever been filed in South Carolina. None of these claims have been paid. In North Carolina, more than 36 claims for compensation for Brown Lung have been paid since 1971, when new laws made the compensation process easier.

North Carolina now has a special medical panel to process Brown Lung claims. In South Carolina it is still up to the individual to prove that he has Brown Lung, that it is work related, and that he is totally disabled.

The Carolina Brown Lung Association was



CLINIC HELD

In June, a clinic in Columbia, South Carolina, sponsored by the group, screened mill workers for signs of Brown Lung. More than half of those screened showed some symptoms. Thirty-six of the 92 tested were considered "probable" victims of Brown Lung and another 14 were considered "possible" victims.

Later in the summer, the organization, along with organized labor in the state, petitioned the S.C. Department of Labor to require the installation of signs in all affected areas of textile plants to warn workers of potential health hazards from breathing cotton dust.

In hearings on the issue, Carolina Brown Lung Association said the signs would be "a first step in educating workers about the danger of Brown Lung". The cotton industry opposed the signs, saying they "would scare the hell out of employees."

A decision on the signs is imminent and while the Association does not expect to win, it feels the very fact that the Department has taken so long to reach a decision is an indication of its impact on the state state officials.

PARTIAL DISABILITY COMPENSATION

Probably the most important fight the group is waging and one that appears to be headed for victory is for changes in the law to allow compensation for partial disability. On November 19, Brown Lung Association members packed a hearing called by the Legislative Study Committee on Brown Lung of the South Carolina state legislature. The Committee has expressed support for the idea of compensation for partial disability and even the textile industry representatives at the hearing admitted that changes are necessary.

In another meeting on the same day, Brown Lung Association members pressed the legislative delegation of Guilford County, North Carolina, on the issue of partial disability and received pledges of support from six of the ten legislators who attended.

SUBS, BOOKS FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS!

LT fund drive off & rolling

LABOR TODAY's 15th anniversary fund and circulation drive is off to a "good start" reports our Business Manager, Altherna Medith. LT's fund appeal, which went out in September, has already generated "nearly \$1,000," she says. That's about a month's wages for Scott Marshall, LT Southern Representative, Sister Medith, and the Editor. Some of his answers to the pretty revealing.

FORTUNE: Would you resort to wage and price controls under any circumstances?

CARTER: I would like to have standby wage and price control authority that could be used for a limited period of time...

ORTUNE: How far do you think you can get inflation down?

CAPTER: If we get down below four percent unemployment, you would have very high inflationary pressures as you tried to reach lower and lower levels of unemployment. I think that if you reached a level of say, three percent unemployment, the inflation rate would probably rise above 10 percent.

Initial responses to LT's circulation drive have also been encouraging. Already, LT readers in Chicago and Cincinnati have ordered bundles to distribute at their local Central Labor bodies. (What about that, San Francisco, Milwaukee, Cleveland and others? Are you going to let Chicago and Cincinnati beat you?)

Sister Medith reports that 25 new subscriptions came in during October. That's good--but not enough to put us over the top by February. With the holiday season approaching, what better way to introduce friends and shopmates to LABOR TODAY than to send them a gift sub? Needless to add, LT's fine selection of classic labor books make fine gifts--gifts that keep on giving, by producing a more active labor movement.

Here's a real bargain. Five gift subs for \$10--and for yourself, a free copy of Wyndham Mortimer's ORGANIZE.

Some of LABOR TODAY's friends, like Southern activist Anne Braden, and Paul Nyden, editor of MINER'S REPORT, have sent LT's

fund appeal out to their friends and contacts. Others can follow their example by requesting additional copies of the appeal to send to their friends. If you're too bogged down to do a mailing (why not enclose them in holiday greeting cards), send us your list of names--and we'll send them out.

While you're at it, mark down February 19, 1977, on your calendar. That's the new date for LT's 15th anniversary celebration to be held at Chicago's Martinique Restaurant. Fifteen years is a long time and we've got something to celebrate!



Make your vote count

In March we said, "The 1976 Presidential election poses some tough questions for the rank and file." We hit the floor in July with an editorial that said, "LABOR TODAY has never endorsed a Presidential candidate in its fifteen-year history. We aren't going to endorse one this year either. We take this position knowing that many of our friends in the labor movement will argue that we should support the lesser evil."

The field has narrowed since then. Jimmy Carter took all the peanuts and won out as the Democrats' lesser, more electable evil, and a battered old Ford got the nod as the Republicans' lesser, more electable evil. As we look at the pack today, we can only conclude that we were right both times: The tough questions remain. Lesser evils are still evil. *There's no good reason for LABOR TODAY to endorse Carter.*

Don't misunderstand us. LABOR TODAY stands with those who say that "Ford must go." But it's not just Ford, the individual, who must go. *We must get rid of the racist, anti-labor, anti-human pro-big business policies that dominated the Administration.*

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS

Think about the problems confronting the rank and file: There's unemployment and inflation. There's the need for houses, schools and mass transit. There's the need for hospitals and some kind of national health care. There's the threat of war or the possibility for detente. Think about these--and then look at the solutions being offered in the so-called "Presidential Debate."

The silence by both Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter on the problems of the Black and Latin people is the clearest example of their lack of concern for the needs of working people--period. The terrifying impact of the continuing economic crisis on Blacks, Latins and other minorities and the growing racist counter-offensive which threatens the civil rights gains of the '50's and '60's is a threat to rank and filers everywhere. These problems demand stronger medicine than that offered in the tweedle-dee, tweedle-dummer platforms of either Democrats or Republicans.

If workers are going to be successful in defeating the big business policies of the Democratic and Republican parties, we are going to have to build a movement of political independence that can unite all who are victims of the policies of big business. We are going to have to build a people's electoral movement that puts people ahead of profits--a movement led by the labor movement in alliance with the Black and Latin communities that will include representatives of the Native American and Asian people, women and youth activists, peace workers and environmentalists.

A PLACE TO START

We think this process can be accelerated by voting for an independent Presidential Candidate on November 2, 1976. We think this process can be accelerated by searching out candidates in the many Congressional and state races that deserve the support of the labor movement. These would include those candidates who are members of the Black Congressional Caucus, who have been among the most consistently pro-labor of all, and many others--some Democrats, some Republicans, others independent--whose dedication to labor's cause and people's needs is unquestioned. The rank and file movement cannot afford situations like that in the New York primary where a low voter turnout made it possible for a bum like Patrick Moynihan to defeat Bella Abzug with her 100 percent COPE voting record.

We think there are several reasons for recommending this course of action:

- ★ To vote for an independent candidate is to register the strongest protest that can be made in the up-coming election--and we all know there's a lot to protest.
- ★ A large independent vote will encourage those who have already begun to search for the way to build a people's electoral movement.
- ★ A strong independent vote will lay the basis for further consideration of alternatives, including further examination of the ways that the labor movement must develop in order to run and elect workers and trade unionists to public office.

DON'T BE FOOLED

Depending on where one lives, there are a number of independent presidential candidates seeking support in 1976. As far as LABOR TODAY is concerned, this does not include the candidates of the American Independent Party. No matter how you slice it, the policies of the AIP are not independent of the policies of big busi-

ness. To the contrary: the candidacy of Lester Maddox is a deliberate effort on the part of the most reactionary, racist elements in the country to advance these policies by creating confusion and divisions in the ranks of the labor movement.

Rank and filers should not be fooled by an outfit that calls itself the U.S. Labor Party, either. This gang of fascist-like thugs is not independent of big business. They are being paid by the CIA in hopes that they will be able to siphon away votes from genuine independents and, in this way, sidetrack the movement for real independence on the part of the labor movement.

The problems facing trade unionists and other working people were not created by Gerald Ford, or even by Tricky Dick Nixon. Their roots go back to the early post-war efforts to dismantle the social programs of the New Deal. They grew and developed under Democratic and Republican administrations as Corporate America worked to return the United States to the industrial dark ages of weak unions, no minimum wage, no civil rights legislation, no federal health and safety standards. *The problems facing workers are too deeply rooted to be solved by a simple passing of Presidential power from Gerald Ford and the Republican Party to Jimmy Carter and the Democratic Party.*

We think this is where our friends in the labor movement who are pushing the Carter-Mondale ticket go wrong.

- They point to the decline in living standards under the Nixon-Ford Admin-

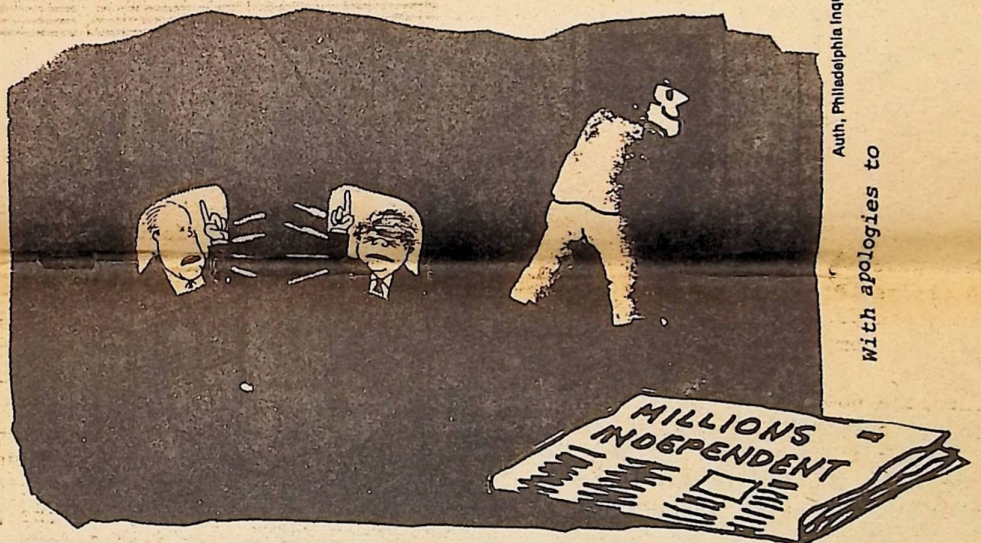
istrations and-- forget to mention that it was a Democratic Congress that gave Nixon the power to "zap" labor with so-called wage and price controls.

- They point to the Nixon-Ford appointments to the Federal Courts--and forget to mention the fact that there were large Democratic majorities in the Senate and that only 51 votes were required to defeat any of these nominees.
- They point to the 59 Ford vetoes of legislation that would have provided jobs and other essential social services--and forget to mention that Democrats in Congress had the votes--but not the guts--to over-ride all of them.

We know that some of our friends will scoff. They will remind us of the gains made by working people during the 1930's and by Blacks and other national minorities during the 1960's. They will tell us that "The Democrats did all of that."

INDEPENDENCE ISN'T WASTE

Some of our friends will warn us that we are advocating a wasted vote and will remind us that the real race is before Carter



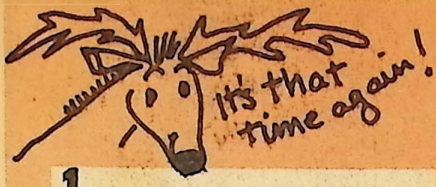
and Ford. They will warn us that if we persist in our folly we will guarantee a Ford victory.

We know all of that. We know that either Mr. Ford or Mr. Carter will occupy the White House for the next four years. And we don't think it will make a hell of a lot of difference.

We are the first to admit that working people made more gains during Roosevelt's first two terms than they made anytime before or since. We know that Blacks and other minorities made important--and long overdue--advances in the decade of the sixties.

But we remember something else: During both periods, millions of people were organized in mass movements demanding change. The marches of the unemployed, the Flint sit-down, the San Francisco General Strike,--these were the real votes for the New Deal legislation of the 1930's. Montgomery, Selma, Birmingham, the Freedom Rides and Mississippi Summer--these were the arguments that made a President Johnson and a Democratic Congress pass the Voting Rights acts of the 1960's.

No matter who takes office in January, the problems will remain. LABOR TODAY will be, as we have been in the past, in the forefront of the battles to make both the Legislative and Executive branches of the Federal Government resolve these problems in favor of the needs of people rather than the profits of big business. A large independent vote for the office of President will provide a base that will make that task easier.



5 new subs for \$10 gets you a FREE copy of 'Organize'

A sub plus any book for \$6

1
name _____
address _____
city _____ state _____ zip _____

2
name _____
address _____
city _____ state _____ zip _____

3
name _____
address _____
city _____ state _____ zip _____

4
name _____
address _____
city _____ state _____ zip _____

5
name _____
address _____
city _____ state _____ zip _____

Building LABOR TODAY is one of the best ways to build the rank and file movement.

Here are two ways to build LABOR TODAY:

#1, Introduce five friends to LT at our special introductory rate of five subs for \$10 and receive for yourself a free copy of Wyndham Mortimer's labor classic ORGANIZE!, the story of the building of the United Auto Workers in the 1930's.

#2, Introduce yourself to LT with an introductory sub and YOUR CHOICE of several labor classics for only \$6.00--a big savings.

THE BOOKS

- THE MAGIC FERN, by Phil Bonosky, \$2.95
- ORGANIZE! by Wyndham Mortimer, \$3.95
- O, MOUNTAINEERS! by Don West, \$5.00
- LABOR RADICAL, by Len DeCaux, \$4.45
- LABORS' UNTOLD STORY, by Boyer & Morias, \$3.95
- WHAT'S HAPPENING TO LABOR?, by Gil Green, \$4.50

MAIL TO:
LABOR TODAY ASSOCIATES
343 S. Dearborn St., Rm. 600
Chicago, Ill. 60604

___/ Here's \$6 for an intro sub to LABOR TODAY and a copy of _____

___/ Here's \$10 for 5 intro subs (see attached list) send me a free copy of ORGANIZE!

___/ Here's \$____. Send me the following books:

NAMES _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____