



## **NEW SOLIDARITY** **International Press Service**

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### **WALL STREET JOURNAL WARNS TEAMSTER STRIKE MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO SPILL OVER INTO RUBBER AND CONSTRUCTION TALKS**

April 2 (IPS)—The Wall Street Journal said today that federal mediators involved in contract negotiations between the Teamsters Union and the over-the-road trucking industry fear that "any extended delay" in reaching an agreement "could aggravate the situation because critical contracts in the rubber and construction industries expire in April and May and costly settlements in those areas might prompt the striking truckers to escalate their demands." For this reason, the Journal stated, the government is hesitant to invoke an 80-day Taft-Hartley "cooling off" period, which would order truckers back to work during April and May to permit time for further contract talks.

450,000 Teamsters are affected by the current negotiations; upcoming rubber industry talks will cover 98,000 workers, while the construction contract talks will involve 800,000 workers, in addition, contracts covering 340,000 electrical workers expire in late May.

### **ASSEMBLYMAN, KEN MEADE CALLS FOR DEBT MORATORIUM/EEA IN PRESS CONFERENCE BACKING FRISCO STRIKERS**

SAN FRANCISCO April 2 (IPS) —Speaking at the U.S. Labor Party's city hall press conference called to build support for striking San Francisco craft workers today, California Assemblyman Ken Meade, sponsor of the debt moratorium and the Emergency Employment Act, in the California Assembly, declared: "The reason I am here at this strike picket line is because debt moratorium and the Emergency Employment Act will solve the immediate crisis in San Francisco and the world economic collapse."

Reporters in attendance from the San Francisco Examiner, the San Francisco Chronical and Radio KYA responded with detailed questions. To one question on what California would do if it enacted such legislation before it was in effect on a national level, Assemblyman Meade replied that Rep. Ron Dellums was drafting similar legislation to introduce into the U.S. Congress.

A nearby picket line of 40 striking workers eagerly listened to a call by U.S. Labor Party agitators for strikers and their supporters to send flying delegations of picket lines of striking teamsters and U.S. Labor Party rallies throughout the city. The strikers reacted enthusiastically to the Labor Party's suggestion to make union officials adopt debt moratorium and the EEA as the demands of the strike, and bought 10 dollars of USLP literature.

(MORE)

ECHEVERRIA DECLARES WAR AGAINST RIGHT WING; THREATENS TO MOBILIZE  
MASSES AGAINST COUP ATTEMPTS

MEXICO CITY, April 2 (IPS)--Mexican President Luis Echeverria yesterday charged that right-wing conspiratorial groups are making coup preparations against his government. The President stated that these groups "will not find a Pinochet here," and warned that "popular explosions will start to run over those who meet in secret meetings..."

In his speech, broadcast and televised throughout Mexico, Echeverria openly blasted "pro-fascist, oligarchic forces" based in the right-wing bastion, Monterrey. "These anti-Mexican people lamented that there was no coup in Mexico when the regime of Allende fell... Now that the coup occurred in Argentina," he declared, "they have asked why the same thing doesn't happen in Mexico."

Echeverria charged that the right-wing destabilization and coup plans were launched "at a clandestine meeting...which took place in Monterrey several weeks ago...at which large quantities of money was collected to launch injurious ads and surreptitious campaigns in many parts of the country..." These forces who "hide behind armored cars" will be "run over by popular explosions," he said, "if they don't listen to reason, and if they continue squandering the surplus value of workers in numerous newspaper ads and in propaganda forms used by foreign news agencies."

For the first time in his presidency, Echeverria referred directly to right-wing involvement in the 1968 student disorders in which several hundred student protesters were killed by police and military forces. "The oligarchic sector in Mexico gave surreptitious help to carry some immature groups to criminal extremes and in this way, try to provoke a strong official reaction," he declared. "This destabilizing technique... (used) forms of propaganda and recommendations of foreign origin to alter, here and (in the rest of) the world, government tasks which have liberalizing aims."

Echeverria's speech was extensively reported in today's press. Strong editorial support for the President's statements appeared in most of the center and left papers while the right-wing press remained silent.

FRENCH STRIKES CONTINUE TO SPREAD

April 2 (IPS)--The rash of strikes in France led by metalworkers, textile and railroad workers over the past weeks is now spreading into auto and health. According to today's L'Humanite, newspaper of the French Communist Party (PCF), the metalworkers have called for a national day of action on April 13th to conclude a two-week mobilization of French metalworkers around various job actions and demonstrations.

At the same time, all Peugeot auto plants were hit by strike actions today, after 3000 Peugeot metalworkers expelled police from one plant yesterday.

In health care, the health federation of the communist-linked CGT trade union confederation has called for a propaganda offensive throughout the country this month for increased credit for health care and higher wages for employees in health services.

TEAMSTERS SPOKESMAN PREDICTS UNION WILL WIN "CLOSE TO" 1.75 DOLLARS PER HOUR INCREASE

CHICAGO, April 2 (IPS)--Irwin Klass, a national spokesman for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, claimed today that the Teamsters have won a tentative settlement on a master contract covering some 400,000 over-the-road drivers. Klass said that the terms of the tentative agreement were "close to" the union's last demand in the negotiations of a 1.75 dollar per hour across-the-board wage increase, plus an unlimited cost-of-living escalator.

A trucking industry spokesman exploded "That's bulls-t!" when informed of Klass's statement this afternoon. He said that the Teamsters Union was putting out the claim in order to make itself look good.

Other sources report that Chicago area Teamsters, who have often opposed the national union leadership, are demanding a 2.00 dollar per hour increase plus unlimited cost-of-living escalator.

WEST GERMAN PRESS, WAR IN 1977

April 2 (IPS)--The Washington, D.C. correspondent of the conservative West German daily Die Welt, Kurt Leissler, stated in yesterday's Die Welt that "If there is no war in 1977, then the Soviets will overrun the U.S. militarily."

Leissler, who is notorious for conduiting throughout Europe the slander that the Labor Committees are an arm of the KGB, the Soviet Intelligence service, followed this up in today's Die Welt, saying that President Ford will fire "soft" Secretary of State Henry Kissinger if he wins re-election in November. Another Washington-based West German reporter, Jan Reiffenberg of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, today quoted Ronald Reagan's call this week for "real superiority over the Soviet Union" and said that the arguments over the "missile gap" of the 1960s will soon reappear.

In addition, an unsigned front page article in today's Die Welt reports that there is a "fighter gap" between the West and the Soviets, because, allegedly, the new soviet MIG-25 is so fast that it constantly flies over the NATO countries of West Germany, Denmark and Norway without any NATO fighter being able to catch it.

NEW YORK BANKER CALLS FOR "SOCIAL WAR" ON BRITISH UNIONS

NEW YORK, April 2 (IPS)--"Politics as normal" cannot continue in Britain an economist for Manufacturers Hanover Trust asserted in an interview today. He dismissed the current race for Prime Minister as "irrelevant," saying that what was needed to put the country back together was a "banker's ramp" coalition government in wartime style. Its first job would be to "exercise the left" (a reference to the left-wing Tribune faction of the Labour Party) and next to declare "social war" on the more radical unions. Then, the government could conduct a "radical re-adjustment to the realities of the economic base," including further reductions in public spending, no increases in wages until productivity rises, and a "national austerity program" including a 20 percent across the board cut in living standards.

(MORE)

STATE DEPARTMENT DEMANDS AUSTERITY PRODUCTIVITY FROM EUROPEAN WORKERS

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 2 (IPS)—France, Italy, and the rest of Western Europe must follow the "lessons of worker productivity" now at work in West Germany if they want to avoid 20 percent devaluations of their currencies, a State Department advisor on West Germany said today. "Schmidt, Giscard, Moro (the heads of state of West Germany, France, and Italy respectively) all agree," he said, that "the real spirit of Rambouillet (an economic summit held by the major Western nations last November) is domestic belt-tightening and economic austerity. This is what the Germans demand from the rest of Europe, this is (U.S. Treasury Secretary) William Simon's idea, rammed through at Rambouillet," he continued.

The source said that "in Germany, real GNP (gross national product) declined 3.4 percent in 1975 and is projected to go up another 3.5 to 4 percent this year (i.e. from 1974 -- the official is forecasting a seven percent increase for 1976, using State Department figures - ed.) but unemployment will be steady or even rise above its current 1.3 million. How? Productivity!"

"Workers' attitudes just have to be changed in Britain, France, Italy," he stated. "These countries are a mess. The trouble is, I don't think the political ability to force these policies through exists -- look at the Communist threat on the entire Southern flank. Giscard is as good an economist as Schmidt, but what he would like to do -- cut government spending, hike taxes, put on wage-price controls -- and what he is able to do is another question."

EUROPEAN PRODUCTION PILING UP IN INVENTORY -- CREDIT TIGHTENED

April 2 (IPS)—Over 30 percent of West German and 40 percent of French production for domestic demand went into inventory building, and was not sold, the United Nations Commission for Europe reported this week. In Sweden, industrial inventories are up by 40 percent as shipments collapse and orders for heavy industry fall by 20 percent industry. The Commission indicated that the inventory build-up was financed by huge government credit expansions in 1975.

No, the credit reims are being tightened throughout Europe. In West Germany, industrial loan demand has been slashed and the money supply, which was growing at a 23 percent annual rate in the fourth quarter of 1975, began to contract over January and February, reaching a near zero growth rate for the two months. In France, the bank lending rate has been increased .2 percent, and maturities (repayment date) on consumer credit have been cut.

"NO SOLUTION SHORT OF DICTATORSHIP" FOR BRITAIN, NY BANKER SAYS

NEW YORK, April 2 (IPS)—"There is no solution short of dictatorship" for Britain's current economic problems, said a spokesman for New York's Chemical Bank today. "The problem is that nobody takes things seriously, it just doesn't look like a crisis," said the banker who had just returned from a three week visit to Britain. "Take your average worker in the Midlands" (industrial center of Britain) he said, "He doesn't read the Financial Times, so he has no idea how bad it really is."

(MORE)

## BROOKINGS CALLS FOR HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, PRODUCTIVITY

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 2 (IPS)—Sources on Capitol Hill report that the Brookings Institution is actively lobbying against the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Act because it is hyperinflationary and does not deal with excess wage demands. Brookings personnel are arguing that a "reserve pool of labor", to hold unemployment at a level of about 6 per cent, and an incomes policy which ties wage increases to productivity are necessary to "dampen excess wage demands" and to hold inflation down. Former Brookings personnel who are now employed by the Congressional Budget Office and the House Budget Committee, have been heavily deployed to force a revision of Humphrey-Hawkins along these lines, the sources said.

Senator Humphrey, who yesterday declared that welfare and unemployment benefits are inflationary, but public service jobs are not, is reportedly ready to revise his legislation if need be, according to the sources. His top staffers are in close touch with the Brookings Institution and Budget Committee personnel, they stated.

## FRENCH EMPLOYERS' HEAD SUPPORTS AUSTERITY; DEMANDS MORE PRODUCTIVITY

April 2 (IPS)—Jacques Ceyrac, head of the French employers' association (CNPF), today threw his support behind a recent proposal by Prime Minister Chirac for substantial cutbacks in industrial expenditure for unemployment benefits and social security in order to finance a massive "full employment" program for France's unemployed. According to today's French press, Ceyrac stressed the importance of increases in worker productivity, claiming that wages had risen 30 per cent in 1974-1975 with no comparable rise in productivity. He also called for upgrading manual labor, "reviewing the problems of immigration," and bolstering credit for industrial investment by "pulling savings into financing for industrial activity."

## BEAME CITES NEW YORK LABOR DOCILITY; SAYS DEBTS WILL BE PAID

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 2 (IPS)—New York City Mayor Abraham Beame testified before Senate Banking Committee hearings on the Federal loan to the city that the "Federal investment in New York City will be paid on time," and that the city had earmarked state revenue sharing funds, state aid to education funds, and stock transfer and sales taxes to guarantee the repayment schedule will be met.

When asked how much austerity he thought city employees would take, Beame told IPS reporters at the hearing that "That is better asked of the (city) employees...no group of employees in the country have cooperated (in cost cutting) to the extent New York City employees have." Stating that he assumed that labor cooperation in austerity measures was limitless, Beame challenged: "If you think the employees' cooperation is finite, ask them" how much austerity they will accept.

## NEW YORK TIMES ATTACKS TRANSIT WORKERS COST OF LIVING INCREASE

(MORE)

April 2 (IPS)—It its lead editorial entitled "Dismal Pattern," the New York Times today attacks the New York City Transit Workers Union Cost-of-Living increase as too "liberalized," and an act of "buying off overpowerful municipal unions."

Although the Transit Workers Cost-of-Living increase does not meet the rise in inflation, the Times demands: "a sharp rise in productivity by transit workers is overdue in terms of public expectation without any adjustment in pay."

HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE VOTES UP RECOMMENDATION  
FOR HUMPHREY-HAWKINS BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 2 (IPS)—In a highly irregular move, the House Budget Committee voted yesterday to include an appropriation for the Humphrey-Hawkins slave labor bill in their 1977 budget recommendations, before the legislation has even been voted into law or appropriations passed on it. Yesterday's 13-12 vote, on an amendment introduced by Rep. Tip O'Neill (D-Mass.), reversed an 11-12 vote earlier in the week which rejected recommending an appropriation for the bill.

Republican staffers on the Committee charged that the Humphrey-Hawkins budget recommendation was pushed through as a foot-in-the-door for the actual passage of the legislation and as a Democratic Party campaign platform. Debate was reportedly extremely intense and sources indicated that heavy arm-twisting was involved in the vote reversal.

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