

What Is There To Strike About?

Strikes in the U.S. industrial sector and in education have raised the most serious political issues for the American population, whether or not they realize it. No matter what the dockworkers, coalminers, teachers, and others may think they are striking for, they must be fighting for the future of the United States as an industrial nation.

Labor's Just Demands

This statement was issued by the National Executive Committee of the U.S. Labor Party on Oct. 7.

The current wave of strikes and projected strikes throughout the United States will serve as a chaotic prelude to energy czar James Schlesinger's winter emergency dictatorship as long as both industry and labor continue to bargain within the framework of a continuing world depression. Labor will not accept such settlements.

The only appropriate framework for collective bargaining in this period is a political commitment by labor and industry to a multigigawatt nuclear energy export program, and the burst of industrial and agricultural production that will go along with gearing up the U.S. workforce and industry for that scale of production.

The labor movement, which has engaged in a consistent and increasingly effective fight for nuclear power—beginning with the Seabrook demonstration in late June up to the ongoing dismantling of the Carter-Mondale no-energy legislation—has the responsibility and right to take up such demands. Companies such as Boeing Aircraft, who offer share-the-poverty wage increases on the order of 3 percent, or municipalities such as New York City, which is mooting an offer of nothing but increased "productivity" slave-labor measures, must be hit with wage demands within the context of a political program for industrial and urban recovery.

The City of London and its operatives in government and the labor movement want to use the spreading ILA strike, the 24,000-strong IAM strike at Boeing, and others to finish off the U.S. economy. Labor will move to turn this action into a political labor-industry alliance for nuclear-based society, and the living standards that go with it.

Provoked Strikes To Be Pretext For Schlesinger WEEP Dictatorship

The U.S. economy is now being buffeted by a wave of deliberately provoked strikes aimed at paving the way for the imposition of Secretary of Energy James Schlesinger's "Winter Energy Emergency Plan" (WEEP) for an energy dictatorship.

Strikes In Progress

International Longshoreman's Association: A strike on the East and Gulf coasts is now at the end of its second week. The strike has closed the port of New Orleans which handles 60 percent of the country's grain trade, according to all reports grain will begin rotting on the sidings, and the grain harvest will be seriously hampered if the strike does not end soon.

International Association of Machinists: A strike against the Boeing Corporation has now expanded to Lockheed. Now, 38,000 workers are out and another 60,000, organized by the United Autoworkers, may join the strike if their ongoing negotiations with the aerospace producers break down. This strike threatens to have a ripple effect on parts and electronics suppliers, with possible layoffs in those industries.

Strikes On Tap

United Steelworkers: A strike of 20,000 workers against the metal can producers is looming two weeks over the horizon.

United Mineworkers: A strike against the coal operators slated on or before Dec. 6 is to be the trigger for WEEP.

According to the scenario laid out in the still officially secret WEEP planning document, the United Mineworkers strike will provide the immediate "excuse" for WEEP. Interruption of production and transport of the vital energy commodity, coal, would suffice as the pretext for Schlesinger to assume his mandated emergency powers over the nation's energy supplies and their distribution.

No-Win School Strikes Sparked By Education Collapse

The opening of the 1977-78 school year has been marked by financial crises and probable shutdowns of important school and university systems in at least two of the country's major industrial states.

In Cleveland, Ohio late last week the Cleveland Teachers Union voted to work without pay for several days to give the local School Board time to come up with a source of funds. According to Cleveland School Board officials, as of tomorrow, Oct. 14, the city's school system will be bankrupt. This report has been confirmed by the Auditor of the State of Ohio, a similar situation faces the Toledo school system, and possibly Youngstown and Columbus as well.

This crisis of educational funding has been underscored by a wave of teachers' strikes hitting Michigan, New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts. In all these situations, deterioration of schools and equipment, growing class sizes, and inadequate salaries have forced teachers into defensive, no-win strike action. Desperation strikes in Matasquan, N.J. and suburban Boston were broken only when dozens of teachers were jailed by court order.

No Solution

The Ohio State Legislature intends to meet in special session Oct. 19 and 20 to try to reach a solution. However, the mooted alternative to closing the schools — namely, to borrow against next year's deficits to meet this year's school expenses — would require a change in the state's Constitution. Thus the two choices most likely facing teachers in affected school districts are these: either to work without pay until January, when new funding becomes available, or not to work at all until January, with the school system in the interim.

Ohio, which virtually shut down last winter when it was unable to purchase adequate natural gas supplies, is now undergoing collapse of its steel industry and of its capacity to train another generation of skilled labor.

In Pennsylvania, whose steel industry is also hardhit, no funding whatsoever is available to the state's university system. The state budget includes zero funding for the universities because the state legislature, which passed the budget in frenetic special session last summer, omitted school funding in order to hold the state deficit down to \$300 million. As a result, Pennsylvania State (a major agricultural sciences center), Drexel, Temple, and the University of Pittsburgh (which was taken over by the state when it went bankrupt as a private institution in the 1960s) are all threatened with immediate closing.

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EXECUTIVE INTELLIGENCE REVIEW SPECIAL REPORT
DAILY ENERGY INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN AUGUST 18, 1977

'EX' WATERGATE PROSECUTOR CHARGES 1.5 BILLION DOLLAR COST
OVERRUN IN ALASKA PIPELINE

AUG 18 - IN A HIGHLY UNUSUAL PROCEDURE, THE STATE-RUN ALASKA PIPELINE COMMISSION, ITSELF SPENDING MORE THAN 1 MILLION DOLLARS IN ITS INVESTIGATION, HAS CHARGED THAT THE ALYESKA PIPELINE SERVICE CORPORATION 'WASTED' SOME 1.5 BILLION DOLLARS IN CONSTRUCTION OF THE MUCH PLAQUED ALASKA OIL PIPELINE. IN MID THAT THE INVESTIGATORS 'NEVER INTENDED OBJECTION TO THE 678-PAGE REPORT WAS PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF TERRY LENZNER WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL FAC-TIONAL WAR AGAINST NIXON WHEN LENZNER WAS DEPUTY COUNSEL TO THE SENATE WATERGATE COMMITTEE. INFORMED SOURCES BEHIND THE INDUSTRY CONFIRM THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN INTENSE BEHIND THE SCENES EFFORT BY TIMES THROUGH ITS EXXON PETROLEUM BACKED EFFORT TO DEVELOP THE VAST ALASKA OIL RESERVES. THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY AN EXPLOSION AND FIRE EARLIER THIS SUMMER HAS ALREADY CAUSED SUBSTANTIAL DELAY IN BP ALASKA OIL REVENUES, WHICH WAS FURTHER AGGRAVATED BY A US INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION DECISION FORCING DOWNWARD REDUCTION IN RATES CHARGEABLE BY THE PIPELINE CONSORTIUM TO ITS CUSTOMERS.

BRITISH NUCLEAR REPROCESSING INQUIRY GETS BOOST

AUG 18 - THE ONGOING BRITISH GOVERNMENT-ORDERED PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE EXISTING NUCLEAR FUEL RE-PROCESSING CENTER OF BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS LTD. AT SIND-SCALE GOT A MAJOR BOOST WITH THE TESTIMONY THIS WEEK FROM THE NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS INSPECTORATE THAT 'THERE AP-TO BE NO SIGNIFICANT SAFETY PROBLEMS THAT CANNOT BE OVER-COME. IN OTHER TESTIMONY, DR. STANLEY BOWIE OF VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTALIST GROUPS, THAT THE MOST DEADLY BYPRODUCT SUCH REPROCESSING WAS ONE OF THE PLUTONIUM BYPRODUCT BOWIE POINTED OUT THAT ALMOST EQUALLY DEADLY SUBSTANT THE CAFFEINE PEOPLE DRINK EVERY DAY IN THEIR COFFE BRITISH AFFILIATE OF THE SO-CALLED 'BADLY FALTERING' HEADED BY ANOBY LOVINS IS BELIEVED TO BE PART OF ONE ATTEMPTS TO SO FAR WHIP UP PUBLIC HYSTERIA AGAINST THE EXPANSION. THE EXPANSION IS PART OF ONE THE JAPANESE ELECTRIC UTILITIES FOR A RE-PROCESSING CONTRACT.

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