

Cleveland Teachers, Hit With Payless Paydays

On Nov. 30 the Cleveland Teachers Union began a job action against the city's bankrupt Board of Education. Faced with payless paydays, the teachers voted Nov. 29 3,300 to 2,100 to conduct the action, because the school board failed to meet its payroll last week and again Nov. 30.

LABOR NEWS

In the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and *Cleveland Press* of Dec. 1, the teachers were attacked as "irresponsible" in their action. Cleveland's new mayor, United Auto Workers-linked Democrat Dennis Kucinich, has just assumed office with promises to create a New York City-style Emergency Financial Control Board and carry out confrontations with Cleveland's desperate municipal unions.

In discussions Nov. 29 with Cleveland Trust President Brock Weir, New Solidarity International Press Service learned that Weir personally is proposing a temporary moratorium on the schools' \$15 million debt, due Dec. 29, to his bank and to Central National. Weir also stated that he has offered immediate refinancing and is prepared to agree to a repayment schedule of as long as 10 years. So far the Ohio Legislature — which is adhering to a state law forbidding school districts to end the year in debt — is rejecting moratorium and insisting instead that the Cleveland schools, which service 110,000 students, close now for the rest of the year.

Next week, Ohio Labor Party Chairman Allen Friedman is scheduled to meet in the state capital, Columbus, with economic advisers to Governor Rhodes and with state legislators. Friedman plans to organize for debt moratorium coupled with implementation of the U.S. Labor Party's program for cheap credits to Ohio's — and the country's — crumbling steel industry, as the only sound method of building back the industrial infrastructure and tax base upon which, according to Friedman, future repayment of the school debt, and future financing of Cleveland's schools, depends.

N.Y.C. Labor Crisis Looms As Koch Assumes Mayoralty

Over 75 municipal union contracts will expire between Jan. 1, the date Democrat Ed Koch assumes the post of mayor of New York, and June 30. Already various plans appear to be near-operational for provoking a major municipal crisis.

One option was broadcast by the *New York Post* Nov. 28 which quoted an anonymous union official, mooted to possibly be American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees District 37 (AFSCME) leader Victor Gotbaum, warning that since the unions have been denied a wage increase for three years under Emergency Financial Control Board management, confrontation could occur. "If they think they can get away with that, they are going to have to face a citywide strike."

The unions have already agreed to enormous "productivity" raises, have "loaned" pension funds to bail out the City, and lost 66,000 jobs. A general strike, or any major strike, would simply fuel a "winter emergency" operation featuring chaos and confusion on a grand scale due to the lack of city services.

In the event that options for an almost-certain-to-lose general strike fail, prolonged negotiations between the Koch administration and the unions could lead to an Emergency Financial Control Board takeover through crisis management. Evidence that the crisis-management scenario could be the more likely came in the form of the recently announced agreement by the New York City Board of Education to accept residency as a requirement for employees, and the Policemen's Benevolence Association's acceptance of the New York City residency requirement for all new members of the force. On Dec. 1, the *New York Post's* front-page headline blared that 20 percent of all city employees must decide to "Move or Lose Your Jobs."

Layoffs Take Toll In Transport

The continuing trade collapse in the U.S. has spread to the transport industry the epidemic of layoffs which hit the steel industry in September. Announcements of major layoffs by rail companies last week were directly attributed to the collapse of U.S. trade. The Milwaukee Road Railway, servicing the northern wheat belt area from Wisconsin to North Dakota, laid off 700 workers in November due to lack of produce freight.

The Chessie Line, which services West Virginia's coal region, dropped 2,200 employees from its workforce and pointed to the upcoming coal strike as the reason.

Steel layoffs continue to mount. The Pueblo-based Colorado Fuel and Iron Company laid off 700 workers, bringing total layoffs in the Rocky Mountain steel production center to approximately 26 percent, or 1,300 out of 5,000 workers.

The ultimatum that 20 percent of all city employees must now reside within New York City's limits hints strongly at the enactment of the plan proposed by *New York Times* editor Roger Starr to restructure the city. Outlined over a year ago, the Starr Plan called for relocating professional and administrative personnel within the city's neighborhoods; while closing down "dying neighborhoods" (ghetto areas), sending their residents to supply the labor for technologically primitive low-wage public work schemes.

UAW Pushes Conservation At Ontario Labor Conference

The United Auto Workers (UAW) and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) combined to use strong-arm tactics and committee-packing to prevent the introduction of a resolution favoring the development of nuclear power at the Ontario Federation of Labor Conference Nov. 27. The resolution, which called for the construction of a contested nuclear power facility in Darlington, Ontario, and is generally for nuclear power development, was termed "unacceptable" by the conference's presiding officers.

Cliff Pilkey, President of the Ontario Federation of Labour and an International Vice President of the UAW, supervised a series of veiled threats designed to prevent an official of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) from introducing the resolution.

Instead, the CUPE and UAW packed the resolutions committee with proponents of conservation, to ensure that the environmentalists would prevail. The final resolutions submitted to the conference for passage

included a call for dismantling public utilities through so-called public ownership schemes; a ban on the Alaska-Canada natural gas pipeline as "U.S. exploitation of Canada"; for the development of solar power; and a nonproliferation proposal against Canadian export of nuclear technology.

Hartford's Pratt-Whitney Offers IAM Unacceptable Contract

United Technologies Corporation of Connecticut is forcing part of the nation's most skilled blue-collar work force, the aerospace workers, to accept a contract far below their standard of living. Twenty thousand workers at the Pratt and Whitney subsidiary of United Technologies, the largest employer in the state, have been offered a five-year no-strike contract with a tiny 10 percent wage increase over three years and no job security, on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. The "offer" comes after the International Association of Machinists' strike benefit fund has been exhausted by two west coast strikes. Management also counts on a pension bribe to split the older workers from the younger. The union has voted to reject the contract but not to strike, hoping to renegotiate. The management is refusing to reopen negotiations.

The IAM International earlier this week placed a California IAM local into receivership after the local, which is striking Lockheed, voted Nov. 25 to return to work. A depression-strike mentality appears to be spreading — or being spread by the International — throughout the union.

As Coal Strike Looms:

UMW In Final Phase Of IPS-Planned Destruction

A nationwide strike in the coal fields was termed "inevitable" this week by United Mineworkers President Arnold Miller after the union chief angrily stormed out of a Nov. 25 intensive bargaining session with members of the Bituminous Coal Operators Association in Washington, D.C.

With this collapse of negotiations Miller, aided by the foolish coal operators, has begun the process of dragging the once-powerful union and the coal industry through the terminal phase of a 10-year conspiracy to destroy the mineworkers. This plan was concocted by such union busters as the United Autoworkers' Joe Rauh, the Miners for Democracy's Chip Yablonski, the terrorist Institute for Policy Studies, and the financial interest group around David Rockefeller's Chase Manhattan Bank. Miller, himself a synthetic offspring of the Institute-spawned Miners for Democracy, has apparently been assigned oversight of the final destruction of the union.

Agents within the mineworkers, echoing the 1960s calls of the Miners for Democracy, have spelled out the blueprint for this destruction: an end to national contract

bargaining, forced implementation of decentralization, and district autonomy. These proposals threaten to return the union to its impotent 1890-1920 posture, a status which was changed only by the determined efforts of John L. Lewis, who recognized the importance of a centralized command structure in effective contract bargaining. Operators Association President Joseph Brennan has already attempted to use the chaos within the mineworkers to force Miller either to bargain district-by-district, or to abandon union demands for a right-to-strike provision and company-supported restoration of the union's bankrupt Health and Welfare Fund.

The stupid Brennan, now a de facto participant in the IPS plan to dismantle the Mineworkers union, has brought the coal industry to the brink of chaos with this foolish threat to bargain district by district. The Coal Operators Association would do well to remember the antagonism and cutthroat competition that plagued the industry prior to the stabilizing effect on the UMW of John L. Lewis's strong leadership.