

## Battle Underway For Ratification Of Coal Pact

As we go to press, 160,000 members of the United Mineworkers union are about to cast their votes to ratify or reject the proposed contract with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) announced last week by President Carter. The ratification vote culminates a week of pitched battle both inside and outside the coal fields by those forces who want to end the strike and its sabotage of the U.S. economy, and a grouping headed by Energy Secretary James Schlesinger and including various rank-and-file miners groups under the control of the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies, who are trying to parlay the strike into a national — and international — economic disaster.

Informed sources in the UMW indicate that the contract will be ratified, possibly by a 3 to 2 margin. These sources stress, however, that the efforts of the national media and such coal-field groups as the Miners Right to Strike Committee to spread misinformation about the contract and its alleged lack of support among the rank and file could cause a "stampede against ratification."

"The miners are being played for suckers by outside agitators and anarchists," said one aide to a coal state Senator, referring to the IPS networks. "There is much more at stake here than a contract....If it's not ratified,

then the country will be plunged into chaos and violence. Schlesinger has wanted that all along — so that he can seize control of the economy through emergency powers....He (Schlesinger) is the only one who benefits from the contract going down."

Schlesinger is widely regarded among knowledgeable UMW leaders as an "ally of the dissidents," having had direct personal connections to the so-called "Young Turks" such as Rich Banks and Ed James, who formerly composed the UMW's national staff.

### *Trbovich Urges Ratification*

On March 1, Mike Trbovich, former UMW Vice President and leader of the traditionalist forces in the union released a statement supporting the ratification of the contract.

"I strongly urge members of the United Mineworkers union to ratify the proposed contract in the national interest....," Trbovich said. "I have chosen to remain silent until now, but I feel that I can't remain silent any longer. The future of our union is at stake. The contract must be ratified. If it isn't, the UMW will soon cease to exist as a union...."

## How It Works: IPS Subversion Of Coal

### *Exclusive to the Executive Intelligence Review*

*The U.S. Labor Party sent a memorandum to Attorney General Griffin Bell Feb. 26 which detailed the Institute for Policy Studies networks currently mobilizing against ratification of the coal settlement. Here are key sections:*

Evidence compiled by the U.S. Labor Party indicates that the chaos and violence related to the strike is by no means "simple labor violence," but the product of the coordinated activities of networks both inside and outside the coal fields with a command center at the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies and associated institutions, such as the "Public Resources Center."

These networks operate on several levels in the following way. A core grouping of agitators implanted inside

the union, associated with such groups as the Miners Right to Strike Committee, have been traveling throughout the coal fields inflaming individual members of the UMW to acts of violence in "defense" of the strike; the pattern of their deployments indicates that such "agitators" regularly travel from state to state. These inside provocateurs are backed in the coal fields by an array of so-called strike support groups who send delegations to picket lines, who accompany the agitators in their work, and who spread misinformation about "widespread" "rank-and-file support" for the agitators. There is an interfaced network of strike support groups which operates outside the coal fields attempting to recruit individuals and build a broader base of support for anarchist and terrorist strike support actions, both in the coal fields and urban areas. This activity is aimed at urban youth and college students in the current phase of activi-