



# ON THE LINE

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Editorial:

## NO TO TERRORISM--NO TO WAR!

by W.S.A. - N.Y.C.

Terrorism is repulsive, no matter who practices it and for what reason. It does not matter whether it is done by small bands in airports, or by uniformed soldiers with tanks and helicopters. Nor does it matter who backs it--the US or the USSR, the Israeli government or the PLO. Maiming and killing unarmed civilians has no justification.

Those who commit acts of terror often claim to be acting in the name of a group of oppressed people. They claim that their enemies have forced them to do these things by their repressive violence. In fact, they are always self-appointed groups who ultimately seek power for themselves, and who inevitably end up oppressing and exploiting the people they claim to defend.

The word "anarchist" which we use to describe ourselves has often been equated with terrorism and random violence by politicians and the media. While a few desperate anarchists in the past committed acts against those in power (and not innocent civilians), this is not the basis of our struggle. We do not, nor have we ever, advocated the harming of innocent people. Sadly enough, the victims of terror are usually working people, not the authorities.

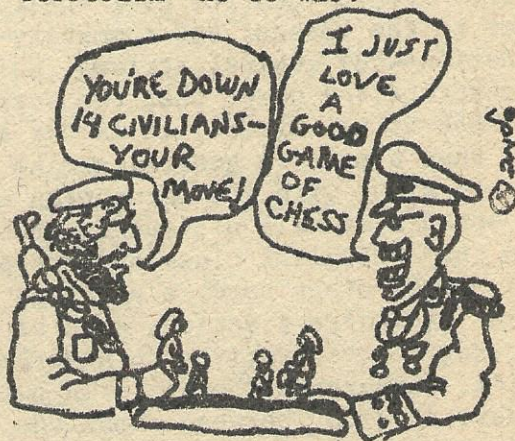
We do not reject the right to self-defense, and we stand fully in the defense of oppressed people anywhere in the world. But we reject the self-proclaimed "vanguards" and their friends who claim to "liberate" us. Only the people themselves, as a whole, can make and keep their own liberation.

We further reject the "crocodile tears" of Reagan and his ilk. They do not seem to mind terrorism as practiced by the governments of South Africa and El Salvador or the contras in Nicaragua, to name just a few. Nor do their Russian

counterparts have any problem with it as practiced by the governments of Afghanistan or Poland, to name two more.

An added danger to the type of terrorism we have seen lately is that it fuels the fires of war-mongers like Reagan and Khaddafi. In the U.S. today, many people seem to like the idea of a war with Libya, blinded by their frustration and hysterical patriotism. But many more innocent people may die if these two maniacs get the confrontation they're looking for. Beyond this looms the even darker threat of a clash between the super-powers. Let's not forget that the ultimate weapons of terror are nuclear weapons, and who holds the two biggest stockpiles.

We of the Workers Solidarity Alliance call on working people and all those who are concerned with the fate of the earth to join us in saying:  
No to terrorism--no to war!



## inside:

The ABC's of Anarchist Unionism, Groov-Pin & Hormel Fight Concessions, District 65 Round-Up, Subway "signs of progress"





ANARCHIST  
UNIONISM

This column is intended to help our readers understand some of the terms and concepts that we of the Workers Solidarity Alliance use to describe our ideas, which we call anarchist unionism or anarcho-syndicalism.

DIRECT ACTION

On a tactical level, the WSA believes in the use of direct action, as opposed to indirect action to win both immediate and long-term goals. Forms of direct action include "sit-down" strikes and workplace occupations, where people maintain control over their place of work; "squatting", where people jointly occupy unused buildings for their own use; and "hot cargo", where workers refuse to handle certain products in order to support the struggles of others. On a larger scale we advocate "social strikes", where workers continue to provide their labor for the benefit of other working people in the community but deny the revenue from or control over their labor to the bosses; and community-wide or nation-wide general strikes, which demonstrate the power that the workforce has when it is united. It is our belief that a massive general strike or strikes along with the occupation of the workplaces will ultimately bring down the capitalist class and state.

On the other hand, a strategy that relies on indirect action, such as electing representatives to government office, encourages the division between leaders and led, between those who make decisions and those who follow them. Electoral politics leads to top-down solutions because it defines issues in terms of what State policies a small set of leaders will implement. Because a political party or any other body that relies on indirect action is a vehicle for putting people in positions of leadership and State power, it cannot serve as a vehicle for people intent on creating a truly free society.

GROOV-PIN WORKERS SAY "NO" TO CONCESSIONS

by Fred Mertz

United Electrical Workers Union (UE) members of Local 417 at Groov-Pin Corp. in Ridgefield, New Jersey have recently begun negotiations with that company. Groov-Pin management is seeking the same sort of wage, benefit, and job-control concessions that most other bosses have been seeking recently. Groov-Pin machinists struck against concessions for 18 weeks back in 1983, so it is of no surprise to them that the bosses are trying again.

Management has told the workers in the shop that it is ready to take them on, no matter what it takes. Unlike in 1983, Groov-Pin has in operation a smaller shop in the South, which they are implying will take on the NJ shop's work in case of a strike. Although the NJ workers are worried about the Southern shop, they have still made it clear to management that they will not buckle under the threat.

The workers have responded in several ways to management's initial contract offer. There has been a general slow-down, coupled with a "work-to-rule" action (not cutting corners in production) in a couple of departments. Workers have also begun wearing home-made buttons that say "Groov-Pin Workers Say: No Give-Backs in '86!" and "Groov-Pin Workers Support Our Negotiating Committee!"

Negotiations are still in the early stages. Management is still seeking to reduce the number of union jobs in Ridgefield by eliminating job classifications, asking for the right to hire part-time workers (who won't be eligible for benefits) and the right to sub-contract work at will. Management is also targeting the grievance procedure, seniority, job bidding and transfers, the right to take job actions, health and safety, and other non-economic areas of the contract. As of yet no wage and benefit package has been put on the table by management but the workers can look forward to demands for give-backs in these areas as well.

Workers in the shop are agreed that the best way to fight the boss is to use direct action on the shop floor rather than striking. It is believed that the bosses are banking on a strike. But, as one worker put it at a union meeting, "We'll be in the shop or on the street, whichever it takes and for however long it takes, but we ain't givin' in for nothing!"



by Bruce Traven

Fifteen months ago I started riding the D train from Newkirk Ave. in Brooklyn into Manhattan every day. At that time the reconstruction of the Newkirk Ave. station appeared to be well underway.

The D train at Newkirk Ave. runs in what is basically an open trench. It is below ground level, but exposed to the air. The tracks are spanned by a hut which houses the token booth, the turnstiles and the stairway to the platforms below.

It is mostly this hut which was being rebuilt, and still is! The floor and some walls have been tiled, but the job is clearly unfinished and has been in the same state for months. The roof has been replaced, but the new lighting fixtures are still hanging precariously from their wires. On the platforms new lighting has been installed and several newly varnished oak benches are in place, as they are in most subway stations.

So what, you might say, if the work is interminably slow, at least something is being done, there are some signs of progress. After all, you might add, how much can you expect on a government job? The trouble is that the old lights were really perfectly adequate and one wonders what relative of what politician is in the oak bench business.

Meanwhile, the station is home to a large flock of pigeons who have thoroughly dive-bombed the new benches so that no one ever uses them. One minor advantage of this is that it seems to keep the graffiti artists away. The platforms are also coated with it and when it rains they are as slippery as ice. Maybe they could use pigeon shit in the Wollman skating rink, but the contract wouldn't be as profitable.

Also, the concrete walls along the tracks are a mass of cracks, peeling paint, and are filthy and ugly. Looking down onto the tracks is like looking into an open sewer. On the whole three block long platform there is only one trash receptacle, and since no one wants to walk a block to deposit their trash, it gets thrown on the tracks.

There's nothing wrong with replacing lights and benches, but what is really needed is someone to clean the place and keep it clean! This, of course, means hiring people and paying them, and the

subway management keeps telling us about the difference between the capital budget and the operating budget and why they just can't do that. Would you call me cynical if I suggested that the real reason is that politicians and their friends have more to gain by putting out big contracts than by giving people useful and necessary work?

## WORKER-TO-WORKER SOLIDARITY NEEDED

--W.S.A.-N.Y.C.

Solidarity is the cornerstone of any workers' struggle. It can mean the difference between a victory and a defeat.

Since August of 1985, 1650 members of Local P-9, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), have been on strike against the Hormel meat packing plant in Austin, Minnesota. These brothers and sisters have taken on both the company and their International union in their struggle against wage-cuts and concessions. Currently the company is attempting to replace the strikers with "non-union" workers, that is, scabs. Local P-9 has maintained its picket lines in the face of company and National Guard harassment, as well as betrayal by its parent union. The strikers have threatened to expand the struggle by sending "roving pickets" to Hormel plants in other towns. Austin, like many other such towns, has only one major employer--Hormel.

In an effort to raise funds to support strikers and their families, Local P-9 is asking local unions to pledge \$100 to \$1000 per month for the next three months. This will cover all or at least a large part of the \$600 per month it costs to maintain each family in need. Unions which adopt a family will receive direct communications from a Local P-9 family, as well as regular strike updates.

The N.Y.C. area W.S.A. urges all our readers to get their local unions to make a pledge. We also urge our readers to make individual contributions in any amount.

Send all checks to "Adopt a P-9 Family Fund", United Support Group, Local P-9 UFCW, 316 N.E. 4th Ave., Austin, MN 55912.



## DISTRICT 65 ROUND-UP

by Mike Harris

District 65 UAW garment center workers are still grumbling about the fact that they rarely see an organizer in the "market" anymore and that there are seldom membership meetings. To add insult to injury, the top officers of the union are looking for a general dues increase.

In the Garment Supply Local, months went by after the contract expired without a membership meeting. No call for action in the shops went out from the Garment Local Executive Board. This should come as no surprise to those who know how the Local leadership disdains action. But what scares the bosses is not this friendly "let's wait and see" attitude, but militant pressure on the shop floor.

This sorry situation is a far cry from the fighting spirit of the District 65 workers at Columbia University. Workers there struck to get a contract (their first) and continued their strike even after the Union leadership reached a tentative agreement with the school, waiting for a ratification vote to end the strike. The workers sent the bosses a clear message, that they were the ones to be reckoned with, not the Union leadership.



W.S.A. is a workers organization that stands for direct action and solidarity, and direct rank-and-file management of their own struggles. We see the development of a workers movement self-managed by the rank-and-file as the means to create a new society based on collective management of the economy by all working people. W.S.A. is the U.S. section of the International Workers Association. For more information about W.S.A., write to: Workers Solidarity Alliance New York Area Group, 339 Lafayette St. Room 202, New York, NY 10012.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dave Mandl of the Libertarian Book Club will speak on "Food, Health and Capitalism" on Thursday, February 27, at 7:30 p.m., at the Workmen's Circle Center, 369 8th Ave. (corner of 29 St.) in Manhattan. Don't miss it!

The N.Y.C. Area W.S.A. has some literature and other materials for sale, including the following:

Strike Action--40¢  
Anarchism and Feminism: Women Workers and Trade Unions--75¢  
Anarcho-Syndicalism, Racism and Struggle--25¢  
Syndicalists in the Russian Revolution by G.P. Maximoff--75¢

(The above are published by the Direct Action Movement, our fraternal organization in Great Britain)

Ideas & Action (national W.S.A. journal) --\$1.50

No Middle Ground: Anti-authoritarian Perspectives on Latin America and the Caribbean:  
issue # 2--\$1.50, issue # 3-4--\$2.50

button: "Strike! for Total Liberation" (1½" in white, yellow or red on black) --75¢

When ordering, please include an additional amount for postage.

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