

## Labor Quislings Demand Austerity

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 18 (IPS) — The procession of spineless labor quislings into the Oval Office of the White House continued last week, as Frank Fitzsimmons, President of the nation's largest union, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), grovelled before President Ford to demand yet another variation of social fascist legislation.

Fitzsimmons, whose once powerful Teamsters were forced to swallow a pathetic 6 per cent wage increase in their last national contract, mouthed platitudes about a new era. Like George Meany before him, he voiced his public support for Ford's proposed economic summit meeting of business, labor and government.

Fitzsimmons went further. Announcing that the American people needed a shock," the only labor leader to stay on Nixon's old Pay Board recommended that the President "impose an immediate freeze on prices and wages"!

No one really expected much else from Fitzsimmons. The Justice Department has a virtual library of damning information on his connections to the Mafia; in addition there is the question of some Teamster pension funds illegally transferred into Nixon's re-election campaign, and the list goes on. Fitzsimmons understands the message: play ball or you can be Watergated at any moment.

### Rocky's Dilemma

The statements cited above by the pliable Fitzsimmons highlight Rockefeller's problem. The problem stated simply is that these traitorous labor bureaucrats have lost touch with the class: they can no longer organize it and certainly can't control it. Though their current misleaders refuse to organize a struggle of any kind, the vast majority of American workers are determined to fight and are looking for political leadership that can make victory possible — that can stop Rockefeller. The actual decision of these workers will be made this fall, as they are forced in increasing numbers to choose between dying in this depression and waging the kind of struggle the Labor Committees are organizing.

For a brief moment Rockefeller must hold back. He is not yet ready to risk ramming even more severe measures down the throats of the class. Opposition brewing in the class against him and his policy demonstrates that such a move would be a serious — perhaps fatal — blunder.

First he must try to convince workers of the "widespread popularity" of his fascist economic measures by using the statements of labor traitors, like Meany, Abel, Fitzsimmons, et al. to create the illusion of a developing sweeping consensus.

Despite the concurrent press psychological warfare to this end, it is relatively easy for workers, especially those who read and discuss *New Solidarity* to see through this ploy.

### Bankrolling Fascism

Earlier last week, I. W. Abel, President of the United Steelworkers Union and head of the AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Division, was chosen to present the AFL-CIO's "views" on the state of the economy to the Joint Economic Committee of Congress. While most of his speech, spoon fed by Rockefeller economists working for the AFL-CIO, focused on attacking the Hoovernomics of Richard Nixon, Abel called explicitly for a selective monetary policy — the extension of credit based on economic priorities. Specifically, he asked that the Federal Reserve System allocate "available bank credit at reasonable rates" for such priority purposes as "housing construction, community facilities, and the expansion of public utilities." To this Abel adds a call for public service employment programs "to give the unemployed jobs."

Abel is demanding, on "behalf of the American working class," that Rockefeller-controlled Federal Reserve System be given a mandate to bankroll public works and energy development schemes constructed by Rockefeller-controlled construction firms such as the Bechtel Corporation.

Abel and Rockefeller hope that workers, seeing unemployment in a depression as their immediate prospect, will grow desperate and fall for the promise of jobs.

Workers have ample evidence of what these jobs will be. More than 100 construction workers of various crafts are now striking the Jim Bridger Power plant construction site in Rock Springs, Wyoming — a site operated by Bechtel. The men, many of whom were relocated hundreds of miles from their homes are striking because Bechtel refuses to pay adequate subsistence wages. Bechtel officials have declared the strike illegal — because all Bechtel contracts contain "no strike pledges."