

## NEW YORK CITY BUDGET CUTS: TEST CASE FOR ROCKEFELLER

NEW YORK, N.Y., Dec. 11 (IPS)--In order to guarantee the continued flow of New York City's \$1.6 billion debt service to Rockefeller's banks, Mayor Abe Beame announced today "Phase II" of his attack on the city's working class--the firing of 6,425 more public employees. In addition, 275 fewer substitutes will be used daily in the city's schools.

Following quick on the heels of Beame's previously announced 1,510 municipal layoffs, this second wave has been unleashed to reduce the city's disputed budget deficit by \$94.2 million. An even larger number of layoffs is slated to follow under Phase III of Beame's austerity campaign to meet the \$135.4 million needed to close the city's \$350 million budget gap. An even more brutal Phase IV may be required if City Controller Harrison Goldin's charges that the city budget deficit has been underestimated by \$220 million are borne out.

### Could I Have An Arm?

Sensing the demoralization and defenselessness of public employees, Rockefeller is using the opportunity to presently broaden the attack to other key fronts in his war against the working class. At a meeting tomorrow morning with select labor bureaucrats, Beame will reportedly suggest three additional measures to deal with the situation: payless paydays, payless vacation days, and 1 to 4 per cent pay cuts. It is also likely that Beame will proceed with the brute force productivity campaign for which the New York Times and other Rockefeller mouthpieces have been howling.

Municipal trade unionists around the country, whose jobs are also on the brink, have their sights anxiously trained on the New York situation. On this score Rockefeller knows he has little to fear. Victor Gotbaum, Executive Director of DC 37 AFSCME, which represents nearly one-third of New York's 340,000 public employees, has been deployed to defend the Rockefeller debt. Gotbaum, a former State Department operative, suggests that layoffs come from the ranks of the city's provisional employees, not the civil servants.

Ken McFeely, head of the Policeman's Benevolent Association, grunted that "welfare thieves" should be consigned to the scrap-heap before city workers get laid off.

### More Work, Fewer Jobs

Chafing at the bit to serve Rocky when the new Vice President takes charge of the National Commission of Productivity, Gotbaum has implemented his own productivity drive from his post on the Board of Directors of the Ford Foundation's Fund for the

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City of New York. Under Gotbaum's supervision, the Fund's major target has been the city's sanitation workers, through a program known as Operation Scorecard.

According to New York Sanitation Commissioner Grove, in the past four years, while the workforce has declined from 11,300 to 10,600, productivity has increased 21 per cent. Even Grove was forced to admit to an IPS reporter that the sanitworkers have "reached the peak of human endurance." No further productivity could be squeezed out of them, he said.

Nevertheless, in another interview, John DeLury, President of the Uniformed Sanitationmen's Union, told IPS that he was also a strong advocate of increased productivity for municipal employees. Two hundred and thirty-five of his members will receive pink slips as a result of the latest budget cuts.

Not completely certain that his members are yet willing to knuckle under to the layoffs, pay cuts, and speed-up, Gotbaum is also mooting a general strike--no doubt to save the "virility of the union" as he likes to call it.

#### DAIRY SHAKEDOWN ESCALATES; TEAMSTERS SCAPEGOATED

NEW YORK, N.Y., Dec. 11 (IPS)--The ante has been upped in the now one-week-old strike of 3,000 Teamster milk truckers here, tightening the noose around the necks of the area's dairy farmers and milk processors. On Dec. 9 Teamster Local 584 overwhelmingly rejected the cutthroat "compromise" contract offered by the milk producers, despite the widespread assumption that a quick settlement would be reached. At the same time, New York City Mayor Beame gave a boost to the New York Times' ongoing effort to cultivate hysteria, softening the greater New York urban population up for rationing, with the declaration that he might be "forced" to have the city declare a "health emergency" in the area.

The Teamster drivers have already acceded to the productivity swindle demanded by the producers, which spells a 20 per cent cut in their own numbers, but are unwilling to swallow the demand that their commissions be based on a volume sold basis rather than a dollar value basis. Further, spokesmen at the negotiations said the "health emergency" was "not an issue any longer," confirming the strictly psychological warfare intent behind its wide play in the press. The Teamsters have been committed to maintaining milk deliveries to hospitals and nursing homes from the first.

The striking milk truck drivers are being scapegoated for what is in actuality an across-the-board shakedown of the dairy industry in the Northeast. This shakedown operation was dramat-