

less of a boss and more of a coach." Revealing the clenched fist hidden within this velvet glove, the spokesman warned, "But there is still a boss....We're not after an Athenian democracy, you know....Humans react more often to threats than to promises of the future."

Sand Kicked in Woodcock's Face

The failure of just-removed NCOP member Leonard Woodcock, autoworkers president, to implement the steel speedup model in auto points up the fatal flaw in all NCOP's efforts. When asked about this failure, the NCOP spokesman first hedged, "Woodcock doesn't think the time is right....You know, for union leaders, timing is just as important as what they do." He then admitted, "The auto industry is in too much turmoil....Woodcock doesn't want to do anything until the dust settles." Labor Party organizing has indeed kicked up a storm.

BURMA DECLARES MARTIAL LAW

Dec. 14 (IPS)--The Burmese military dictatorship of General Ne Win declared a state of martial law Dec. 11 to quell riots and demonstrations led by Buddhist monks and right-wing students who were protesting the burial procedure for U Thant. The demonstrations could provide a cover for the dumping of Ne Win's "leftist" regime and the implementation of the Pacific Basin regional development project conceived by the Hudson Institute, a CIA think-tank based in New York City. Thirty-five persons were sentenced to long prison terms and as many as 2,000 reportedly were arrested at the demonstrations.

Following the government's decision Dec. 9 to shut down educational institutions, the demonstrations, which began in early December, spread and took on an anti-Ne Win line. Two days later, the government declared martial law and sent in 1,000 soldiers to raid Rangoon University. Diffusing the students, who had seized the body of the former UN Secretary-General, the soldiers touched off large-scale looting in the business section of Rangoon.

The anti-Ne Win sentiment expressed through these anarchist actions has been building for months and represents a clear breakdown in the so-called "Burmese road to socialism." Last July an extremely poor rice harvest led to a breakdown in the government rationing system and severe shortages on the city markets. Burma has traditionally been the main rice producer in Southeast Asia. The city market shortages led to riots by workers and a mobilization of the military to collect extra rice supplies from hoarding farmers. The resulting austerity measures exacerbated the unpopularity of the Ne Win regime.