

The question is: will rail workers respond to Penn Central's blackmail by taking wage cuts and layoffs to save the companies.

On Dec. 21, in what appears to be a stall to gain now needed bargaining time, contract talks were recessed one week until January 7, without a formally stated reason.

UAW "EXPLAINS" SUIT; INCITES WORKERS VS. USLP

DETROIT, Dec. 22 (IPS)--Kapos of United Auto Workers (UAW) President Leonard Woodcock are trying to incite UAW members against the U.S. Labor Party, claiming that it is attempting to destroy "their" union.

The Dec. 12 issue of Flint UAW Local 569 paper contains two articles on the UAW's suit against the USLP: one detailing the UAW's charges and another signed by local vice president Carl Rice accusing the Labor Party of harassment and abuse. Rice threatens that "although we do not advocate violence in any respect, I certainly find it hard for our members to keep their cool."

Meanwhile, Local 12 in Toledo held a special meeting on the suit. Local leaders told union members that the Labor Party was out to get the UAW, "to split it in two."

DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT TO BE REACTIVATED ON ALASKA PIPELINE

Dec. 22 (IPS)--With uncertainty rising over Rockefeller's ability to implement his energy development schemes, many contractors are growing desperate over whether their investments will soon be totally worthless. A Texas newspaper today tried to reassure investors with the announcement that the Defense Production Act will be reactivated to apply to \$2 billion worth of specialized equipment for the Alaska pipeline. The act was used several months ago--in its first peacetime application--to move machinery for the port facilities of Valdez. This second activation, a desperate attempt to get the pipeline construction moving, further acclimatizes the population to military regimentation.

Materials to be moved under the act are specialized equipment which separates crude oil from water and natural gas. The contractors for the equipment are based in Texas. According to George Lowell, Director of Materials and Priorities in the Federal Energy Agency, "We don't dare miss a shipment, because the water will freeze shortly. This pipeline is now a matter of national security and national defense."

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