

## PRESS OPENS OPTION FOR OIL STRIKE HOAX

Dec. 24 (IPS)--In the last week, at least two major newspapers have begun to circulate reports of another energy-related strike brewing, an industry-wide strike of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) against U.S. oil companies when over 400 OCAW contracts begin to expire Jan. 7, 1975.

While the Wall Street Journal presented a collective bargaining wind-up to inform the business community that an OCAW strike was likely, the Philadelphia press launched a more direct psywar attack, quoting a statement by OCAW District 8 representative Ed Steiger that "The Arab action [last winter's oil embargo] will be small compared to an industry-wide strike." OCAW president Gros-piron said at a Dec. 17 press conference in Washington, D.C., "The chance of a strike is very great."

### Little Immediate Effect

U.S. oil stockpile statistics recently published in the New York Times quickly deflate the hot-air scare statement of OCAW rep Steiger.

Information from industry sources indicates a strike would have minimal effect on the highly-automated U.S. gas and oil production. The effect of the scare press coverage is to create a credible cover story should Rockefeller decide to use the strike to build an energy hoax.

IPS is currently investigating the possibility that a strike may be used to deplete existing U.S. energy reserves--reserves that are illegally committed to the Rockefeller-controlled International Energy Agency (IEA) sharing plan in case of an Arab oil embargo.

### A Possible Hoax

Like the United Mineworkers, the OCAW is constitutionally incapable of leading a strike in defense of workers' interests. The OCAW is a Rockefeller-controlled, "progressive" union with a history of Rockefeller connections dating back to the early 1930s, when the union was founded with the explicit aid of the Rockefeller family. Recently, the OCAW has collaborated with police-controlled countergangs, such as the Revolutionary Union, to build "strike support."

While it is true that the 60,000 OCAW members involved represent 70 per cent of total U.S. production capacity, and an extended industry-wide strike could result in a 30 to 50 per cent reduction in U.S. oil supplies, present stockpiles are sufficient to prevent an actual oil shortage situation provided a strike does not last several months. The Times article reported that for the week ending Dec. 13, U.S. stocks of gasoline were up 7.9 per cent

over 1973 levels, with industrial fuel oil stocks up 14.8 per cent. Although stocks of home heating oil were down 0.5 per cent from last year, they were judged adequate by industry officials for any foreseeable condition in the future. The Times report concluded that "this optimistic assessment takes into account such possibly adverse circumstances such as an extremely cold winter or an embargo of a length and effectiveness comparable to that of a year ago."

In an interview, Exxon Public Affairs head Jack Murphy supported the Times statistics, and stated that he did not believe that a strike could cause a shortage of oil or a national emergency. Due to the high degree of automation in the oil production industry, supervisory personnel are traditionally brought in as scabs, to maintain at least partial levels of production. OCAW estimates that it would be about 30 days--at which time machinery breakdowns would be expected to begin--before an oil workers' strike could have a serious effect.