

national interest as the movement of adequate coal supplies to utilities to prevent massive economic dislocation, and negotiated settlement as the only basis for a lasting solution to the crisis. No one had really expected large numbers of miners to return under Taft-Hartley. Carter was told that if a small number of miners returned, if a good percentage of the nonunion mines closed by strike-related activity could reopen, and most importantly if coal supplies could be moved, then he should wait for results at the bargaining table.

According to last reports from utilities sources in the Midwest, coal is indeed flowing and without incident — thanks in large part to the political and legal penalty now placed on IPS terrorist operations by the Labor Party. This, however, will work, these sources state, to “buy a two to three week breathing space. . . .”

Utility spokesmen also indicate that the timing of the UMW ratification vote — next Friday — pushes the coal supply situation “very close to the threshold point. . . . we will lose most of our maneuvering room.”

## IPS Networks Gear Up For Contract Rejection

*The following is an interview with Jim Hepe, the President of United Mineworkers local 1440 in Ohio's District 6. Hepe, a former employee of former UMW Secretary Treasurer Harry Patrick, has been identified by sources close to the Institute for Policy Studies as an “up and coming militant leader in the union.” Hepe, as the interview reveals, was against the previous contract and is against the new one as well.*

*Q: ...What is the latest? What do you see developing. Everything looks quiet.*

*A: Well, it must have been about an hour ago that they announced that they had reached a contract agreement. Apparently the union bargaining council is going to look at it tonight. It didn't really say too much on the news, from what they said on the news story, it said that they agreed to drop the payment back provision in the health and retirement benefits which has been a major stumbling block and the union agreed to let the companies put a clause in the contract that said they could put a production price tag incentive on coal. If these are the two things they changed, then it's no use sending it back down here. What they are thinking is that the health and retirement payback will help. They are probably thinking that if they can slide that in there most of the guys will vote for it. All they need is 20 percent vote different from that last time to turn it around. We beat*

them 70 to 30, so they are thinking that maybe with the help of the retirement payback they could swing 50 percent, enough to pass it. As far as everything else goes, it's been real quiet. Not much happening. Because of Taft-Hartley there are not many pickets. There's more law out there than there is pickets, you wouldn't believe it. Everywhere you look there are state police and national guard.

*Q: Are the National Guard out in Ohio?*

*A: I don't know who they are. They're out in auxiliary cars and everything. I don't know what kind of title they have but they're not state patrolmen because there are not that many state patrolmen. They have some kind of task force. We call them rent-a-pigs.*

*Q: Are there plans for support demonstrations or rallies?*

*A: There hasn't been one back here for a couple of weeks. What they've been doing is in different areas they've been going out and speaking out at different rallies and things like that.... Weather's been bad too. When we have rallies we have it outdoors and the conditions have been real bad here. If something comes down this week as far as the contract is concerned they'll be a rally within the next three or four days after that.... We haven't even needed a rally to tell you the truth because they're all against it anyhow.*

*Q: How is it that Ohio is so strongly against the contract?*

*A: Well, we like to think that people down here in Ohio get their shit together...we try to keep everything 100 percent.*

*Q: All of this functions through the union or is there a cross local caucus that functions to organize things?*

*A: Everything's been done through the district. We have a rank and file committee that is working with the miners on the support thing, hardship cases, and we have a fund raising committee. But beside that everything works out of the district office.*

*I wish I could tell you more. You know I went to school up there, in Rutgers. I went to Labor Ed up there in 1975.*

*Q: How did you get into the coal mines?*

*A: I was in the coal mines for five days before I went to school up there. I worked for the International union up in D.C. I worked for Harry Patrick and I was his assistant. I worked with him for six or seven months and then he asked me if I wanted to go up to Rutgers for six months. I went up and took a crash course. They have a special course set up for me, set up for mineworkers. I was the first mineworker they ever had. Yeah, I was up there September, October, November 1975.*