

LABOR PERISCOPE

Steelhaulers continue strike

Approximately 5,000 of more than 10,000 Teamster-organized steelhaulers remain on strike this week primarily in Ohio and Western Pennsylvania.

Earlier in the week, negotiators for the Teamsters and three national trucking management associations finally reached agreement on the "steel rider" to the recently negotiated master freight contract. The Teamsters order locals, covered by the rider, to return to work, while authorizing a strike against a fourth employer association, the National Steel Carriers, which refuses to sign.

Sources close to the negotiations report that U.S. Steel may be putting pressure on some of the carriers not to settle. The strike begins to affect some of U.S. Steel's competitors, forcing layoffs and leading to speculation that it may help U.S. Steel's and Bethlehem's plans for cartelization.

Violence flares in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Some truckers are shot, while pickets beat others. One county in Ohio declares a "state of emergency."

Teamster leaders say terrorist networks connected to the countergang Teamsters for a Democratic Union are responsible for the violence. The TDU, which receives media coverage as the "leaders of the strike," is reported in alliance with a second countergang, the Fraternal Association of Steelhaulers (FASH) made up of a handful of non-Teamster steelhaulers. FASH, which ran a violent strike only a few months

ago, is said to have a "small assassination squad," which is being deployed against the strike.

Teamster Local 800 and some locals in Ohio reject the proposed pact. The locals are known pockets of TDU agitation. They demand the right to ratify the steel supplement separately from the master freight agreement.

Steel industry officials—other than U.S. Steel and Bethlehem—worry about the strike. Although it is unlikely to spread much further, if it continues in its present dimension it will soon cause widespread layoffs. "It is an economic tragedy," said one worried steel executive.

USWA ends Newport News strike

United Steelworkers of America local 8888 ended a more than two month strike here yesterday after failing to force the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company to recognize their union. Union leaders made their decision to return to work based on knowledge that the majority of the more than 15,000 workers at the facility were ignoring the strike and had already returned to work. Prior to the strike, the union had won a representation election that was upheld by the National Labor Relations Board and heralded as a major organizing victory in the South. Tenneco, the conglomerate that owns the shipyard, refused to recognize the union and initiated a policy of replacing workers who participated in a union sanctioned job action. This

latter action especially was cited by a union official as the trigger for a violent confrontation which took place last week between strikers and local police.

In announcing their decision to return to work the union said they would wait for a court of appeals to decide on Tenneco's challenge of the NLRB's certification of the election. This, however, is not expected for several months. In the meantime the union will seek to rebuild support among the workers who had crossed the picketline to work.

Sadlowskiites in steel union attack atomic power

Five officials of the United Steelworkers union in the powerful Chicago steel district issued a statement recently demanding that a nuclear energy plant under construction in the Baily Dunes site of northern Indiana be abandoned. The officials called upon the owner company, the Northern Indiana Public Service Company, to cease construction on the plant.

The five USWA officials were:

- Jim Balanoff, USWA District 31 director;
- Mike Oleszanski, research director for Balanoff and a former member of the terrorist-linked Friends of the Earth environmentalist group;
- Bill Andrews, president USWA local 1010 (Inland Steel), and author of a resolution condemning the Baily Dunes plant that was passed by his local last summer;
- Norman Purdue, president USW local 1011 (Jones and Laughlin); and
- Paul Kaczocha, president USWA local 6787 (Bethlehem).

All of these USW officials helped staff and promote the campaign—backed by the Institute for Policy Studies—of former District 31 director, Ed Sadlowski, for USWA national president in 1976.