

## LABOR PERISCOPE

### Trade Unionists angered by antinuclear demonstration

According to first reports, trade unionists around the country are responding to last weekend's antinuclear gathering in Washington, D.C. with much the same anger and disgust they accorded the unwashed peace movement of the early 1970s. They are pledging counter-action, if at first only at a local level. Despite claims by prosolar, antinuclear leaders like the Machinists William Winpisinger that "labor has changed its mind on nuclear," most local union leaders say that their membership is confused by recent events but remain strongly pronuclear. They are angry with the seeming inactivity and lack of fight coming from AFL-CIO headquarters.

Members of the building trades led a small but spirited picket line in support of nuclear power at this week's shareholders meeting of General Public Utilities, the owners of the sabotaged Three Mile Island nuclear facility. Their placards read: "To the Public: Energy and Jobs Go Hand in Hand" and "We Need Energy, Not Darkness." Other pronuclear demonstrations are planned in New England and the Northwest.

#### March on Washington

Both Winpisinger and Mike Olszanski of local 1010 of the United Steelworkers addressed the assembled horde of environmentalists May 6. Winpisinger delivered an attack on Carter and Schlesinger and proclaimed his support

for a moratorium on all nuclear plant construction. The IAM President, who is known to be pushing Ted Kennedy's presidential candidacy, talked of the need for "public ownership" of energy and called for an expansion of the solar energy program. He stressed the need above all for conservation.

Winpisinger told the crowd, "We can stop the China syndrome only if we band together and hold politicians' feet to the fire... Today is a great beginning in that direction..."

In his speech, Olszanski, a sidekick of USWA District 31 director James Balanoff and Ed Sadlowski, the defeated environmentalist candidate for USWA President, said that he is proud to have pushed through antinuclear positions in Local 1010 and in District 31. He said he represented all 18,000 members of Local 1010 and the 120,000 workers in District 31 whose "clout" he is adding to the antinuclear fight.

His constituency said otherwise: one District 31 worker, typical of the sentiment, called Olszanski "an environmentalist freak ... a no-growther who wants to shut down industry. ... He hates machinery"

#### Rubber Workers strike UniRoyal, blame Carter's guidelines

In what is being dubbed by union officials as a forced strike, caused by the Administration's insistence

on its wage-price guidelines that hold new labor contracts to a maximum 7 percent increase, the United Rubber Workers struck the UniRoyal Inc. at noon May 9.

Talks between the union and the nation's third largest tire manufacturer appeared to have completely broken down two days before the strike call, despite intervention from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

Peter Bommarito, URW President, contends that the union has reached a tentative agreement with UniRoyal within days of the April 22 expiration of the previous contract, and he has angrily attacked the federal government and the General Motors Corporation, a big customer of UniRoyal's, for "consciously" intervening into the collective bargaining process and forcing UniRoyal to renege on its agreement. Bommarito insists that the tentative agreement with UniRoyal was "precedent setting" and a serious challenge to the President's 7 percent solution.

UniRoyal denies that any agreement with the URW was ever made. But the likelihood that the company, which employs 8,000 URW members, did come under direct government pressure in the early phases of the contract negotiations surfaced when it was revealed that UniRoyal attended a special April 20 White House briefing on the guidelines for the major companies.

Since then the company has officially insisted that it would not agree to a contract that exceeds the President's program. The URW and AFL-CIO have both filed federal court actions to challenge the legality of government imposing sanctions on industries that enter into contracts exceeding the guidelines.