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**AN INJURY TO ONE
IS AN INJURY TO ALL**



**ONE YEAR OF OUR LIVES:
THE CLINTON CORN STRIKE
1979 - 1980**

"If you think by hanging us you can stamp out the labor movement . . . the movement from which the down-trodden millions, the millions who toil in want and misery, expect salvation, if this is your opinion, then hand us!

"Here you will tread upon a spark, but there and there, behind you and in front of you, and everywhere, flames blaze up. It is a subterranean fire. You cannot put it out."

... AUGUST SPIES, Before being sentenced to death
in the eight-hour-day frame-up in Chicago, 1886

* * * * *

This booklet is being offered to you by members of Concerned Citizens, a labor-support group which was organized during the strike to act as a liason between the union members and the community. One year of our lives was spent in an attempt to muster support for the small local which was fighting for its very existence. One year of our lives was spent thinking, planning, learning, organizing, and taking action together, then agonizing over the outcome.

It is with these thoughts in mind that we offer this dedication.

IN DEDICATION

To the faithful of Local #6, who were hurting, yet continued to remain strong behind their union, refusing to cross the line back into the plant.

To their supporters, who had the courage to stand beside them, in spite of the consequences.

To our children, who were educated during the strike in a way which will allow them to understand labor's role in the history of this country, and in whose hands the future rests.

IN MEMORY OF

Robert A. Handy, a faithful member of Local #6 from its very beginning, whose smiling face cannot be forgotten and whose companionship is surely missed.

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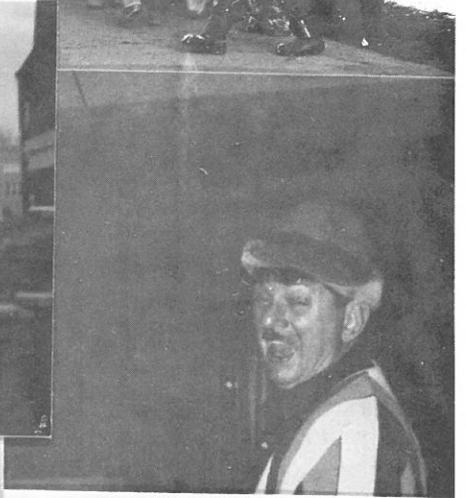
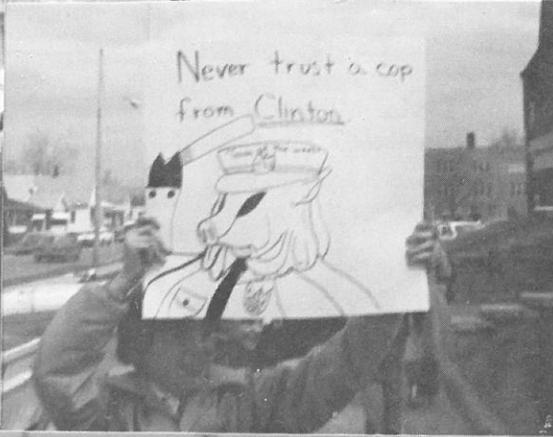
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A STRIKE — NOT FOR BREAD ALONE

by Rev. Gil Dawes

(Ed. Note: This article is included in this booklet as an overview of the strike as seen from within the midst of the strike. Many things could now be added as a result of hindsight, but what is contained in the article remains a valid part of any overview of the strike. We present it with these things in mind.)

Why would workers with a steady job, paying an average wage of \$8 an hour and comparable benefits go on strike? That is the question a great many people have been asking themselves since the beginning of the 120-day-old strike against Clinton Corn Processing Company, which began on August 1, 1979. Other people do not stop to question, but simply label as "crazy" anyone with that kind of job who would go on strike, especially in an economic situation as shaky as the present moment.

For those who are interested in finding the cause, the answer to that question has deep roots which ultimately are entwined with the essence of human nature itself.

The immediate facts leading to the strike are really an accumulation of resentments stemming from company policy and managerial methods going back to at least 1975. The members of the union, Grain Miller's Local #6, thank their predecessors in the union, not the company, for their wage and fringe benefit package. It represents the struggle which began in 1937, with the organizing of that local, and has continued till the present. However, in spite of some hard battles in the past, the mood of the union was not bitter until sometime prior to 1975.

Clinton Corn Processing Company, a subsidiary of Standard Brands, a conglomerate controlled by the J. P. Morgan fortune through Morgan Guaranty Trust Bank of New York, has become increasingly remote and unwilling to make the agreed upon contract with labor workable. An example of this is the grievance procedure, by which the contract provides for the resolution of on-the-job differences.

The procedure allows for four steps, but in most cases worker's formal complaints (grievances) are the first step, involving discussion between the union steward and the worker's supervisor. The worker may withdraw the complaint, or the supervisor may change his mind. If the issue is not resolved at this first-step level, then the second step is to bring in the area supervisor for the company, and the business agent for the union. The third step is to put the grievance before the joint grievance committee, which is made up of equal representation from the union and the company.



A question of dignity

OUTSIDE ARBITRATOR

When all else fails, the fourth step is to bring in an outside arbitrator, chosen by the company and the union, both of whom agree to accept his decision as binding, though appeals are possible. The cost of going to this fourth step is shared by both sides, and normally amounts to \$1200 to \$1500 apiece. It is necessary to know these details in order to understand the change in company policy and managerial method before and after 1975.

The before and after statistics show that from 1937 to 1975, only 15 grievances had to be taken to the fourth step of arbitration, but from 1975 until August 1979, the union has been forced to take 22 grievances to arbitration, winning 18 of them. This means that prior to 1975, the union only had to go to arbitration roughly once every two years, but that since 1975, it has had to do so better than five times a year on the average. That represents a 1,000% increase in the necessity of going to arbitration, with the union winning nearly 82% of those cases arbitrated.

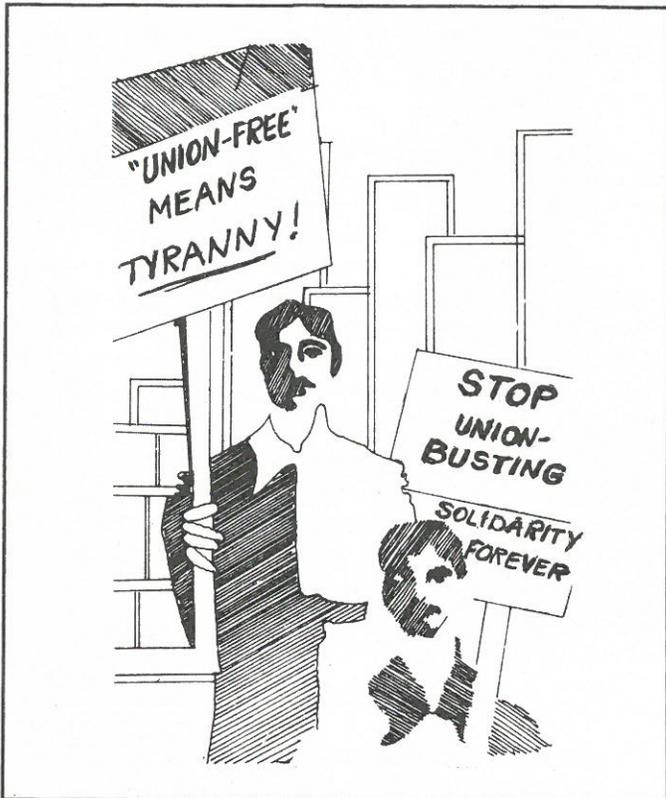
Clearly, this tremendous increase in arbitration to settle grievances indicates that the company does not wish to make the contract work, or the vast majority of these cases would have been resolved in the first three steps. What it indicates is that the union has been forced to waste enormous amounts of time, energy and money, not to get ahead, but just to stay even under the contract.

UNION BUSTING

At first, the union felt that the problem stemmed from stubborn management at the level of the local company, but time has shown that the policy change can be traced all the way to the top of this vast conglomerate, and seems to come from a union-busting mentality. Since the conglomerate has the resources to stall indefinitely on grievances, even when it is clear that the company will ultimately lose, it has the power to force the union, with its limited resources, to strike.

Since the "right-to-work" laws of Iowa allow the hiring and protection of scabs, this whole procedure amounts to a license to destroy unions. Whatever losses the conglomerate incurs in such a struggle can easily be made up after a union is broken by reducing the starting pay to minimum wage and marginal fringe benefits. In a society which chooses to tolerate a high permanent rate of unemployment, this strategy can work, because replacement workers can always be found in the ranks of the jobless.

Clinton Corn Processing Company denies that there is any strategy to break the union, but the denial is not very convincing in light of the fact that it has hired the same legal firm which was employed by the Delevan Company to break its union in Des Moines. It also lacks credibility because the company has up to now refused to accept the union offer to return to work under the terms of the contract which the company offered on August 1, when there were as yet no scabs in the plant.



The attitude of the company, which can be seen in the matter of grievance procedures, is also reflected in the callousness with which it treats matters of worker safety and health. This past year, the company has been fined twice by OSHA for violations. In the first inspection, which occurred prior to the strike, there were 26 violations cited, and some of them were serious and repeated offenses.

One example of such callous disregard for worker health and safety was the use of asbestos powder, a known cancer-causing agent, without any kind of protection for the workers. Even the ventilating fans in the room where the asbestos powder was being used did not work. The company tried to excuse itself for using such a dangerous chemical by saying that there was no substitute; and yet they found one within a week after being found guilty of violation by OSHA.

An even more obvious example of the company attitude was revealed when this matter was raised during negotiations. The union wished to include safety regulations in the contract, but the company refused, saying that if the regulations were already in the law they did not need to be in the contract. The union replied that "if such regulations were already in the law, then why should the company object to their being in the contract." The company answer was, "we hope to see the laws changed."

LITTLE CHOICE

These examples, and many others like them, indicate why workers with a fairly high average hourly wage and fringe benefits will go on strike. In a sense, they have little choice under the existing laws of Iowa if they wish to preserve the integrity of the union. A union has to offer protection to individual workers as well as wage benefits, and if it cannot do so, over a period of time it will lose the membership, and finally be voted out, because it can't do the job. In the present circumstances it is damned to extinction if it doesn't strike and damned to expulsion if it does.

The workers have responded to this "heads I win, tails you lose" flip by fighting the company through a strike. They are counting on the value of their skills to the company and their proven capacity to do the job in the past. In a sense, they are fighting not only to preserve the union which has benefited and protected them, but also for the personal right to be treated like a human being. The desire for the recognition of human dignity is at the root of this struggle, intertwined with the confusing array of issues involved. The workers seem to be saying underneath it all that "one does not live by bread alone," but it remains to be seen if the community and society honor that belief. So far, the community has responded, if at all, by offering "bread" (charity), rather than siding with the workers to preserve human dignity.

NEGOTIATIONS

Negotiations started with a meeting on May 15, 1979. The company wanted the meeting to discuss the government mandated programs (i.e. retirement to age 70, sick pay for women on maternity leave and the 7% voluntary wage guidelines).

The second meeting was on June 11. At this meeting, the union and the company exchanged proposals. Also, R. G. Koons made the comment that the company wanted a good working climate with employee involvement for a profitable company.

Three more meetings were held in June. Some minor language was agreed to by the committees (i.e. apprentice hold-over, extra list call-in and employees late for work). During these meetings, the company introduced some strong take-away language (i.e. amend grievance procedure so grievances not resolved in 15 days would be dropped, amend layoff and recall language so the company could lay off by skill or training instead of seniority as in past years and amend discipline language to allow for a supervisor to give a "friendly" talk as first step, probation with special work projects as second step and discharge as third step).

Four meetings were held during the first two weeks of July. Many minor changes were discussed and a few were agreed to. On July 11, discussions on bringing the brickmasons under the working agreement were held. The company insisted on cutting their pay from M-4 rate to M-2 rate (36¢/hr.). R. G. Koons said, "they (the brickmasons) have a price to pay for being represented by the union." The union tried to discuss the discipline from the '75 walkout. The company refused to discuss it saying, "if we do anything about it, the people will be encouraged to walk out again."

Beginning July 16, negotiating sessions were held at the Frontier Motel on a daily basis. On that first day, R. G. Koons gave a talk about how hard business was for them; 5% price controls, Russia controlling corn prices and the government subsidizing the sugar industry. He said it was a must for the union to help keep costs down, like put a cap on Cost-of-Living, or change the formula or just do away with the Cost-of-Living altogether.

During the last two weeks of July there were many discussions on package costs. The company continued to argue the need of a package cost below 7%. The union said they felt the 7% guidelines were unjust and weren't being considered. R. G. Koons kept claiming the company was talking in good faith and that the union was always sticking it to the company.

On July 23, the union presented the company with a list of thirteen proposals that the union felt were a must. The company presented the union with 21 must items. These two lists didn't include the money issue.

On July 24, the usual language items were discussed during the day. An evening meeting was held to devote total discussion to a package. Both the Company and the Union presented their total figures on what the guidelines would produce for increases. Strong discussions were held on the differences in the figures. The Company used computers — the Union honesty and intelligence.

On July 25, some minor language changes were agreed to by the Union. More discussions were then held on costs and a package total.

On July 26, both parties gave their final positions on the language still outstanding. The Company took a long lunch break and caucus. When they returned, they gave the Union their final offer. This offer had figures that were higher than the Company's original figures. They inflated the figures to the point that they tried to make the rank and file members think they were getting 12%/yr. for three years. The Company also informed the Union that the offer was in the mail to the members. The offer, using the Company's figures from two days earlier, amounted to 6.6% for the first year, 5.7% for the second and 5.98% for the third.

On July 27, the Union informed the Company that they would not recommend the offer to the members. The Union also said they wished to continue negotiating and that the issues from the '75 walkout were not a part of negotiations.

The next meeting was on July 31. R. G. Koons started by telling the Union committee how upset all of the members were with the Union and how the members wanted more time to think it over and take another strike vote. The Company's excuse for mailing the offer to the members two days ahead of the vote was so the members had plenty of time to consider the offer and not be rushed into a vote. He stated, "This is our only offer. Take it or leave it. There will never be another offer. Use whatever arithmetic you need to sell it to the members. This is it."

The Union committee caucused and then told the Company that the Union's position hadn't changed and there would be a strike.

The mediator got the Union to a meeting with the Company at 9:15 p.m. on the 31st under the pretense that the Company would discuss some language and change the offer. When the Union arrived, they found out that the Company refused to discuss anymore language and that the only change in the offer was an increase of 17¢ to be given over three years as across-the-board increases.

The Union committee agreed to take it back to the Union's Executive Board with a recommendation. The Executive Board rejected the offer and recommended

to the members that they also reject it. On August 1, the members turned down the second "final" offer.

The first meeting after the strike started was on August 7. The Company claimed they were too busy to meet before that. They were busy hiring replacements. The Company claimed all replacements would stay and strikers would be called back as needed and they additionally demanded the unquestionable right to discipline strikers.

There was another membership meeting on August 9. The members were told the Company's position and were told that if the strike continued, it would be a very long, bitter strike. A vote was taken and the membership continued the strike by an overwhelming vote.

The next meeting was August 22. The Company yelled about alleged "violence" and "Union lies" and said they would never make another offer as good as the second "final" one that was rejected. They again held firm on the replacements being permanent and their right to discipline strikers. At that meeting, the Company told of their intent to notify strikers to clean out their lockers to make them available for the replacements and that the strikers would have to pay their own insurance premium (\$190/month).

The committees met again on September 6. At that meeting, the Company told the Union that all maintenance would be contracted out and that production jobs would be grouped together.

At the next meeting, on September 26, the Company explained their position on contract maintenance and job grouping. These two proposals would eliminate 250 people, 1/3 of the bargaining unit. The Company told of their plans for contract language changes to provide for their two proposals. The language changes would effectly gut the entire contract and purpose of a bargaining agent.

In meetings on October 3 and October 9, discussions centered around the proposals to eliminate people. The Company spent lots of time talking around the issues, but would give the Union information that they thought was pertinent and had requested.

On October 30, George Gleason, attorney for Standard Brands, Inc. and Corp. Director of Labor Relations, attended the meeting. That meeting and the one on November 6 achieved nothing.

On November 12, the Union made an offer to the Company to settle the strike. The Union gave some minor concessions, but the Company wanted all or nothing.

The Union again made a settlement offer on November 21 with more concessions, but the Company's position hadn't changed — all or nothing. The Company was content to not meet or do any talking in hope that the NLRB would rule on their accusation



Local 6

that the strike was illegal. The NLRB never ruled the strike illegal and said they never would!

The Company stalled their way through meetings on December 11 and December 18. They went back over the same old things making no changes or new ideas. They didn't care if they resolved the strike or not.

On January 9, 1980, the Union asked the Company to give them what it would take to end the strike. The Company presented twelve items they called parameters of an offer. These were taken back to the Union membership and were rejected by a stronger vote than any of the previous strike votes.

The last local negotiating meeting was held on January 24. The Union told the Company of the membership's feelings on the twelve points. The Company accused the Union of not wanting a settlement and broke off negotiations, stating that they saw no need for further meetings.

The International Union held meetings with SBI in Miami, New York and Washington, D.C. No local people attended these meetings and we don't know what really took place. In April, the International brought to the membership a proposal to be voted on. The members refused to give away everything they worked for over the years! The proposal was rejected.

The members of Local #6 would go to defeat with their heads held high before they would go to defeat by crawling to the Company!

Clinton Corn, Bargaining?

On January 9, 1980, when the Union and Company met, the Company gave the Union the following 12 points that they were insisting upon to reach a settlement.

1. All replacement workers will stay on the jobs they are now working.

2. The Company will contract out maintenance work and eliminate instrument people, electricians, machinists, pipefitters, millwrights, boilermakers and tanners. (195 people would lose their jobs.)

3. Jobs in process departments will be grouped together, including the remaining crafts people into a general crew. (This would eliminate 55 people in the process departments.)

4. At the time a settlement is signed, the Company will give to the Union a list of people to be disciplined and the discipline to be given. The discipline will be subject to the grievance procedure, but the Company reserves the right to refuse to arbitrate.

5. Brickmasons will come under the Working Agreement, but will take a 36¢ per hour cut over a five year period for the privilege of being represented by a union.

6. The new agreement will be for a three year period from the date of signing.

7. All strikers will go on a preferential hiring list. The Company claims they have no room in the plant for returning strikers at this time.

8. Strikers will be recalled from the hire list as vacancies occur by qualifications and abilities. Seniority will be used as a tie breaker only when all other things are equal.

9. The original economic offer that was made on 7-26-79 is the offer that the people will have to accept. The improved offer of 8-1-79 will not be available again.

10. The proposed language as mailed to the membership on 7-26-79, with changes needed that will allow for contracting maintenance, job clustering, recall by their methods, and changing dates where necessary, will have to be accepted.

11. All legal actions currently pending will proceed through normal course of events.

12. There will be absolutely no retroactivity of any kind given on any of the things negotiated, including cost of living increases, increased pension rate, or increased wages.

NOTICE

Reprinted below is the text of an Order and Temporary Injunction filed in the Iowa District Court for Clinton County on August 3, 1979 by Judge L. D. Carstensen. The Order and Temporary Injunction restrains and enjoins the American Federation of Grain Millers International Union and Local No. 6, its officers and members, and all other persons acting at their direction, in concert with them, or on their behalf, and it remains in full force and effect.

This cause came on before the court for hearing on August 3, 1979 at 10:43 A.M. on plaintiff's application for temporary injunction under Division XV, Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff appeared by Shaff, Farwell and Senneff by Donald G. Senneff and David H. Sivright, Jr. Upon the court's instruction counsel for plaintiff was instructed to inform the union of the hearing and counsel reported that such was done. No named defendant and no one for them appeared.

The evidence supporting the application for temporary injunction was given by sworn testimony in open court and not by affidavit. It is ordered that the Reporter transcribe the testimony of the witness and file with the Clerk at Plaintiff's expense.

I find that temporary injunction should issue for the reason that there have been breaches of the peace and there continues present danger of breaches of the peace, danger of violations of property rights, danger of assaults.

IT IS THEREFORE, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Plaintiff's application for temporary injunction herein be granted and that Writ of Injunction do issue upon the Plaintiff's filing a bond in the office of the Clerk of the District Court named in the Petition, conditioned as required by law, in the penalty of \$5,000.00, with sureties to be approved by the said Clerk, the said writ to restrain and enjoin the Defendants as follows:

I.

Defendants, their officers and agents, and all other persons acting at the direction of or in act of concert of participation with them, be restrained and enjoined and ordered to refrain from:

(a) Engaging in mass picketing at or near Plaintiff's plant entrances or from obstructing or interfering with free ingress and egress at Plaintiff's plant entrances;

(b) Preventing or attempting to prevent any person or vehicle from entering or leaving Plaintiff's plant entrances, through the use of violence, including, but not limited to, throwing rocks, strewing nails, kicking or pounding vehicles, force, massing, picketing, threats, abusive or coercive language, or any other means or manner whatsoever;

(c) Loitering or being unnecessarily near or at the vicinity of the points of ingress or egress of Plaintiff's plant entrances;

(d) Maintaining at any time or place any pickets of more than 5 in number at each entrance to Plaintiff's plant. Such pickets as shall be maintained shall not block said entrances for ingress or egress on foot or by vehicle of any person desiring to enter or leave Plaintiff's plant entrance to deliver goods thereto or dispatch goods therefrom, or from going to work or returning from work;

(e) maintaining any other picket line, picketing or assemblage closer than 1000 yards from a plant entrance.

(f) Using threatening language to any person or persons attempting to enter or leave Plaintiff's plant entrances.

(g) Inflicting and/or threatening to inflict damages or injury to the person or property of the Plaintiff, its agents, representatives or employees, or the families of the Plaintiff's agents, representatives or employees or those having a business relationship with the Plaintiff as customer or invitee;

(h) Threatening, intimidating, coercing harassing or interfering with the Plaintiff, its agents, representatives or employees and the families of the Plaintiff's agents, representatives or employees and customers and invitees of Plaintiff;

(i) Following Plaintiff's agents, representatives, employees, and/or their families or anyone having a business relationship with the Plaintiff as a customer or invitee;

This Temporary Injunction Order shall remain in force until such time as a hearing is held to make said Temporary Injunction a permanent injunction. Prompt hearing will be held on application.

AUGUST IN THE BEGINNING . . .

The strike began at 12:01 a.m. August 1, 1979 and the Company immediately began hiring scabs through ads such as the following which they placed in area newspapers.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Clinton Corn Processing Company is accepting applications for employment. The employment offered is in place of employees engaged in a labor dispute. The positions offered are for permanent employment.

There are openings for:

Instrument Mechanic . . . \$9.15

Pipefitter \$8.79

Machinist \$8.79

Carpenter \$8.79

Sheet Metal Mechanic . . \$8.79

Millwright \$8.79

Electrician \$8.79

Boilermaker \$8.79

Painter \$8.58

Production Personnel \$7.17-\$8.23

Quality Control Personnel \$7.40-\$8.23

Plus 46¢ per hour Cost of Living Excellent Employee Benefits

Apply in Person between 8:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. daily.

Employment Office

Clinton Corn Processing Company

1251 Beaver Channel Parkway

Clinton, Iowa 52732

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F

SHOTS IN THE NIGHT

At 1:30 a.m. on August 31, shots from a .357 magnum revolver were fired at the car and home of Local #6 business representative Mike Krajnovich. The shots entered the house only 20 feet from where his wife and children were sleeping at the time.

On September 5, Paul Andrew Bertrand (a scab) was charged with terrorism at the Clinton Law Enforcement Center about 7:00 p.m. Magistrate Arlen Van Zee set bond at \$15,000.

On January 9, he was allowed to plead guilty to terrorism without a weapon as a result of a plea-bargaining agreement.

Bertrand was sentenced to serve five years in the Mens' Reformatory at Anamosa. Defense attorney Chambers had requested a suspended sentence, but Judge J. Hobart Darbyshire denied the request.

After a hearing in March on a motion to reconsider the sentence, Darbyshire revised his ruling, ordered the five-year sentence suspended, and placed Bertrand on probation after serving only seven weeks! The judge's ruling said a pre-sentence investigation showed the shooting "was the culmination of a series of events which resulted in a great deal of anger" on Bertrand's part. Can't the same be said in regard to the strikers and their supporters?

(Ed. Note: It is necessary to note that Bertrand served approximately 49 days of a 5-year sentence, while strikers and supporters served 30 to 90 days of a 1-year sentence. On a percentage basis, those terms don't equal out!)



Above: House and car owned by Union business agent Krajnovich riddled by shots from .357 magnum revolver.



Left: Another picture of Krajnovich's car, after window was repaired, which shows where bullets entered the door panel.

THE FIRST REPLACEMENTS

On the morning of August 3, 1979, about 150 union members were picketing at the main entrance to the plant in an effort to impress "job applicants" with the importance of honoring the union's picket line.

The company, anxious to recruit permanent replacements, wasted no time in requesting and receiving a 'temporary' injunction limiting the number of pickets to five per gate or within a 1,000-yard radius of the gate.* This injunction was achieved in an hour's time in spite of the fact that the union was not represented at the hearing!

This 'temporary' injunction (which remained in effect throughout the entire strike, although somewhat modified) was the single most useful tool utilized to break this union! It was instrumental in keeping people frightened, and since labor's real asset is solidarity in numbers, this fear of involvement proved to be a major factor in the shocking defeat of this union!

*Ed. Note: 1,000 yards is equivalent to 10 football fields. Union members living within this 1,000 yard radius were technically in violation of this injunction!

strikers. One such spontaneous show of support happened on Thursday, August 10, 1979. The wives and a few supporters of the strikers held a downtown demonstration through Clinton.

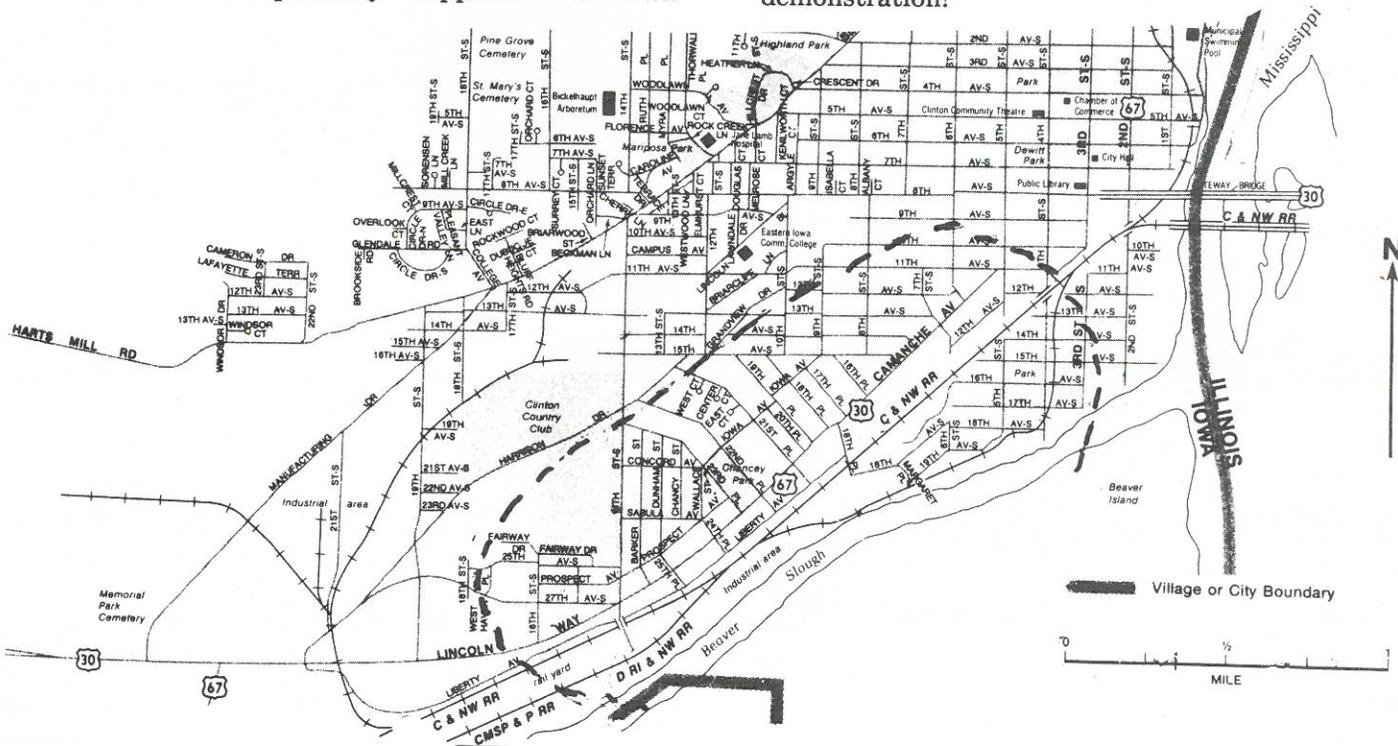
There were several picket signs with various statements and questions. A few of these were as follows: "If we have no money, you have no money," "Support Local Six," "Thou shalt not STEAL — our JOBS," "L. T. Lewis is a sanctimonious hypocrite." Even the children seemed to understand that what was happening was wrong, according to a few of their signs such as, "Will you help my Daddy get his job back?," "I want to eat too," and "I need shoes for school too, Mr. Lewis."

The basic message in going downtown was to let the business people know that without the strikers' paycheck, the town would be getting very little money from the. They were also trying to inform the community that it wasn't just a strike for wages, but a fight to keep their jobs and the right to have self-respect and dignity. Oh, how deaf the ears were then and now!!

The town was soon to see how scabs were to enhance their community and lives! They were soon to hear of rape committed at CCPC, something that had never happened before in a plant in town. There were to be vandalism acts like never before and, yes, even an attempted murder on more than one occasion. There was even to be a beating of Pastor Dawes by the local authorities, as well as a beating of a striker's wife on the streets of downtown Clinton. This beating by a scab from California took place as the women and children were going home from their downtown demonstration!

MARCH OF AUGUST 10, 1979

In the very beginning of the strike, spouses and families were exceptionally supportive of their



SEPTEMBER

Jerome Judge was arrested at his home about 4:45 p.m., September 1, on a warrant charging him with kidnapping in the third degree, a charge which carries a penalty of up to ten years in prison. He was released on \$10,000 bond.

Judy Byers alleged the kidnapping took place about 8:00 p.m. on Friday, August 31. Allegedly, she had pulled up to the postal department mail boxes on South 3rd Street when two men jumped into her car and drove her to Riverview Drive where they questioned her 35-45 minutes about the policy of driving semis across picket lines by her employer, Bob Starbuck, owner of the Plaza Truck Stop. She assumed her captors to be sympathetic to the goals of striking members of the Grain Millers.

She did not, however, report the incident until the following day when she identified one of the men from police photographs. The photographs were candid group shots taken during previous picketing and union activity. Brother Judge was not identified in person!

Judge Arlen Van Zee refused to reduce bond on September 5, but on September 19, J. Hobart Darbyshire reduced bond to \$1,000.

On February 2, the charge was **DISMISSED** — citing a polygraph test which Brother Judge had taken and passed. Brother Judge's arrest made front page headlines, while his exoneration appeared as a small article in the last section of the Clinton Herald.

LABOR DAY

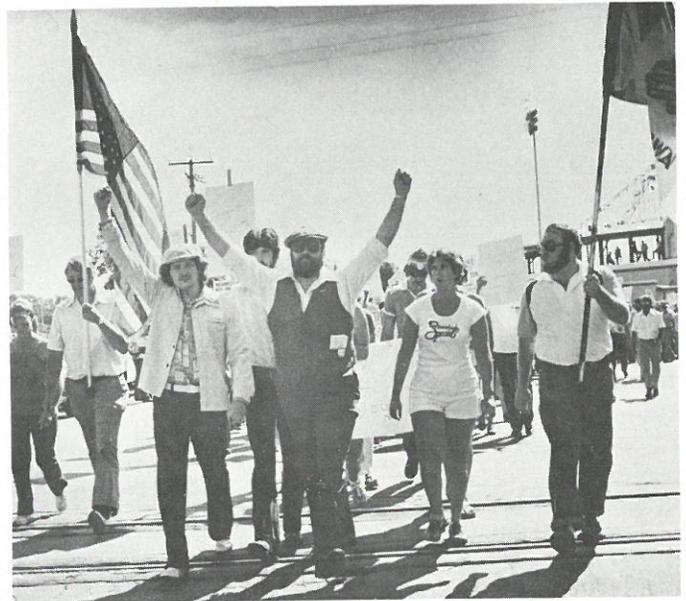
September 3, 1979 will long be remembered! On that unforgettable day, about 3,000 union members and sympathizers met at Riverview Stadium for a statewide Labor Day Rally in support of Local #6. Local speakers included the Local #6 business representative Mike Krajnovich, president, Tom Brigham; and Clinton Labor Congress vice-president Bob Soesbe. Brother Soesbe pointed out that he was pleased that the Teamsters, the United Auto Workers and various other unions were represented! Among out-of-town guest speakers was Joe Rajcevich, formerly business rep. of Local #6 and Labor Congress president; Lloyd Freilinger, A.F.G.M. International vice-president; Tom Ducey, representing the Machinists; and Chuck Gifford, representing the UAW.

Following these speeches, there was an hour long parade which concluded back at the stadium for a prayer service.

For those who were hungry, it was pointed out that

there was a spot on the way out of town known as Chancy Park which would give the out-of-towners a chance to see part of CCPC.

Later that afternoon, a group of about 150 people decided to get a closer look at the plant and its main gate. The city police there were fully equipped with riot gear to insure the safety of scabs entering and leaving! An 18-year-old boy was hit by a scab driving through the crowd. Not only did the police open the gate to usher in the scab, but they never checked the boy's condition or requested help for him. Another scab "plowing" through the crowd struck Ed Hutton, a member of the iron workers, and he has since undergone three surgeries on a broken knee he received as a result. There was an eventual arrest made for 'reckless driving,' but even with a photo of him suspended in mid-air over the hood of the car, the scab was found not guilty!



Union Business Agent Mike Krajnovich led the Labor Day Rally.

After seeing a Grain Miller's wife hit by still another scab and watching the gates opened to receive these 'hit and run' scabs, the crowd went wild and all hell broke loose! Several in the crowd were seized by the police which only served to increase the surliness of the others. Soon the mayor, county attorney, sheriff and the Union's business representative and president arrived. After some negotiations, it was agreed that if the crowd would disperse, the people being held would be released and the county attorney would not press charges.



Promises made . . . Clinton Mayor at gates of Clinton Corn during the Labor Day Rally, promising a release of those being held.

Several days later, however, the following arrests were made:

- John Jenkins terrorism
- Herbert Royce terrorism
- Dennis Murphy terrorism
- David Haack terrorism
- Steven McCluskey terrorism
- Larry Tanner terrorism & rioting
- Melvin Niles terrorism & assault
while taking part in a felony
- William Tieso rioting
- Don Wenzel rioting
- Clarence Wenzel rioting
- George McCluskey Sr. assault with intent to
commit serious bodily injury

There was some plea bargaining and the judge said no one would be sent to jail. With that in mind, some pleaded guilty to lesser charges. Here is the outcome after a change of heart by the judge:

John Jenkins, Herbert Royce,
Larry Tanner, Melvin Niles

Each pleaded guilty to rioting; sentenced to 1 year, 9 months suspended — served 90 days, paid \$1,000 restitution fine, 2-year probation.

Steven McCluskey, William Tieso

Each pleaded guilty to rioting; sentenced to 1 year, 10 months suspended — served 60 days, paid \$1,000 restitution fine, 2-year probation.

Dennis Murphy, David Haack

Each pleaded guilty to rioting; sentenced to 1 year, 11 months suspended — served 30 days, paid \$1,000 restitution fine, 1-year probation.

Don Wenzel, Clarence Wenzel

Each changed plea to not guilty; case pending.

George McCluskey Sr.

Pleaded guilty to simple assault; fined \$100.

The judge refused to modify any of their sentences so all served full time. In addition, a couple weeks later the Company charged about 30 people with contempt, including the Union's bus. rep. and pres. who were instrumental in quieting the disturbance. Out of this, the Union was fined \$500; six individuals were fined \$200 each and three individuals \$100 each.

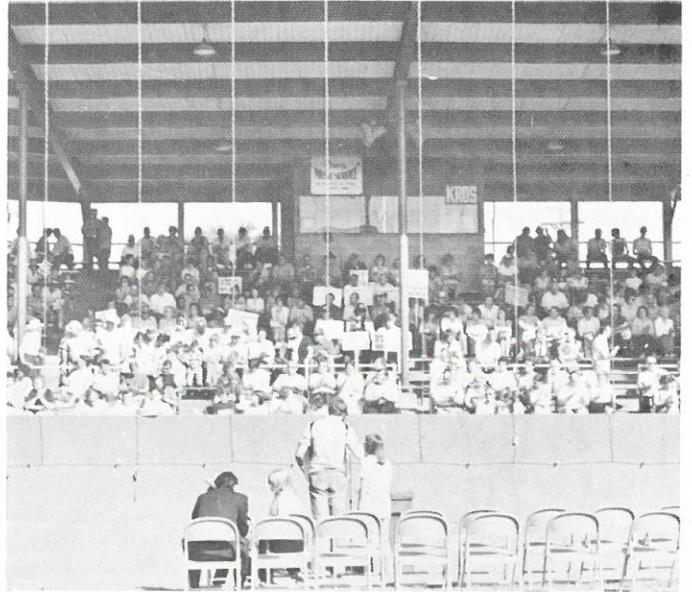
(Ed. Note: It must be noted here that one strategy used in union-busting is that of breaking the union treasury, either by forcing grievances to the final step of arbitration, which is costly to a small union, or through other less direct means. The court's role in union-busting should be evident in this strike, as union member after union member was charged with offenses that could not be proven, yet through the questionable practice of plea-bargaining, settled for a guilty plea to a lesser charge and was fined accordingly. Union officials were fined as was the union as a whole. Bail bonds were set so high, on charges that could not be proven, that thousands of dollars of sorely needed union funds were tied up in bail bonds alone. At one point in the strike, \$30,000.00 of union funds had gone to the payment of fines or was being used for bail bonds.



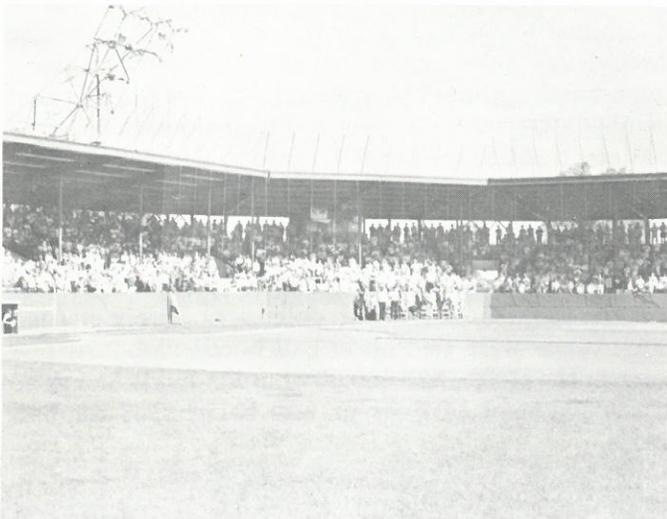
. . . Promises broken. Assistant County Attorney Joe Beck "throwing himself into his work."



Labor Day Pictures that show positive side of the Rally.



Top left: Labor Day Rally to support Local "6." Above: Crowd inside Riverview Stadium, Sept. 3, 1979. Bottom Left: March down Second Street in Clinton, led by AFGM officials and supporters. Below: Union members from around the area showing support for the union.





Union members taking their story to the truckers.

TRUCK STOP PICKETED

Amid countless acts of support by other unions and locals throughout the region, one act of non-support developed into a crucial one. It involved two teamster locals from Wisconsin who allowed their drivers to cross the picket line into CCPC or authorized them to park their rigs at the Plaza Truck Stop where local drivers, hired by truck stop owner Robert Starbuck, would drive the trucks on to the factory. Their act of not honoring a legal strike created in part the conditions for a prolonged strike in which the company was not "shut down" but was still able to move its product. That lack of support extended into the hierarchy of both the Grain Millers and the Teamsters, where repeated requests for an honoring of the picket line were ignored, no cooperation was received, and no solidarity achieved.

Members of Local #6 and their supporters took their signs to the Plaza Truck Stop where they spoke with union drivers about the strike, seeking support from the teamster locals involved. Individual drivers expressed surprise upon learning the particulars of the strike from those involved, finding contradictions in the information they had received from their local officials. Individual drivers who had an opportunity to learn first-hand about the strike pledge support, but they were quickly replaced by other drivers less willing to listen, and the crossing of the picket line continued.

Picketing at the truck stop occurred only once, on September 4, 1979, but CCPC used its influence over the local judicial system and the NLRB to place "legal" barriers in the way of establishing solidarity between the strikers and the drivers with threats of injunctions and charges of illegal secondary boycotts. Yet a small victory was won here. The truck stop was closed shortly after its involvement in the union-busting business was exposed, and it has never reopened.

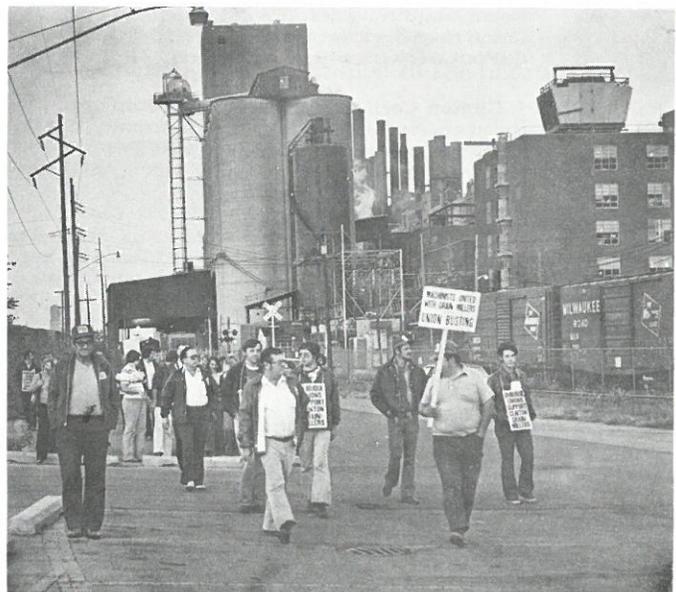
WEEKEND ACTIVITIES OF SEPTEMBER 22-23, 1979

People are never quite the same after they have been through the heart-breaking defeat of a decertified union. This fact was poignantly made clear to us on September 22 when several car-loads of former Delevan employees came to Clinton to show their support for the striking workers here. Only a few months before they, too, had been involved in a similar attempt by a large corporation to break their union.

People gathered for a quiet march at the plant gates on Saturday, and the following day nearly 200 Local #6 members and supporters attended a picnic at Chancy Park and later returned to the plant gates to once again show their support for the strike. It was there that Rev. Gil Dawes announced that his congregation at St. Mark's United Methodist Church had voted unanimously to ask the American Civil Liberties Union to investigate the injunction that severely limited support activities for Local 6.

DUBUQUE UNIONS SUPPORT LOCAL

The strike wasn't without its few pleasant surprises, such as the time when two busloads of a hundred supporters, representing twenty-five Dubuque unions came to town on September 26, 1979. They went to the gates of CCPC to show support and as Nick Lucy, First Vice-President of the Dubuque Federation of Labor said, "We just want to let the company know they have an obligation and responsibility to uphold. The outcome of this will affect people across the state and the nation, as well." This was only one of the many kinds of support that will never be forgotten!



Dubuque union members at the gates of CCPC.

TO OUR FELLOW CLINTONIANS

In 1975, a walkout by members of American Federation of Grain Millers Local No. 6 took place at Clinton Corn Processing Company because the company had refused to settle legal grievances brought up by the union. The company then proceeded to discipline and punish nearly 200 employees — firing some, and stripping others of their seniority and placing them on probation. This undue harshness appears to have been part of a planned, deliberate offensive.

In 1976, Clinton Corn again took steps to reduce union activity at the plant by firing all mechanical and construction contractors who were hiring union labor. Some 200 Clinton-area construction workers lost their jobs, and many were forced to travel long distances to find work.

In 1979, it seems Clinton Corn is continuing its attempt to break union activity — not only at Clinton Corn, but in the Clinton area generally — and to create what is referred to in management circles as the “union-free environment.”

This sequence of events suggests to us that the company has been engaged in a deliberate union-busting activity for the past four or five years. If successful, this would not only break Local No. 6, it would have a disastrous effect on the comfortable standard of living we Clintonians have enjoyed due to union wages, benefits and safety precautions.

Local No. 6 not only sets the wage standard at Clinton Corn, but at many other area industries as well. For example, E. I. duPont Co. keeps its wages slightly above those at Clinton Corn, to prevent its best employees from switching over. When workers at Clinton Corn get a raise, duPont raises its wages accordingly. In addition, members of the office and clerical staff — though their earnings generally remain below those of factory workers — also receive a proportionate increase.

Employees at duPont were due for a raise Aug. 1, and they are still negotiating; management appears to be waiting to see what happens with the Local No. 6 contract. It's obvious to us that, should union members not return to work at Clinton Corn, duPont workers will suffer as well.

Clinton Corn used to be a good employer and of great economic benefit to our community, but its officials seem to have forgotten that they depend on the town and its goodwill as much as the town depends on them.

They appear to have forgotten that union labor built most of the plant, and union labor has kept it running. It was union workers who gave up Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with their families and worked all night and day to put the plant back on the line after the explosion of 1975.

Apparently, not only Clinton Corn officials but a number of other citizens as well, have forgotten the contributions union members have made to our community in the past — including service in World War II, Korea and Viet Nam — and are still making today.

Union members are not terrorists: they are stewards and deacons in their churches, officers in lodges and fraternal organizations, Boy and Girl Scout leaders, United Fund workers, Y-leaders, Little League coaches, and more.

They are also taxpayers and voters. It is unfortunate that the recent change in management philosophy by Clinton Corn officials has brought our community to this sad state of affairs. However, we find it even more depressing that some of our elected and appointed officials seem to be backing them totally.

On Aug. 3, Clinton Corn obtained an injunction against Local No. 6 IN ONE HOUR. On Aug. 20, Local No. 6 moved for a cross-petition and an injunction against Clinton Corn FOR WHICH THE UNION HAS NOT EVEN BEEN GRANTED A HEARING!

City officials have charged strikers with rioting and terrorism and set their bonds at \$5,000 and \$10,000. But the man who rammed his car through the crowd at the factory gate on Labor Day, hitting and injuring people — and causing possible permanent injuries to one individual — was not charged with assault with a deadly weapon or intent to commit great bodily harm.

He was allowed to appear at the courthouse with his attorney and was charged with reckless driving. Bond was set at \$150, and he was released on his own recognizance.

Emotions are running high on both sides, but we believe THIS STRIKE CAN BE SETTLED — if management at Standard Brands is willing to bargain in good faith. Officials of Local No. 6 have made three points:

1. They are not demanding that people fired in 1975 be rehired.
2. They do not insist that replacement workers be fired, but union members must get their jobs and seniority back.
3. If the company wants to press charges against union members and go through the judicial system, it may; but the union will not let the company discipline anyone it chooses, for whatever reason it chooses.

This seems reasonable to us. PRIVATE CITIZENS, EVEN CLINTON CORN OFFICIALS, DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS.

And Local No. 6 cannot allow its members' constitutional rights to be surrendered to a handful of arrogant men.

**PAID FOR BY 400 AREA BUILDING
TRADE UNION SUPPORTERS**

OCTOBER

CONCERNED CITIZENS IS FORMED

Taking a group of individuals, mostly strangers, who had their own interests and priorities, beliefs and backgrounds, whose one common link was their sudden involvement in the strike, and shaping that into an effective force able to work together for one another and with one another is no easy task, but it was accomplished in Clinton. On October 1, 1979, in the upstairs meeting room at the Labor Temple, 50 spouses, strikers and supporters of Local #6 met together for the purpose of organizing a support group, one which could demonstrate where Local 6 members were prevented from demonstrating, picket where strikers were stopped from picketing, raise funds where funds were required. That first meeting will always be unforgettable. Tension was hopping across the room like an electrical charge; already people had begun making friendships, deciding with whom they could and could not work. The election of officers seemed to further divide the group into camps; unity seemed impossible. But through the 10½ long months of the strike a caring community was created, strained at times almost to the limit, but made stronger as each injustice to Local 6 and to working people as a whole became more clear.

Rallies were organized, weekly demonstrations at the gates and later at the Law Enforcement Center were staged; people who had never done any public speaking were addressing groups of 1200! People were radicalized beyond all expectations — and so were the children. Folks who had grown up with the idea that all police officers deserved respect soon realized that police officers were susceptible to outside pressures and influences and had to be judged by their actions and not their uniforms! People who had been involved in their own immediate, personal problems were suddenly in touch with labor's struggles around the nation and around the world. A newsletter, *The Voice of Labor*, was begun as an alternative source of news which would come from a worker's perspective rather than the business community's.

And suddenly the strike was over, lost in a decertification vote. All hope was gone on the evening of June 13, 1980 when the results were read to the crowd



A group of supporters at the Clinton County Law Enforcement Center during a weekly march.

gathered at the union hall. But then someone requested that those gathered sing "We Shall Overcome," and hope was re-kindled in the hearts of those present.

The newsletter continues, a labor history forum was held using the inspiring book *Labor's Untold Story*, with other forums to follow. Monday nights continue to be reserved for a Concerned Citizens' meeting, although a new location for the meeting is being sought. Informed citizens will continue to attend city council meetings, growing from the knowledge that there is power in numbers.

But the tension is back. People are involved with their own interests and priorities once again. Some strikers are back to work in the plant, some will never return. Personal differences divide the community we formed with one another. People are feeling burned-out after the long, hard, bitter struggle. But a faithful remnant remains. And we shall overcome!

TO THE CITIZENS OF CLINTON

NO CITIZEN HAS ANY RIGHT TO TAKE THE LAW INTO HIS OWN HANDS.
This rule applies to industry, business, labor and labor unions without exception. Under Federal labor law, employees have the right to enforce their bargaining demands by resorting to a strike—a concerted refusal to work! Such a strike amounts to the employees saying to the employer “We do not wish to work for you at the wage and under the conditions you are offering.”

STRIKERS' JOBS ARE NOT GUARANTEED!

UNDER THESE SAME FEDERAL LAWS, AN EMPLOYER HAS THE RIGHT TO KEEP HIS OPERATIONS GOING AND TO HIRE “PERMANENT REPLACEMENTS” FOR THE EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN THE STRIKE. If the wage and benefit package rejected by the union is truly unsatisfactory, the employer will find it impossible to attract replacement workers and will be forced by such conditions to come to terms with the striking workers. On the other hand, if the union is simply demanding too much, the rejected package will attract replacement workers and the strikers will find it necessary to moderate their demands. This very balance was exactly what Congress sought and intended in enacting our nation's labor laws. The right to strike is legally protected. Likewise, the right to work is equally protected and cannot be abridged or the entire balance contemplated by Congress would fail.

Newly hired individuals, just like individuals who walk away from a company in a strike situation, have made contributions to their community — including service in World War II, Korea and Vietnam — and are still making contributions today. They too participate in church affairs, lodges, fraternal organizations, scouting, little league, etc. These individuals have constitutional and statutory rights—like the right to work at their chosen job free from intimidation, assaults, threats and harassment. **WHEN STRIKES OCCUR, UNIONS AND STRIKERS ALWAYS SEEM TO FEEL THEY ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO HAVE ANY RIGHTS; IN THIS BELIEF THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY INCORRECT.**

Peaceful picketing has been held by the Supreme Court of the United States to be a means of exercising free speech guaranteed by the United States Constitution. **THIS GUARANTEE EXTENDS ONLY SO FAR AS THE LAWFULNESS OF THE PICKETING.** Both the Supreme Court of the United States and the Iowa Supreme Court have held that any conduct which amounts to interference with the right of peaceful entry to or exit from a struck facility is **UNLAWFUL.**

An Iowa District Court Judge (enforcing Iowa law) and **TWO** different Federal Court Judges (enforcing Federal labor law), recently prohibited any acts which interfered with the right of any individual to enter or leave the premises of a struck employer, any acts which threatened individuals or which damaged property. The National Labor Relations Board found that when a union, its members, or any persons acting in concert with them prevented or attempted to prevent individuals from entering or leaving a plant, they had engaged in “serious and extensive” illegal conduct. **THIS CONDUCT WAS LABELED “DESPICABLE.”**

Public officials—sworn to uphold the law— cannot take sides by tolerating any form of lawlessness under the guise that a labor dispute is in progress. **PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO SIT BACK AND DO NOTHING WHEN THE LAW IS VIOLATED SHOULD BE CONDEMNED.** By engaging in such conduct under the pretext of remaining “neutral,” they are in fact taking sides. Their inaction places them on the side which is violating the law. If non-labor-related rioting and terrorism broke out, would you as a citizen support a public official who determined not to quell it because they would be “taking sides?” The public officials who abide by their oath of office deserve the support of the **ENTIRE** community and those who do not abide by their oath should be condemned.

We support the premise that issues in labor disputes should be settled **BY THE PARTIES AT THE BARGAINING TABLE AND WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE LAW.** We genuinely hope that **ALL** persons—not just companies but also unions, their officials and members, all public officials and public employees and the general public—will conduct themselves in a **LAWFUL** manner. **VIOLENCE OF ANY KIND CAN ONLY ADVERSELY AFFECT THE FUTURE OF THE CLINTON COMMUNITY AND ALL OTHER COMMUNITIES IN IOWA.**



IOWA MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

DES MOINES, IOWA

IMA MEMBERS IN 1100 LOCATIONS EMPLOY 80% OF THE
TOTAL WORK FORCE IN MANUFACTURING IN IOWA.

NOVEMBER

VETERAN'S DAY WEEKEND — NOVEMBER, 1979

Joined by members of the International Association of Machinists, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the United Auto Workers, the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, the Brotherhood of Carpenters, and the International Paper Workers Union, the Concerned Citizens sponsored a weekend show of support for Local 6 members.

James Wengert, President of the Iowa Federation of Labor told the group that, "We are still living in America. We are still right in our objections to corporate america." Clinton Corn officials indicated that the Iowa Federation was "supporting the wrong side." The NLRB had already ruled that company statements to the effect that the board had ruled **against** the Grain Millers were misleading but still the errant barrage continued.

When the supporters gathered at the gates of Clinton Corn on Saturday, they found an "armed camp." About shift change, two dozen riot-equipped Clinton police left the plant and approached the demonstrators. Inside the plant waited a contingent of deputy sheriffs from both Clinton and Scott Counties, Camanche police and Iowa Highway Patrol officers along with an uncounted number of Clinton Corn "security people." Rumors were that Clinton Corn had prepared for the demonstration with "the riot squad, tear gas and the National Guard."

The company propaganda was in error and only four minor arrests occurred during the weekend, two for "blocking the road" and two for minor vandalism. At what cost to the taxpayers?

The demonstrators were forced to leave the gates on Saturday in order to secure release of three of the protestors (the fourth was arrested early Sunday morning). This time in contrast to Labor Day, officials chose to keep their word.

Sunday morning, another group of supporters gathered for a prayer service near the gates of Clinton Corn. The Catholic Workers from Dubuque, Des Moines and the Quad Cities joined with Father O'Connor, Pastor Gil Dawes and other supporters of Local 6 in a quiet demonstration of solidarity.

Mr. Koons, Vice President of Clinton Corn, claimed that one of the demonstrators "kicked his car," he engaged in a heated exchange with the picketers until the police arrived and then drove off.

Another exchange occurred later in the day when Pastor Dawes confronted the police for restricting the movements of the picketers. No incidents followed this discussion.

Although the rally participants were fewer than anticipated, considerable support was received during the weekend including \$6,000 in cash and about \$2,000 in food, much of it coming from the U.A.W.

"Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us dare to do our duty as we understand it." A. Lincoln



"Public Servants"

During a demonstration, Clinton police officers would frequently come from within the plant gates, then turn, with their backs to the Company, and face the crowd.

DECEMBER

FOOD AIRLIFT

On December 8, 1979, a "Berlin-style" airlift took place at the Clinton Municipal Airport. Ron Atkin, Teamster member from Iowa Falls, was the main organizer. *On the sunny, frigid Saturday afternoon, six planes arrived with a total of \$3,000.00 worth of food which was loaded into three trucks and taken to the Labor Temple. Those unions contributing to the airlift included locals from the Teamsters, Grain Millers, United Food and Commercial Workers, Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, United Transportation Union, Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks and Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

*(Ed. Note: The assistance shown in this case by members of a Teamster local should be remembered in contrast to the evidence of non-support from two Wisconsin Teamster locals who, by not honoring another union's legal picket line or by allowing other non-union drivers to deliver their rigs to the plant gates, contributed to the successful union-busting effort by Standard Brands.)

JANUARY

On Saturday, January 26, 1980, the picketers at the north entrance to the plant reported gunshots coming from inside the plant. After receiving the report, a squad car was dispatched to investigate. However, it was recalled when a CCPC guard called the Clinton Law Enforcement Center and said that there was no problem at the plant.

On Saturday afternoon about 2:30 p.m., a scab was charged with carrying a concealed weapon after picketers noticed a gun on the front seat of the car. The authorities said there was no connection between this arrest and the earlier reported gunshots.

Also, on that day, two women were arrested during a demonstration at the 7:00 a.m. shift change on disorderly conduct charges. Charges of excessive force used against one of the women during cuffing were leveled at the arresting officer, but no disciplinary action was ever taken and the charges against these women are still pending!

Although there had been acts of vandalism against strikers and scabs alike throughout the strike, it was about this point that a general policy of harassment by police began to become evident. The union hall, business representative and president had been under 24-hour surveillance for the duration, but strikers and supporters began to be stopped more frequently, with their cars often being searched. They were increasingly goaded during demonstrations and when arrests were made, the force used to make the arrests intensified culminating April 10 in the beatings of a UAW supporter and a local minister! When will police learn that they are workers too?

breaking a car window (terrorism) were portrayed by the local newspaper as violent lawbreakers and vicious terrorists who were well-suited to a jail cell.

Members of Concerned Citizens and other supporters and friends of Local #6 felt otherwise. The seven men incarcerated in the Clinton County Jail as a result of the Labor Day gathering at the gates of CCPC were seen not as violent lawbreakers but as victims of an unequal, unjust legal system in which those guilty of truly violent crimes against the community often go unpunished. In honor of the seven and to express to them and the community the respect people had for them, a group of 50-60 supporters gathered at the county jail every Sunday afternoon to express solidarity with the "political prisoners" being held there. The weekly walks around the county jail helped establish a sense of great solidarity and community between those on both sides of the thick jail walls, as supporters on the outside cheered to see their friends' faces appear at the small second-story windows.

A campaign to write to "our hostages in Iowa" was supported by the Concerned Citizens and the Iowa Federation of Labor and resulted in hundreds of cards and letters of support being mailed to those jailed during the Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day and Easter holidays. The cards were sent from Des Moines, Dubuque, Marshalltown, Sioux City, and many other towns and cities throughout Iowa and served to help the incarcerated men regain their pride and dignity, qualities that the business community and local news media had tried to take away.

FEBRUARY

TO THOSE IN JAIL...

As anyone who has read the history of the labor movement in this country has learned, union supporters and "bosses" involved in strikes were pictured by newspaper articles and radio reports as terrorists, rioters, lawbreakers, while company officials were presented as law-abiders and helpless victims. The strike in Clinton was no exception and union members and supporters who were sentenced to jail terms for



March for the hostages.

MARCH

A LONE VOICE

Although many candidates from both major political parties passed through Clinton in their quest for the highest office of our land, none gave public support to Local #6 — none, that is, except one soft-spoken woman named Angela Davis, the vice-presidential candidate of the Communist Party, USA!

On Saturday, March 8, she held a news conference and called attention to the “scandalous” fact that although “several presidential candidates or their representatives” had been in the area, none had “enough concern for working people to identify with the struggles that are unfolding in this country today.” She continued her statement of support by saying, “This struggle is really essential because if they can defeat the union here, then it will happen in other plants and it will happen in other areas and then it will eventually happen, and it is happening, all over the country. And if we are to safeguard our rights, our future, the future of our children, then we certainly have to ensure that the workers, members of Local #6 of the Grain Millers’ union must achieve a victory!”

She talked of how unemployment, racism, sexism and anti-communism are used by management to divide so that it is difficult for workers “to perceive who the real enemy is.”

Additionally, she advocated a third party which “would be a coalition of labor, a coalition of other progressive political parties and of all individuals and organizations who are opposed to the way in which the monopolies control the lives of people in this country.” She expressed the hope that this would be reality “by the 1984 election.”

Reaction to Angela’s visit was mixed, running the gamut from flag-waving protestors to expectant sup-

porters yearning to hear words of encouragement. The Union’s executive board refused to allow her to speak in the Union Hall, but Rev. Gil Dawes, pastor of St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, gave permission to hold the news conference in Wesley Hall at the Church. For this and other actions he took in support of the strikers, he was “called on the carpet” by his superiors in an effort to discourage that support. This red baiting tactic and others such as the demonstration outside the church the morning of her news conference and the synonymous linking of unions and communism served to intimidate many strikers and supporters — divide and conquer is the name of the game and they play it well! However, in spite of these tactics, or maybe even because of them, her visit brought nationwide publicity to the struggle — a 15-minute segment of Charles Kurault’s “Sunday Morning” show devoted to the then seven-month old strike!



Angela Davis speaking out against unemployment and union-busting.

In Russia, but not Iowa?

Angela Davis, the Communist Party candidate for vice president of the United States, spoke Sunday at Camanche. She was in the Clinton area to support members of the American Federation of Grain Millers Local 6 who have been on strike against Clinton Corn Processing Co. for more than seven months, but the local’s executive board voted not to let her use their hall. The attorney who invited her received death

threats.

The Rev. Gilbert Dawes, to his credit, invited her to use St. Mark’s United Methodist Church instead. Because of the angry crowd in front of the church, she slipped in and out a back door.

So what about the rights of Davis and those who wanted to hear her?

“Let her go to Russia if she wants to speak freely,” said one protester.

Think about it.

Left: An Editorial which appeared in the Des Moines Register Sunday, March 9, 1980, asking a very relevant question.

THE MARCH 15 RALLY

The biggest rally that was held since Labor Day was on March 15, 1980. That Saturday's rally was the end of a week's accumulation of work for CBS Network. There were 1200 people in attendance to show their support and solidarity in this long and bitter fight against big business!

Many thought that the absence of the International Grain Millers Union President, Frank Hoese, was a sign of non-support for Local #6. He, along with Lloyd Freilinger, A.F.G.M. International vice president; Oscar Mondragon, an official of the United Farm Workers Union of California; Sylvia Woods, an early union organizer for the Garment Workers in Chicago who starred in the film "Union Maids" and many other outstanding union leaders from nearby communities were invited to be guest speakers.

After the rally of excellent speakers and union songs, there was a motorcade through Clinton which ended west of town.

After this motorcade, several hundred people visited the main gates of CCPC. This peaceful demonstration was successful in turning back several vehicles of scabs going to work. There was only one arrest on disorderly conduct, but, after posting bond of \$150, Ronald Foss of Moline was released.

The day ended with a potluck supper which was prepared at the Union Hall for the members, supporters and their families. Many thanks goes to Edna Sanderson for heading the job of chief cook for all our enjoyable meals and also to the many people, too numerous to name, who helped her!



Sylvia Woods, an early union organizer, speaks out on behalf of labor and against union-busting.



Emotions ran high. A union supporter registers disapproval of a "scabs" action.

CLINTON POLICE GO BERSERK

A peaceful demonstration at the gates of Clinton Corn Processing Co. was broken up by a large detachment of police who were equipped with full riot gear, Friday, March 28, 1980. Six persons were arrested and several more were sprayed with chemicals and struck with clubs by police who appeared to have gone berserk. Among those arrested were Wayne Schumacher, President of a UAW local in the Quad Cities, a 17-year-old boy and a woman.

At about 9:30 p.m., a small group of supporters of Grain Millers Local #6 arrived at the plant gates to express solidarity with the striking workers and to jeer at the scabs who were crossing the picket lines. The group of demonstrators consisted of 20 to 30 people from Clinton, the Quad Cities and Marshalltown.

Shortly after the demonstrators arrived and began the peaceful expression of their disgust for the scabs, two police cars drove up and, after a few minutes, arrested a 17-year-old juvenile. It was speculated that the youth was arrested because he was wearing a ski mask and the police, mistakenly, thought he was a member of Local #6.

As soon as the boy had been arrested, the demonstrators began collecting money, from among themselves, to secure his release on bail. In just a few minutes, they had over a hundred dollars gathered and two people were sent to Local #6 with the money. At the Hall, the Clinton Law Enforcement Center was contacted to find out the exact cost of the bail. The

police reported that no bail would be set until the next day and that the prisoner would be held overnight. An attorney who represents Local #6 was contacted and agreed to go to the jail.

Shortly after the first young man was arrested, the police riot detachment arrived at the company gates with a paddy wagon and five more demonstrators, who were badly outnumbered by the well-equipped police, were arrested. One demonstrator, who asked not to be identified said, "It was like the police just went wild, spraying people with mace, swinging clubs, arresting people right and left. It was amazing that no one was hurt seriously."

During the night, the police released the youth to his parents. The next morning (Saturday) the five remaining prisoners were arraigned and, after refusing to sign a conditional release stating that they would not participate in any demonstrations, protests or rallies of any kind, the charges were upped from simple misdemeanor to rioting, in order to make "examples" of them.

Bail was set at \$1,000 each. One of the people who was at the courthouse to show solidarity with the arrested demonstrators said, "The Clinton County Attorney has sold his soul to Clinton Corn." Another person said, "These miscarriages of justice and these abuses of power are becoming all too common in Clinton. It's like Clinton has left the United States and is living under a law of its own, a law written by and for Clinton Corn. It's enough to make you sick."

Mike Messina — UAW #893



Clinton Police "Dressed to Kill"

Clinton Police would often appear at the gates to confront women and children dressed in "full riot gear": Helmets, pistols, mace, gas masks, gloves with metal inserted at the knuckles and weighted pick-ax handles.

APRIL

MINISTER BEATEN

On the evening of April 10, 1980, Rev. Gil Dawes and UAW member, Michael Malmstrom, sustained a beating at the hands of several fully riot-equipped police while leaving a demonstration at the gates of Clinton Corn in support of Local #6.

Incidentally, or maybe coincidentally, earlier Rev. Dawes had spoken at a Public Safety Committee meeting about the apparent overall policy of police harassment of strikers and supporters.

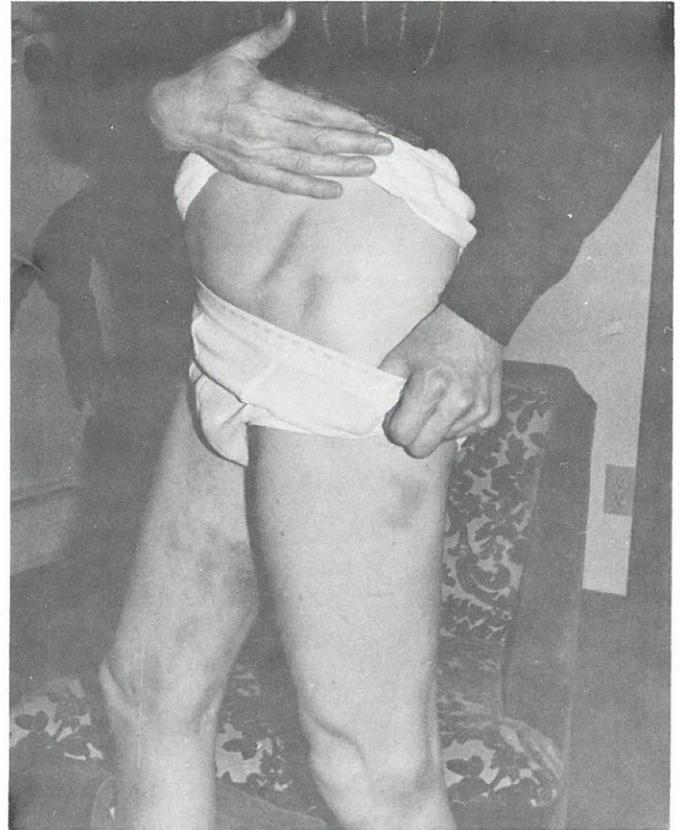
The police alleged that they ordered the demonstrators to leave the area, but they did not do so. Although the directive came over the scanner that they were to use the P.A. to tell them to leave, it was never carried out. Instead, about 30 policemen in full riot gear formed a line across the road and began walking toward the demonstrators who were already leaving the area!

Following is an eyewitness account of what happened next:

"I was at the back of the group and saw Mr. Malmstrom, hands clasped behind his head, lagging behind. Worrying about the safety of others, he repeatedly prompted us to move along and, as I glanced over my shoulders, I saw police getting closer and closer to him. He said he wanted witnesses — three people to turn around and walk backwards. I noticed Rev. Dawes, who was off to my left, turn around with his hands clasped behind his head also. As I looked back again, I saw police were very near Mr. Malmstrom. Rev. Dawes began dropping behind us due to his inability to walk as swiftly backward. Police appeared to catch up to both men about the same time, encircled them and began beating them with their pickax handles. The two men dropped to the ground, huddled up to try to protect themselves to no avail. The police began kicking them in the ribs as they lay on the ground."

Both men were arrested on charges of rioting and interference with official acts. After finally receiving a change of venue, justice prevailed! On Friday, June 27, Rev. Dawes was acquitted by 12 Scott County jurors on both charges!

In his superb summation, defense attorney Franklin Wallace examined the state's evidence: conflicting testimony by members of the Clinton Police Force, a CCPC video tape which showed a group of people standing along the side of the road for over an hour doing nothing more than talking, a questionable picture of a



Rev. Gil Dawes shows a severely bruised thigh which came as a result of a beating by Clinton police officers.

car with the rear passenger window missing — with no jagged glass. He called the rest a coverup, an afterthought to the beating of Rev. Dawes. He also read to the jurors from Genesis the story of Cain and Abel and explained to them that Rev. Dawes feels very strongly that he is his brothers' and sisters' keeper and cautioned them that unless we protect a person's right to take a position and speak out that we could turn into a nation of sheep being led silently to the slaughter. With the admonition to "ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for you," the jurors, at 3:30 went to deliberate the case. At 7:10, they had reached a verdict and when the judge returned from supper at 8:00, the foreman of the jury was able to give him that verdict: not guilty on both charges!

A RALLY OF CELEBRATION APRIL 26, 1980

The labor rally held on Saturday, April 26, 1980 at the Clinton Ballpark, began with the opportunity to hear a number of nationally-known speakers and ended with a walk along 2 blocks of U.S. 30 a block away from the corn plant, where supporters carried signs, seeking support from the city residents passing by along the busy street.

The fiery keynote speaker was William Winpisinger, International President of the Machinists union, who noted that "union breaking is a billion-and-a-half dollar industry" and called the corporations involved in union-busting "egg-sucking dogs." He asked what other "civilized society creates millionaires from people who go around the country and tell people how to break the law with impunity."

Another speaker, Randy Barber, co-author of *The North Shall Rise Again*, told the crowd that CCPC would stay in Iowa "because they haven't figured out how to crate up those cornfields and move them somewhere else." He also spoke of the union-busting actions here as "an attempt to make Iowa safe for non-union gasohol."

Rev. Gil Dawes, beaten by Clinton police two weeks earlier, told the crowd that "No amount of police clubs can knock out the sense of satisfaction that has come from working with people who are here today." He went on to speak of the sense of community growing among the people involved in the strike. "I have seen people who have learned to care and share with one another, people who in the beginning didn't get along. I've seen a sense of community grow that overrides all that. We have a sense of caring for one another that is beautiful. That's something nobody can take away from us."

International Grain Millers' President Frank Hoesel promised the group he would contact AFL-CIO officials to ask for implementation of a national boycott of Standard Brands, owner of CCPC. (It should be noted that this boycott was **not** implemented!)

Although two shifts of riot-equipped police were lying in wait at the plant gates, with sheriff's deputies, Iowa Highway Patrol officers, and Camanche, Iowa police officers roaming the area, no incidents were provoked, and after the march along U.S. 30, the supporters went to the union hall where they celebrated the release from jail of the last union members sentenced in connection with the Labor Day Rally at CCPC.



William Winpisinger, International President of the Machinists Union, speaks before the rally with union members, while Randy Barber, at left in picture, co-author of *The North Shall Rise Again*, listens to another union supporter.



Rev. Gil Dawes addresses the crowd at Riverview Park.

MAY

NO POLICE — NO VIOLENCE

What was to be the last rally of the strike was held on May 24, 1980 on a hillside at Riverview Park. It drew support from labor groups across the state. Under sunny skies the audience heard from Mike Kravovich, Local Six Business Agent; Lloyd Frielinger, a Regional Grain Millers Official; and Bob Soesbe, Clinton Labor Congress Vice-President.

After the speeches, a walk along Camanche Avenue was organized with flags and picket signs. Since this had been an effective way to be seen by the people of Clinton at the last rally, it was done again. There were very few police present. Isn't it strange — no police, no violence?? Maybe the violence that took place at other rallies was in part instigated by the authorities???

All that walking seemed to stimulate the appetites of everyone. The demonstrators ended their walk through town at the Labor Temple. Good food, music and fellowship was waiting and enjoyed very much by all.



Union supporters again take their signs to the people of Clinton.



Part of the crowd at Riverview Park.



Supporters cross Camanche Avenue.



In front of the Union Hall.

**The following TASK FORCE REPORT was prepared by:
ECUMENICAL PASTORAL TASK FORCE and this report is printed
in this ad, with their permission.**

TASK FORCE REPORT

On June 13, 1980 a decertification vote will take place at the Clinton Corn Processing Company, a subsidiary of Standard Brands. At stake is whether a 43 year old union, the American Federation of Grain Millers Local #6, will continue to represent the workers at C.C.P.C. Voting will be done by members of Local #6 who have been on strike since August 1, 1979, as well as those "replacement workers" whom C.C.P.C. has hired during the strike and those strikers who have crossed picket lines to return to waiting job. In our judgment **should Local #6 lose the vote, it will represent the culmination of an effort begun by C.C.P.C. in 1975 to destroy Local #6.**

Since 1975, Local #6 has been forced to take 22 grievances to arbitration (whereas from 1937 to 1975 — about 40 years — only 15 cases had to go to the fourth level of arbitration) — **the union winning 18 of those 22.** Such a dramatic increase in the use of the full arbitration process indicates a clear deterioration of the labor/management relationship at C.C.P.C. This deterioration could have been avoided had C.C.P.C. management continued to solve its labor problems through company level settlements, as it had done for 38 years previous. Obviously, the increased number of arbitration cases has been a serious drain on Local #6's resources (a small union of some 750 members).

C.C.P.C. gave a clear signal of its intransigence toward Local #6, when the present strike began on August 1st. 1½ hours after the strike notification, C.C.P.C. had ads in the local paper seeking "replacement workers". It is also significant that C.C.P.C.'s main negotiating focus prior to the strike was on a 17¢ wage increase over 2 years, disregarding important union concerns such as worker safety, grievances and seniority issues. Such a focus could easily be labeled as a tactic in "union busting" since union membership could be anticipated to veto such a narrow contract. Recent proposals by C.C.P.C. have added little to their original offer — in fact, the latest would cost the union 250 jobs.

C.C.P.C. has taken the position that the present strike is illegal. We find no evidence to support this contention - no ruling from the N.L.R.B. In fact, Local #6 has signed a "Settlement agreement" with the N.L.R.B. pursuant to adjudicated complaints over issues negotiated in the bargaining process. Such unfounded contentions only serve to deepen feelings of animosity that easily develop during a strike situation — preventing "good faith bargaining". Moreover, C.C.P.C. raised serious doubts about its good faith position by hiring the services of a legal firm that was involved in a "union busting" effort against the employees of the DeLevan Company in Des Moines.

The reader of this Task Force Report may well wonder why so far only the C.C.P.C. has been singled out for criticism. The issue that the task force gave special attention to was **obstacles to negotiations.** Once it was felt that "union busting" tactics were indeed in use, then they became the major focus of our investigation. The report reflects this major focus. The injustice of a situation in which a small local union must contend with all the resources of a large multinational conglomerate (Standard Brands) makes contentions by that multinational even more suspect. Standard Brands has already admitted suffering large monetary losses from the strike fund. Why should not the union bargain in good faith (and we have no evidence to the contrary)? The long strike has dealt a crippling blow to most union members who have had to use their savings, go into debt, face difficult family situations and even suffer the loss of their homes. The above questions and scenario makes sense against only one situation — **that of a large multinational willing and able to take a monetary loss in order to destroy a small local union.**

Not only the union, but the entire town of Clinton, Ia, stands to lose from this present protracted strike. There is the obvious loss of spending money in the

local stores. But more important, there is the divided feelings that grow each day in the homes, schools and churches of the community. The members of Local #6 have always been for the most part local people. Unfortunately C.C.P.C. has ceased to be local. In 1977, it became a division of Standard Brands — a multinational conglomerate. With such large firms, it is hard to find out what is the ultimate goal for a local operation such as C.C.P.C. Is it to be sold? Is it to be run for a few more years before closing it down? Is it in the plans of the conglomerate to operate it only if there is no longer a Local #6 speaking for the workers? The task force found no answers to these questions — only rumors. It found **no constructive relationship between C.C.P.C. and the town of Clinton. At present it is an employer that is also a divisive influence on Clinton, Ia.**

Another unfortunate effect of this 10 month strike is incidents of violence. Replacement workers (a significant number of whom are out-of-towners and even out-of-staters) crossing pickets manned by local town people is always a tense situation. In our judgment this tense situation has been escalated by excessive police force and an injunction issued on behalf of C.C.P.C., which unrealistically limits picketing by the Local #6. Moreover, there is already evidence that the application of the law has fallen harder upon the members of Local #6 than upon those who have taken their jobs away. A strange effect of the strike has been to make the strikers rather than the multinational conglomerate the "outsider" to courts that should be sympathetic to local problems and needs.

As the decertification vote draws near, C.C.P.C. has given its clearest signal of "union busting" intentions by the dismissal of 15 union members and the exclusion of 155 others from the voting list. This must be seen as counting votes. Moreover, C.C.P.C. has been making every effort to lure strikers across the picket line — offering them immediate jobs, as opposed to being placed on a mere preferential hiring list after a strike settlement.

This Ecumenical Pastoral Task Force has made a careful investigation of the present impasse that exists in the negotiations between Local #6 and C.C.P.C. We invite others to do the same. **Based on our investigations we strongly urge binding arbitration as the solution rather than a decertification vote. Failing this we recommend to the general public a boycott of Standard Brands' products until C.C.P.C. restores the good faith bargaining situation.** We feel that such a move will require certain policy changes by the present management of C.C.P.C. We especially call upon Standard Brands, the real directors of C.C.P.C., to implement these changes.

ECUMENICAL PASTORAL TASK FORCE

Rev. James M. Reed, Pastor
Methodist Federation for Social Action
Richards Street United Methodist Church
Joliet, Illinois
Sr. Mary O'Keefe, O.P.
Co-Director
National Assembly of Women Religious
Chicago, Illinois
Rev. William B. Munday, Sociologist
Minister, DuPage Unitarian Church
DuPage, Illinois
Rev. Tom Peyton, M.M.
Directory of Ministry for Justice and Peace
National Federation of Priests' Councils
Notre Dame University
South Bend, Indiana

This ad authorized and paid for by Local #6 American Federation of Grain Millers, Executive Board Thomas Foster, Chairman

JUNE

On May 8, 1980 it was announced that there would be a decertification vote at Clinton Corn. Details had been worked out the previous day with a meeting between Mike, Timothy White (a Cedar Rapids attorney who represented the workers that petitioned for the decert), and the NLRB.

Under the threat that Clinton Corn would assuredly delay the vote until after August 1 (at which time only current plant workers would be eligible to vote) the union reluctantly accepted their terms. Terms that included a "roving poll" throughout the plant to insure that all voted.

Almost immediately Clinton Corn announced the firing of 15 strikers for supposed "involved misconduct during the strike." Simultaneously, the Clinton Herald started their red-scare campaign. Also, an insurance scheme surfaced. Someone was calling strikers, stating he was an agent for Metropolitan Insurance Company (the company that insures Clinton Corn workers) and inquiring as to if and where they were presently working. It was clearly a plot by Clinton Corn or leaders of the decert to obtain more contested ballots in the upcoming vote.

The union also went right to work. We started mailing and handing out flyers at the plant gates. We hoped that if we printed what the union had and could do for the plant workers, we could obtain the votes we needed to win.

Father Tom Peyton and the ecumenical task force gave additional support. Their report stated very bluntly that Clinton Corn denied everything and went so far as to officially announce they would not accept the task force report on the grounds that it was not authorized by any "governmental agency."

When we received a full list of eligible voters, we found there were 1200 eligible to vote. The interesting fact is that throughout negotiations the company claimed to be able to operate the plant with 500 employees, but in actuality they now had 690 employees. It was evident to us that the company had overstaffed the plant for the decert vote.

An excellent campaign under the leadership of Jack Lick, a "floating representative" of the International, was evidenced by the fact that the company was put on the defense throughout the campaign. They refuted all our accusations, sometimes even with flagrant lies. They stated they would contest hundreds of votes by union members in the hopes of possibly discouraging some of them from voting.

Friday, June 13th at 6 a.m., we were still down at the plant gates handing out leaflets in the rain. D-day was here. The atmosphere at the union hall was one of quiet anxiety and yet optimistic confidence that we would win.

When we got to the polling place at Chancy Fire Station there was a feeling of hostility due to the fact that the company was challenging every single vote cast by union members. It was also a tactic in hopes of discouraging members from waiting in the long, slow-moving line. It worked in a few instances, but to most it gave us an even more determined reason to endure, although it took some even as long as an hour-and-a-half to vote.



Strikers waiting to vote.

Nothing was really planned at the hall for the evening, but most of the loyal union members planned to gather and celebrate our victory. There was laughing and singing led by Tim Yeager, but the tension of the hard 10-month battle could be felt by everyone under the surface. Our future was in the air. Mike left to watch the counting of the ballots. The singing and hand-clapping became louder. At 10:20 p.m., Mike handed the results to Tim Yeager and left. Tim looked at it and I think realized what it meant, but said he didn't understand. I saw the results, but didn't want to, and with a lump in my throat, couldn't announce them. Mike returned, took the paper and, standing in the circle of desperately hopeful people, read the outcome: 567 votes for decert, 48 for the union and 414 challenged ballots. We had lost.

There was a violent outburst from one union member, denouncing the company and R. G. Koons. Several women cried. There was a feeling of shock, like someone had ripped a part of their hearts out. For the next several minutes everyone milled around, unsure of anything. The disappointment was indescribable. Mike asked everyone to move toward the stage and stepped up, to a standing ovation. Mike urged everyone to stick together and continue fighting, and assured us we would start all over again. Then Gil Dawes spoke after another standing ovation. He told us now, more than ever, we would have to stand united, and help each other. Tom Brigham spoke briefly, offering his help to any of his union family. Then, locked arm in arm, we stood and sang. There wasn't a person there that didn't have at least a single tear in their eye as we sang "we shall not be moved." Afterwards everyone seemed to just slip away.

I took most of the entire weekend to come out of shock. It just seemed impossible that the heart and soul beliefs of so many people could be defeated. Most would do the same again, because deep down they know we were right. We may have been decertified but try telling any Local #6 member that we didn't win!

JULY

LABOR TEMPLE FOR SALE

Without the continuation of Local 6 as the largest supporting member of the Labor Temple, the continued maintenance and upkeep of the building is impossible, and the Board of Trustees of the Labor Temple voted to put the building up for sale at their summer meeting. Several locals have rented space in office buildings throughout the downtown Clinton area at this time.



In late September, the Clinton Labor Temple, once known as the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Temple, was sold to a local developer, ending an 80-year history which witnessed a variety of enterprises occupying the site: a soup kitchen during the depression, a tailor shop, a laundry, a chiropractor's office, as well as numerous labor unions using the facilities for membership meetings.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION HASSLE

Imagining that the decertification vote would signify the end of the struggle for the time being, unemployed union members received another unpleasant surprise from CCPC and Job Service of Iowa with a ruling that one striker was not eligible to receive unemployment benefits. The Job Service employee who heard the case ruled that the striker was not eligible because there was not a 100% work stoppage at CCPC during the strike. Such reasoning is not only unfounded, but is also a waste of appeal time and money.

CCPC has since appealed unemployment benefits to all strikers, but there is a question as to the timeliness of their appeal, which should have occurred shortly after claims were processed. It appears that this is simply another attempt on the part of the company to prolong the agony and frustrations of the past year.



Harry Smith, union lawyer from Sioux City.

AUGUST

SECOND ANNUAL LABOR DAY RALLY

A misty, cool, Saturday morning in August marked the Second Annual Labor Day Rally in Clinton, yet even the rain-filled clouds did not dampen the spirits of the 200 union members and supporters gathered along Riverfront Park to listen to area labor leaders.

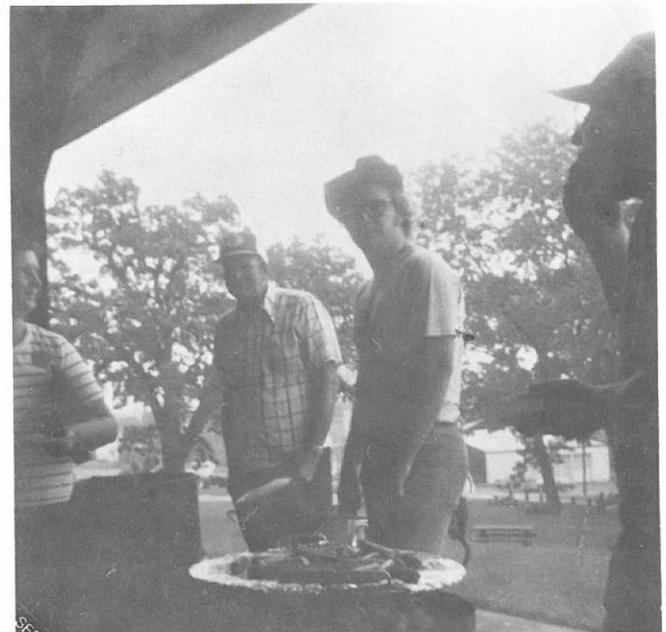


Union Business Agent, Mike Krajnovich, with Iowa Federation of Labor President, James Wengert.

Harry Smith, union lawyer from Sioux City, addressed the crowd, remarking about the hard feelings caused by the uncalled for fining of union supporters during the past 12 months which would leave the community scarred for years to come.

James Wengert, President of the Iowa Federation of Labor, was there to present a special commendation to Rev. Gil Dawes for his spiritual leadership to and support of organized labor.

The gathering reconvened at Chancy Park for a picnic and an afternoon of being together. It provided an opportunity for those supporters from out of town to visit with local union members and to carry the lesson of the strike to other towns.



Picnic at the park.

SUPPORT AND NON-SUPPORT

SUPPORT FROM OTHERS

It would be impossible to enumerate all the help received from individuals, unions, and federations around this area, state, and even throughout the nation.

Financial help came from our own members who went to work elsewhere and gave a portion of their weekly wage to other unions who in some instances gave in excess of \$50,000.

Other support should also be mentioned: the attendance at rallies and demonstrations, cards and letters to our brothers in jail, food donations, contributions to our Christmas toy drive, and the show of solidarity we received from thousands of people. But moral support was probably the greatest; they gave us the courage to struggle on.

Many contributions will probably never be known, but Local #6 learned the true meaning of solidarity. We will always be grateful, and for this we say "thank you for your show of support and for this you will always be remembered."



Father Bill.

THE PRAYER RALLIES

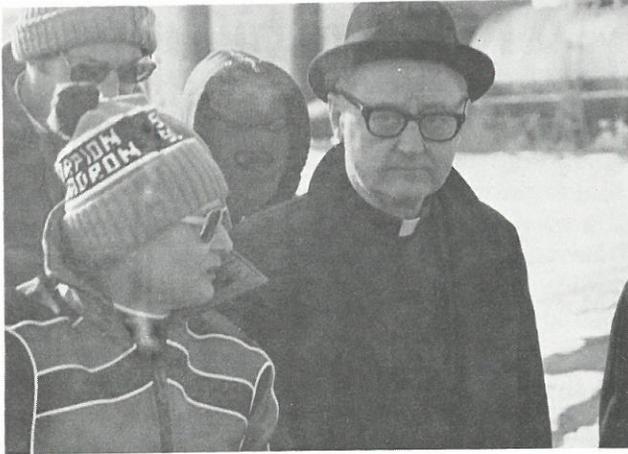
By Mary Ellen Eckelberg — Clinton Catholic Workers
Machinists Lodge #102

On Saturday morning, September 29, 1979, there was an auspicious beginning for the Catholic Workers in Clinton — a Mass was concelebrated by the priests of the city for a "just and peaceful settlement" of the strike. But the words of prayers didn't seem enough to dent even the smallest issue surrounding the strike.

A few days later, a Local 6 wife, Dee Leonard of Concerned Citizens and I talked about Pope John Paul II coming to Iowa on October 4, to celebrate his Mass at Living Farms on the west side of Des Moines. Why not take a picket sign over to the event, showing everyone who came of a real issue of justice at stake in this state? The side of the sign read: "Where the greater the anger, the higher the explosion of love." These words of the Holy Father were from his poem, "The Quarry — in memory of the death of a fellow worker." This motto became the slogan of the Catholic Workers. The most rewarding part of this journey, with 350,000 other people who came to Living Farms, was that someone did see Dee's sign and reported it to Bishop Maurice Dingman, the pontiff's host — that indeed Local 6 was represented and acknowledged midst that throng of pilgrims!

The next step for us was to alert various Catholic Worker groups around the state to attend the next few rallies organized by Concerned Citizens down at the gates of Clinton Corn. Accordingly, called out of retirement was the noted labor priest of the state, Rev. William T. O'Connor who once again walked the picket line for a union he saw born back in 1937 — and later chaplain of for so many years — and throughout the coming months would anguish at seeing it in its death throws.

But even these brief walks down to the gates seemed so small in sight of the increasingly serious moral implications of the strike as a real union-busting effort against all workers in the area. Mid-November, the Most Rev. Gerald O'Keefe, the Bishop of Davenport, wrote his first letter to the Clinton pastors, urging them to support the strikers with whatever means available. A Thanksgiving food and clothing drive was soon underway. But even that didn't seem enough, as the strike dragged on towards Christmas.



Monsignor George Higgins with Mary Ellen Eckelberg, calls CCPC cameras "Mickey Mouse."

Accordingly, on December 23, Catholic Workers organized their first prayer rally down in the coal pit, with a short march to the gates, with more prayers and carols. Several Clinton priests attended, along with Father O'Connor and Father Marvin Mottet, director of the Campaign for Human Development, United States Catholic Conference, Washington, D.C. A few weeks later, word came that Msgr. George Higgins, the Church's leading labor rights activist, would himself come down to the picket line — on February 10, 1980.

The rally followed the same format, again ending with a big supper for the strikers and participants at the labor temple. The Monsignor also had a few more words to say at the press conference afterwards at the temple — after weathering, with 200 on-lookers, the

blustery cold wind of that Sunday afternoon. He called Clinton Corn's camera tactics of participants "offensive" — "Mickey Mouse." But more serious, he issued this challenge to the company:

"This union must not be destroyed . . . If that is (the company's) aim, I would find that most reprehensible, completely unethical, and from their point of view, of course, completely unwise. It would destroy this community and leave scars that would be here for generations."

After the rally, allegations were made of intimidations by company officials against the local Catholic clergy to lessen their support of the strikers. The only clergy in attendance were chancery officials from Davenport plus several ministers, as Rev. Gil Dawes and Rev. Martin Miller, of the United Methodist Church.

At the Catholic Workers third prayer rally, Palm Sunday, March 30, Father Patrick Sullivan of the University of Notre Dame came to Clinton, representing CCUM — Catholic Committee of Urban Ministry. He spoke on a similar theme of the community's responsibility to come to the aid of the strikers. The prayer service in Chancy Park was then followed by a windy and drizzly procession of the Way of the Cross to the gates of Clinton Corn. Again this rally was peaceful but at its end, a company goon tried to disrupt it by driving his car into the midst of the dispersing crowd on the viaduct — he ended up with some good bruises and a few flat tires on his car. Once again Catholic clergy from Davenport and the chancery attended the service and marched to the gates.



Palm Sunday Rally.



On May 17, Bishop O'Keefe himself came to Clinton to speak to the strikers. Preceding his visit, Father Tom Payton, M.M., director of the Ministry for Justice and Peace, the National Federation of Priests' Councils (Chicago, Illinois), in anticipation of bringing in an ecumenical task force to do a case study of the strike, as a "classic" case of union-busting.

With about 120 people attending the indoor rally at St. Irenaeus Jackson Center (and once again chancery officials of the Social Action Department with him), the Bishop spoke:

"Even if . . . all the right were on the company's side, they still need as a powerful group in our country — this great corporation needs — to deal with fairness and even more than that, with concern for their workers. And I would call on them to exercise that concern — to be ready to continue to negotiate and to work for a peaceful and a good settlement."

As with the first prayer rally, the parish priests in the immediate area of Lyons, attended the rally, plus

Father O'Connor whose talk preceded the Bishop's, urging all workers to vote "yes" to keep Local 6 from being decertified on June 13.

A few days before the decertification, Father Peyton returned to Clinton to defend his case study of the strike at a press conference, stating: "My Church believes that union-busting is immoral." Instead of going ahead with the vote, he recommended binding arbitration, or else, if that failed, implementation of the boycott until Clinton Corn restored the good faith bargaining situation.

But it seemed like anything done was never enough. And one wonders why. Perhaps one answer would have been found for so many more people if they could have heard what Msgr. Higgins said to me the night before that rally in February when I told him of the injunction and so many people being afraid of it. He replied: "I don't give a damn about that injunction!" When I related that line later to Father O'Connor, he answered: "Mary, I said that to him . . ."

I wish more people would have said the same thing.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

University of Massachusetts
Economics Department

June 18, 1980

Dear Local 6 members, Concerned Citizens, Clinton Catholic Workers, and members of St. Marks Church,

It was a long drive back to Massachusetts, but there was a lot to begin thinking about. We're starting to sort through the huge amount of information we collected and expect it to be a long process before we actually put everything all together. Our first publication deadline is July 2 though, so we can't take too long.

We wanted to send this letter right away to express some of our feelings about our experience in Clinton. We realize that we came to Clinton at a very uneasy time . . . one week before the election, and after ten months of a long and difficult strike! Yet, virtually everyone we met openly offered their time, their ideas, their hospitality, and their hearts to us. We thank you for that. But we wanted to do more than just thank you for all of your help. We think you should know how deeply your struggle has affected us.

There have been many times when we have had to listen to or read accounts by intellectuals (most who have never "worked" at all) on how the "labor movement is dead," and how workers "only look out for number one and don't give a damn about their brothers and sisters. What we saw in the short time we were in Clinton was something very different from this. We saw a solid community of people in Local 6, the Concerned Citizens, and St. Marks Church hold together for over 10 months against incredible odds. We saw you take on a massive multinational corporation with its billions of dollars and its army of union-busting lawyers; you confronted the Clinton business community; you confronted the City Council, the police force, the news media, the scabs, you even had to confront the inaction of the International and the AFL-CIO in general. Against all of these odds you hung together. When the full force of the "system" was let loose against you, you answered with an incredible display of solidarity, determination and principle. While this battle might have been lost for now, you have shown the multinationals and the people all over the country struggling against them, that workers will not be denied. They may be beaten in any given battle but they will never be broken. If our reading of labor history tells us anything it tells us that you are living proof.

Your strike has, and will continue to inspire others as it has inspired us. The high degree of consciousness, understanding, and community which you've developed in the course of your fight will no doubt be an ex-



ample to others as well as a continuous source of strength to all of you. You have been "educators" in the best sense of that term. There are many, many things which we feel but cannot convey here. We only hope that the accounts we write will do justice to your (and our) struggle.

In order to assure that we provide just such an accurate portrait, we'll send drafts of article that we write and hope that you circulate, read, comment and send them back to us before publication.

One thing before closing — we've been looking through a bunch of union-busting material since we've returned. In 1978 alone there were 803 decertification votes with companies winning 594 of them! It's clear Clinton Corn's strategy is part of a national pattern, complete with not only union busting law firms like Marsack's but also consulting firms that for \$600 per day provide the company with reams and reams of information on how to bust their unions. Parts of Clinton Corn's decertification letters to scabs are taken almost verbatim from "Modern Management Methods," one of these 'consulting' firms out of Chicago. (We suspected Koons didn't have the brains to write them himself.) We don't doubt that most unions in this country will be under attack in the next few years. Unless the AFL-CIO develops a strong counter-offensive strategy (money, lawyers, human resources, collective power of workers, etc.) the whole labor movement is in trouble. It's too bad that Local 6 has had to bear the burden of the shortsightedness of the AFL-CIO leadership.

Enough for now. Our hearts and our thanks are with you.

In solidarity,
Rick Fantasia and John Schall

WE FOUGHT THE FIGHT ALONE

To challenge a multinational corporation as Standard Brands is almost an insurmountable task, but to do so without any support from the community proved to be an impossible task.

It was clear that the judicial system and Clinton police force were prejudiced against the strike in general and particularly the Local #6 members. Judges — Hobart Darbyshire and Arlan Van Zee, County attorneys Wylie Pillars, Joe Beck, Bruce Johnson, and police officials Donald Flood and Wayne Wilke, reiterated again and again their “unbiased” treatment of matters concerning Clinton Corn and Local #6. While Local #6 members and their supporters received trumped-up charges of kidnapping, terrorism, and rioting, Standard Brands supporters received downgraded charges for such serious offenses as assault with a weapon, hit and run, and even rape. Yet two months after decertification, suddenly there is a public outcry of the immature actions of the police, and the poor quality of judicial leadership from the county attorney’s office and court system. Even the “corporation-oriented” Clinton Herald editorializes on the “crackdown on crime,” “who polices the police,” and the “creaky court system.” Could it be our community has finally realized that Local #6 should not be condemned for criticizing the “justice” it received from the law systems of Clinton. It appears now that Local #6 has forced the community to take a serious look at our police-oriented city and the changes needed in our ineffective judicial system.

The news media, (particularly WHBF television, with its Labor Day films) was biased in strike coverage. Channel Four films, along with the city attorney’s office, and Clinton Corn officials, obtained unfair jail sentences for Local #6 members and supporters. These films are now being used by corporations and union-busting firms in certification elections and also in union-busting attempts.

The Clinton Herald, with its daily prejudicial editorials, reporting and comments greatly influenced the community’s opinions on the strike. Clinton Herald management and Clinton Corn officials worked hand in hand on strike coverage downgrading the union. It very successfully used “red-scare” against Local #6 on the Angela Davis issue. Daily editorials, comments, reports and letters correlating Tim Yeager, communists and Local #6 appeared. The Clinton Herald was the major instrument in the age-old war maneuver “divide and conquer” which companies like Standard Brands use to defeat their foe, the working man.

Few businesses and individuals had outspoken support for the union’s efforts. The Clinton Chamber of Congress was told to stay out of it and they complied.

Mayor Dwain Walters has to be given credit for his half-hearted attempts of relieving the problems confronting the Local. The mayor and the council’s main concern was to stay “impartial,” though this impartiality seemed to benefit Clinton Corn time and time again by refusing action on police harassment, pollution, picket sheds and numerous other items.

The churches of the community seemed to take the same line of impartiality. Their general consensus seemed to be, and as much as stated it when contacted, “We can’t afford to speak up and help you.” It seems demoralizing and degrading when ministers, no matter what denomination, can put a dollar sign on human suffering.

Next to Clinton Corn we probably had to fight the International and AFL-CIO the hardest. If only they would have backed our decisions instead of criticizing them. If they would have implemented the boycott last year when we first requested it, Standard Brands might have been forced to listen. Complete faith and backing of any local in this type of struggle is essential.

Perhaps a summation of the non-support of the community comes from two people outside the area, John Schall and Rick Fantasia, studying strikes and their effects, from the University of Massachusetts said it like this:

“There have been many times when we had to listen to or read accounts by intellectuals (most who have never “worked” at all) on how the “labor movement is dead,” and how workers “only look out for number 1 and don’t give a damn about their brothers and sisters.” What we saw in the short time we were in Clinton was something very different from this. We saw a solid community of people in Local 6, the concerned citizens, and St. Marks Church hold together for over 10 months against incredible odds. We saw you take on a massive multinational corporation with its billions of dollars and its army of union-busting lawyers; you confronted the Clinton Business community; you confronted the city council, the police force, the news media, the scabs; you even had to confront the inaction of the International and AFL-CIO in general. Against all of these odds you hung together. When the full force of the “system” was let loose against you, you answered with an incredible display of solidarity, determination and principle. While this battle might have been lost for now, you have shown the multinationals and the people all over this country struggling against them, that workers will not be denied. They may be beaten in any given battle, but they will never be broken. If our reading of labor history tells us anything, it tells us that you are living proof.”

We fought a fight united against almost insurmountable odds. We may have been decertified, but we are not defeated!

PROFILE

A PROFILE OF STANDARD BRANDS

HISTORY

The Clinton Corn Processing Company is not owned and controlled by people in Iowa. It is owned by Standard Brands, Inc., which is based in New York. SBI is a trans-national corporation which is a major manufacturer, processor and distributor of food and related products in the United States, Canada, Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe. It was organized in 1929 upon the consolidation of the firms The Fleischmann Company, Royal Baking Powder Company, Chase and Sanborn, Inc. and E. W. Gillett Company, Ltd. (Canada). The company has pursued a course of expansion largely based upon merger and acquisition; 1978 sales rank it 123rd among the country's 500 largest corporations and return on equity put it in 261st place. Unlike many food corporations, Standard Brands has diversified little into outside industries, and even then only into related areas such as packaging and chemicals. In the international arena, the company comprises one of the most extensive food transnationals around. Its operations extend to every continent and region. It finds itself in leading market positions in Canada and South America. Future years will likely show Standard Brands as an important focal point for the growing concentration of the food industry.

According to *Milling and Baking News*, Clinton Corn Processing Company is the third largest corn refiner in the United States. Total 24-hour grind capacity of the company's Clinton, Iowa plant is 110,000 bushels, which is almost 4 times larger than the Company's operations in Montezuma, New York.

Standard Brands acquired Clinton Foods, Inc. in 1956 for \$58.51 million. Included in the sale were Clinton Foods' corn processing division, American Partition Division and \$11.2 million worth of Minute Maid Corporation debentures. Until January 1, 1977, Clinton Corn Processing Company, Inc. constituted a fully-owned subsidiary of Standard Brands; on that date, it was merged into the parent company — Standard Brands Incorporated — with the result that it now forms the Clinton Corn Division of Standard Brands. This corporate structure makes it extremely difficult to obtain detailed financial information about Clinton Corn.

CLINTON CORN'S RECORD . . .

" . . . plant has maintained normal production, it has been operating just as efficiently with a smaller work force." they said.

What do you think?

November 1 — OSHA cited Clinco violations:

"failed to keep the plant in safe and sanitary condition."

"failed to enclose live electrical wiring."

"failed to report injuries on job within required time."

December 11 — Standard Brands accused of price fixing by the U. S. Justice Department.

December 12 — Odor abatement project at Clinton Corn stalled by strike.

Company states "upsets caused by human error" and blames Local 6 . . . this is three months after strike began.

January 14 — City of Clinton files formal protest with D.E.Q. over delay in odor regulations.

January 23 — Councilman states state representatives should help with odor control.

January 25 — Operation Pride sets priority for odor control.

February 2 — State of Iowa sues Clinton Corn for 125 violations of water pollution laws.

February 7 — Clinton Corn blames replacement workers for pollution.

February 15 — Agreement reached in pollution suit. Clinton Corn given until May 1 to correct violations. Fine levied is highest in Iowa D.E.Q. history for water pollution.

February 27 — Clinton Corn requests use of city storm sewers to discharge waste water during flood control project.

Action postponed by City Council after objections by city residents. Clinton Corn withdrew the request.

April 16 — Pollution continues. Company official states wastes are "only organic, it's nothing toxic, and it takes time and training. Note this is eight months after the strike began.

May 14 — Council man states residents of Clinton Corn area should receive "respect and restitution" for living "under an umbrella of pollution."

City health officer finds evidence of rats in the area.

May 16 — Clinton Corn worker burned in plant mishap.

Company says "freak accident."

June 11 — Odors continue.

Clinton Corn says dome on waste water treatment plant "needs more work."

July 15 — Residents complain of showers of yellow and black dust. May take Clinton corn to court.

Clinton Corn blames Grain Millers' strike and "faulty dryers." Note this is nearly a full year since the strike began.

Clinton Corn also blames the residents for living in the area.

July 17 — Clinco workers get pay hike — for a job well done??????

ACTION NEEDED!!

The Union, American Federation of Grain Millers Local #6, is asking everyone to join in a boycott of the following products that are manufactured by Standard Brands.

Planters Peanuts	Walter Kendall Pet Food
Baby Ruth Candy Bars	Fives Pet Food
Ju Jus	Fleischmann's Preferred Blended Whiskey
Butterfinger Candy Bars	Fleischmann's Gin
Coconut Grove Candy Bars	Fleischmann's Royal Vodka
Curtiss Candy	Fleischmann's Select Bourbon Whiskey
Melville Bulk Candies	Fleischmann's Bottled in Bond Whiskey
Pearson Specialty Candies	Canadian LTD Canadian Whiskey
Wayne Bun Candy Bars	Acadian Canadian Whiskey
Cracker Jack	Royal Cheese Cake
Sun-Maid Raisins	Royal Cocoa
Blue Bonnet Margarine	Royal Drink Mixes
Egg Beaters	Royal Gelatin
Royal Desserts	Royal Pudding & Pie Filling
Fleischmann's Yeast	Royal Seasonings
Chase & Sanborn Coffee	Royal Whipped Topping
Tender Leaf Tea	Planters Nut Products
Hunt Club Pet Food	Planters Peanut Butter
Burgerbits Pet Food	Planters Peanut Oil
Capercaillie, Churchill and Golden Glen Scotch Whiskeys	Flo-N-Fry Liquid Shortening
Daviess County Bourbon Whiskey	Siesta Instant Decaf Coffee
Old Medley Bourbon Whiskey	Fleischmann's Bakers Yeast
Fleischmann's Corn Oil Margarine	Dr. Ballard's Pet Food
Fleischmann's Table Service Eggs	Lownet's Candy Bars
Royal Break-O-Morn Eggs	Glosette Nuts & Raisins
Royal Egg-Eze	Moirs Chocolates & Candies
Fleischmann's Trend Decaf Coffee	Reggie Candy Bars

SOLIDARITY FOREVER

by Ralph Chaplin

When the Union's inspiration through the workers'
blood shall run,
There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the
sun.
Yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble
strength of one?
But the Union makes us strong.

— Chorus —

Solidarity forever!
Solidarity forever!
Solidarity forever!
For the Union makes us strong.

Is there aught we hold in common with the greedy
parasite
Who would lash us into serfdom and would crush us
with his might?
Is there anything left for us but to organize and fight?
For the Union makes us strong.

— Chorus —

It is we who plowed the prairies; built the cities where
they trade;
Dug the mines and built the workshops; endless miles
of railroad laid.
Now we stand, outcast and starving, 'mid the wonders
we have made;
But the Union makes us strong.

— Chorus —

All the world that's owned by idle drones, is ours and
ours alone.
We have laid the wide foundations; built it skyward
stone by stone.
It is ours, not to slave in, but to master and to own,
While the Union makes us strong.

— Chorus —

They have taken untold millions that they never toiled
to earn.
But without our brain and muscle not a single wheel
can turn.
We can break their haughty power; gain our freedom
when we learn
That the Union makes us strong.

— Chorus —

In our hands is placed a power greater than their
hoarded gold;
Greater than the might of armies, magnified a
thousand-fold.
We can bring to birth the new world from the ashes of
the old,
For the Union makes us strong.

— Chorus —