

Battle Underway For Ratification Of Coal Pact

As we go to press, 160,000 members of the United Mineworkers union are about to cast their votes to ratify or reject the proposed contract with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) announced last week by President Carter. The ratification vote culminates a week of pitched battle both inside and outside the coal fields by those forces who want to end the strike and its sabotage of the U.S. economy, and a grouping headed by Energy Secretary James Schlesinger and including various rank-and-file miners groups under the control of the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies, who are trying to parlay the strike into a national — and international — economic disaster.

Informed sources in the UMW indicate that the contract will be ratified, possibly by a 3 to 2 margin. These sources stress, however, that the efforts of the national media and such coal-field groups as the Miners Right to Strike Committee to spread misinformation about the contract and its alleged lack of support among the rank and file could cause a "stampede against ratification."

"The miners are being played for suckers by outside agitators and anarchists," said one aide to a coal state Senator, referring to the IPS networks. "There is much more at stake here than a contract....If it's not ratified,

then the country will be plunged into chaos and violence. Schlesinger has wanted that all along — so that he can seize control of the economy through emergency powers....He (Schlesinger) is the only one who benefits from the contract going down."

Schlesinger is widely regarded among knowledgeable UMW leaders as an "ally of the dissidents," having had direct personal connections to the so-called "Young Turks" such as Rich Banks and Ed James, who formerly composed the UMW's national staff.

Trbovich Urges Ratification

On March 1, Mike Trbovich, former UMW Vice President and leader of the traditionalist forces in the union released a statement supporting the ratification of the contract.

"I strongly urge members of the United Mineworkers union to ratify the proposed contract in the national interest....," Trbovich said. "I have chosen to remain silent until now, but I feel that I can't remain silent any longer. The future of our union is at stake. The contract must be ratified. If it isn't, the UMW will soon cease to exist as a union...."

How It Works: IPS Subversion Of Coal

Exclusive to the Executive Intelligence Review

The U.S. Labor Party sent a memorandum to Attorney General Griffin Bell Feb. 26 which detailed the Institute for Policy Studies networks currently mobilizing against ratification of the coal settlement. Here are key sections:

Evidence compiled by the U.S. Labor Party indicates that the chaos and violence related to the strike is by no means "simple labor violence," but the product of the coordinated activities of networks both inside and outside the coal fields with a command center at the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies and associated institutions, such as the "Public Resources Center."

These networks operate on several levels in the following way. A core grouping of agitators implanted inside

the union, associated with such groups as the Miners Right to Strike Committee, have been traveling throughout the coal fields inflaming individual members of the UMW to acts of violence in "defense" of the strike; the pattern of their deployments indicates that such "agitators" regularly travel from state to state. These inside provocateurs are backed in the coal fields by an array of so-called strike support groups who send delegations to picket lines, who accompany the agitators in their work, and who spread misinformation about "widespread" "rank-and-file support" for the agitators. There is an interfaced network of strike support groups which operates outside the coal fields attempting to recruit individuals and build a broader base of support for anarchist and terrorist strike support actions, both in the coal fields and urban areas. This activity is aimed at urban youth and college students in the current phase of activi-

ties. Crucial in giving this operation credibility is mass propaganda conditioning of the American public to accept and expect violence and terrorism as a "lawful outcome" of the current strike; this misinformation is conduited to targeted populations through so-called left-radical and liberal press and to the public at large by such "respected" media outlets as the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*.

The following is a breakdown of primary institutions which compose the Institute for Policy Studies network involved in the Mineworkers strike. It should be pointed out that while a section of this network functions inside the United Mineworkers union, these inside elements have operated over a period of years against the best interests of that union and have worked to subvert and undermine the UMW as an institution in the labor movement.

*IPS in the Coal Fields.
Key Rank and File Groups*

Miners Right to Strike Committee: This is a relatively small group of cadre, known to have provoked, instigated, and spread many of the wildcat strikes in the coal fields during the July-September 1977 period. The hard-core leadership of this group is composed primarily of members or associates of the Maoist Revolutionary Communist Party (formerly the Revolutionary Union) who have consistently advocated confrontation policies against the mineowners and national United Mine-workers leadership, headed by Arnold Miller. There is also a softer "reform"-oriented element in the Miners Right to Strike Committee which seeks to attract young miners into the organization, then orient them toward the wildcat, confrontation activity; they push for "local union autonomy" (local right to strike) to undermine the centralized authority of the UMW leadership.

This group is oriented toward attracting Vietnam veterans into such activity. This corresponds to the Maoists' creation of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) in the late 1960s (See appendix).

Their principal concentration of activity is in UMW districts 17, 29, and 31 which cover the state of West Virginia, and have developed a network of sympathetic UMW local officials in these areas who provide a political cover to their actions.

Key Personnel: Bruce Miller: Founder MRSC, jailed in 1977 for three months for violent strike activity.

Mike Branch: Has publicly stated on several occasions that he will not allow a UMW contract to be ratified unless it includes a local right to strike clause. Branch is located in Beckley, West Virginia.

On Nov. 25 and 27, 1977 the *New York Times* portrayed both Branch and Miller, along with their MRSC, as a "genuine" if controversial element in the impending strike situation.

Miners for Recall (of Arnold Miller): This organization was founded in the fall of 1977 as a redeployment of the MRSC networks, and has overlapping memberships. The Miners for Recall circulated petitions for the recall of Miller prior to the beginning of the strike. When the actual strike began this group stopped their petitioning, but reinitiated it two weeks ago with the rejection of the initial contract. They are now jointly organizing "show of

force" rallies against Arnold Miller in conjunction with the MRSC, and are advocating identical demands to the MRSC.

Key Personnel: Bill Bryant: Known to have worked closely with the MRSC for a considerable period of time. Identified as one of several leaders of the Miners for Recall.

Miners for a Fair Contract: This appears to be a small grouping with ties to the anti-Teamsters Union "Teamsters for a Democratic Union." It is modeled on the TDU's predecessor, Teamsters for a Decent Contract, and has received support from the publications of the Communist Party USA, *The Daily World*, and the Socialist Workers Party, *The Militant*, but is charged with being too "moderate" by the "ultra-left" Maoist groups.

Coalfield Support Layers

Miners Support Committee: The purpose of this, and similar groups, is to draw students and others from university campuses for redeployment in coordination with the Miners Right to Strike Committee, etc. The Miners Support Committee is based at the West Virginia Institute of Technology in Northern West Virginia. MSC members are known to be deployed on the "roving pickets" which shut down non-union mines and are now threatening to shut down utilities and block railroads from moving coal.

Key Personnel: Eric Simon: Chairman of the MSC and an economics professor at West Virginia Institute of Technology.

B.V. McKeown: Assistant to Simon.

Miners Support Committee of Southern West Virginia: Identical to the MSC, operating out of the PARC-created Mountain Community Union, in Morgantown West Virginia.

Miners Support Committee of Beckley West Virginia.

Numerous other "support committees" are operating on college and university campuses in locations adjacent to coal mining areas in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, etc. These are the marshalling points for bolstering strength of the "roving pickets."

A special case are the support layer centers around the Stearns Mines strike in Harlan County Kentucky. The Stearns strike is a media-created strike for the unionization of the Stearns Mines which for the past year has attracted a high concentration of IPS terrorists and terrorist front groups; it has had the highest concentration of mine-related violence. Because of its strategic geographical location in the center of the coal fields, the Stearns operation now provides key support for roving picketers, etc. particularly into Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky.

Stearns Miners Relief Fund: This group has been joined by many of the IPS-linked "left" political groupings; most notably the International Socialists and Spartacists League.

Key Personnel: Freddy Wright: Head of the SMRF. Arrested in October 1977 for strike-related activities.

Lee Potter: UMWA organizer at Stearns who is working closely with the Spartacists and SMRF.

Support Activities Outside the Coal Fields

This activity is concentrated in urban areas, especially on campuses. There are two basic types of deployment: The various IPS-spawned and controlled "countergangs" such as the Workers League, the RCP, the Communist Party USA, the International Socialists, the Spartacist League, etc., serve as direct agitators, staging rallies, forums, etc. to publicize the more violent "class struggle" aspects of the strike. In several locations, such as New York City, Pittsburgh, the Bay Area, they function in a parallel "strike support" network, consisting of several of the above countergangs and often directly linked to coalfield rank-and-file activity. Elements within all such operations have the nascent capability to be transformed into urban terrorist cadre for attacks on utilities and facilities that move coal supplies, corporate headquarters, etc., although some groups such as the National United Workers Organization (NUWO) are clearly more likely to fall into this pattern as the strike continues.

New York City UMW Support Committee: This is the largest single countergang strike support "umbrella" organization in the country. This committee operates out of the same address in New York City that houses the CPUSA's youth group, the Young Workers Liberation League (YWLL) and the July 4th Coalition (originally formed to trigger a wave of terrorism timed to coincide with the 1976 Bicentennial and which included the Weathermen front organization the Prairie Fire Organizing Committee; the Committee includes the Guardian collective (linked to the "authoritative" "left" IPS newspaper, the *Guardian*), small Maoist groupings, and the CPUSA. The group has scheduled a fundraising benefit for March 1, together with a rally featuring "on the spot" reports from the coal fields.

Two weeks ago, the New York City UMW Support Committee distributed leaflets and sent a delegation to an event sponsored by the Puerto Rican Socialist Party-linked group which featured as its principal speaker Miguel Cabrera, "a Teamster organizer," arrested Jan. 13, 1978 for the assassination of lawyer Alan Randall in Puerto Rico last year. Cabrera, at the event, advocated the use of terrorism and sabotage as "strike support" activities. The next day he appeared in Pittsburgh at an event sponsored in part by the Pittsburgh Miners Strike Support Committee.

National United Workers Organization (NUWO): The youth organization of the Revolutionary Communist Party. The NUWO is directly involved in "strike support" activities which have included disruptions of public events. NUWO organizers in Cleveland disrupted a public forum on the coal crisis convened by President Carter on Feb. 15, 1978. They have been nationally distributing a leaflet on campuses and elsewhere supporting terrorism and violence to "defend" the miners strike. A copy of the leaflet, which has already appeared in Cleveland, Baltimore, and Syracuse, N. Y., is appended.

Key Personnel: Len Schindell: A steelworker at Sparrows Point in Baltimore.

Paul Blumberg: Cleveland-based.

IPS Media Support and Conditioning Operations

This operates on several levels. At top, the credibility of the various IPS coal field operations is established by "journalistic, authoritative" stories on their activities by the national broadcast media and such papers as the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*. Typical in this respect has been prominence given IPS-linked dissidents, especially Recall Movement and Miners Right to Strike Committee by *Times* reporter Ben A. Franklin; this included pre-strike publicity on MRSC leaders (See above). In addition, "human interest" type stories about "militant miners" have helped various local IPS support operations, particularly on campuses and among liberal layers to recruit their cannon fodder. On another level there exists an information network by which the various IPS operations in the coalfields and support layers get their "marching orders." This is principally handled through the "movement press" especially the IPS-created Liberation News Service, such journals as *Sevendays* (the descendent of the now-defunct *Ramparts* magazine), the Maoist-oriented *Guardian*, and the Chicago-based "socialist" weekly newspaper, *In These Times*. The various "journalists" who report on the strike for such media, travel back and forth to the coalfields, bring orders down to the networks, and return with status reports on the operation for evaluation by IPS controllers.

Appended below is a listing of the most prominent of these "go-betweens."

Sevendays:

This IPS-weekly conduit has had two main agents writing for it in the recent period on the miners union, strike, etc.:

Mike Yarrow, connected to the *Sevendays* staff in New York City. Yarrow was in West Virginia in Dec. 1977—Jan. 1978 period.

James Branscome, originally from Harlan, Kentucky, Branscome writes for the Whitesburg, Kentucky "Mountain Eagle" and other Appalachian regional newspapers, in addition to writing for *Sevendays* and the IPS press networks.

In These Times:

Frank Adams, from IPS's Institute for Southern Studies, has spent the last six months in the South on assignment for the Institute for Southern Studies. He was in Stearns, Kentucky in November 1977.

Dan Marschall, originally from Cleveland, Ohio, known as the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee (DSOC) and *In These Times* "UMWA expert," Marschall has recently returned from Chicago to Cleveland.

Guardian:

Barbara Ellen Smith has been writing articles for the *Guardian*, based on her contacts with Tom Bethell, former research director for the UMWA, currently editor of IPS's *Coal Patrol* newspaper.

Ben Bedell, regular "Labor Editor" for the Guardian, Bedell basically stays in New York City, where he pulls together the articles on the miners strike, other union activity, etc. from material gathered by Liberation News Service, which has people "on the scene" in the coalfields now (names not known), or else from "Special" Guardian reporters such as

Kathy Wollard, in Columbus, Ohio, who in the Feb. 15 issue of the Guardian, did a special report on the

miners strike in that city.

The Spartacist League's Workers Vanguard:

Its main person going back and forth from the coalfields has been

Mark Lance, working with the Spartacist "Legal Aid" teams from the Partisan Defense Fund. Has been in Stearns, Kentucky and in West Virginia over the past month and was in New York City on Feb. 2nd to report at a public meeting of the Spartacist League on the situation in the strike.