

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contemporary Marxism is a new journal published by the Institute for the Study of Labor and Economic Crisis. The journal analyzes crucial issues facing the socialist and workers' movements of the world from a working class Marxist perspective. Each issue is devoted to a theme, an area of struggle, with articles by Marxist scholars who speak directly from and of their area. Editors and authors include: Marlene Dixon, Andre Gunder Frank, Susanne Jonas, Samir Amin, Aníbal Quijano, Fernando Claudin, Immanuel Wallerstein, Ruy Mauro Marini, and Étienne Balibar. The journal is published twice yearly. Subscriptions are \$8.00 per year (individuals), \$18.00 per year (institutions); \$2.00 addition for mailing outside U.S., \$5.00 for overseas airmail. Make checks payable to, and order publication from: Synthesis Publications, Dept. B, Box 40099, San Francisco, CA 94140.

The North West Labour Society Bulletin 6, 1979-80 has recently appeared. It has a strong emphasis on Merseyside, following the society's successful May meeting on "Issues and Problems in the Labour History of Merseyside." Articles include "The Liverpool Labour Party and the Liverpool Working Class" by Sam Davies, an investigation of the Labour Party's poor electoral record in Liverpool prior to the outbreak of the Second World War. In "Orange and Green and Militancy," Andy Shallice examines the effects of religion and class feeling upon the working class in Liverpool in the early years of the present century. Mervyn Jones' article, "The Liverpool Bread Riots, 1855" sets out to explain why a "pre- (or early) industrial" form of social protest, the food riot, could erupt in a major urban area as late as 1855. In "Trade Unions and Technical Change: The Automatic Loom Strike, 1908," Alan Fowler examines worker and trade union responses to the introduction of the automatic loom at Ashton Bros., of Hyde in 1908. The author argues that union policy was based upon an acceptance of, not opposition to, technological change.

Articles for submission and other inquiries regarding the *Bulletin* should be directed to Neville Kirk, The Polytechnic, Walton House, Tithebarn Street, Liverpool.

Rivista di storia contemporanea, vol. 9, no. 4 (October, 1980) contains three articles of special interest to historians of labor in the United States and two review essays of general interest. The articles on the United States are:

A. Graziosi, "Lavoro, salario, potere nella fabbrica americana di fine Ottocento" (work, pay, and power in American factories at the end of the nineteenth century)

G. Calvi, "Da paesani a cittadini: gli italiani immigranti negli Stati Uniti (1900-1920)" (from peasants to citizens: Italian immigrants in the United States)

M.R. Stabili, "Un sindacato negli USA della guerra fredda: la UE contro la Westinghouse" (a union in Cold War America: the UE vs. Westinghouse—mostly about local 107 in Lester, Pa.)

The review essays analyzing concepts widely used in social history today are:

G. Gemelli and M. Malatesta, "Sociabilità e storia nella storiografia francese contemporanea" (sociability and history in current French historiography)

M. Salvati, "Teoria 'corporatista' e storia contemporanea" (corporatist theory and contemporary history)

The Southern Labor Studies Association has announced that the Fourth Southern Labor History Conference is being planned for February of 1982 at Georgia State University in Atlanta. The Association desires to promote an interest in the Southern worker, to achieve a better understanding of labor's activities in the region and to encourage preservation of historical records on union activity in the region.

The program committee invites all persons to suggest papers, panel discussions, or any other type of presentation relating to Southern labor. Proposals must be submitted by June 15, 1981.

To submit proposals, or to obtain further information, contact:

Dr. Leslie S. Hough

Secretary-Treasurer

Southern Labor Studies Association

c/o Southern Labor Archives

Georgia State University

Urban Life Center, Room 1028

Atlanta, GA 30303

Folklore and Labor History. Susan Davis is planning one or more panels titled "Folklore and Labor History" for the Folklore and Social Struggles section of the American Folklore Society annual meetings in October, 1981. The panels may cover the following topics: uses of traditional forms of protest in labor or other working-class movements; informal and non-commercial communication in labor and political movements (such as independent presses, broadsides, song, dance, street theatre and folk drama, oral traditions, recreations); the use of oral traditions

and oral history by labor organizers, individuals, communities; and culture and communication in the work place. Proposals, comments, contributions and suggestions should be sent to Susan G. Davis, Dept. of Folklore and Folklife; Logan Hall, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA 19104.

The Association for Union Democracy held its first national conference on union democracy in Detroit on October 24-26, 1980. Approximately 350 people attended, including 140 unionists, 50 lawyers, 37 educators, as well as writers, representatives of the Department of Labor and representatives of the National Labor Relations Board.

The purposes of the conference were fourfold. It was intended firstly to further knowledge and understanding of democratic principles and practices in American labor unions. Secondly, it attempted to give unionists a better understanding of their rights under the law and of the resources available to them in enforcing those rights. Thirdly, it brought together unionists, attorneys, educators and others who share a common interest in internal union democracy. Fourthly, it was organized to lay the basis for a continuing network of informal collaboration among the participants.

The program included a panel discussion for unionists, led by Frank Schonfeld, veteran leader of efforts to reform the painters' union in New York City, and Paul Levy, attorney with the Public Citizen Litigation Group. They gave legal and practical guidance on how to protect the right to run for office, how to conduct a campaign, and how to stay in office if elected. Fred Heitman, Chief of the Elections Branch of the U.S. Department of Labor, joined the panel discussion. In another discussion, unionists heard first-hand accounts of recent reform campaigns given by Edward Sadlowski on the Steelworkers, by Schonfeld on the Painters, by Ken Paff, Organizer of Teamsters for a Democratic Union on the Teamsters, and by Dan Edelman, miners' attorney, on the United Mineworkers. In a special panel on rank and file experiences and in the final conference windup session, individual unionists had the opportunity to tell their stories.

Several sessions dealt with unions and the law. A broad overview of union democracy and the law was presented to a plenary session by Clyde Summers, University of Pennsylvania law professor, Chip Yablonski, former mineworkers' lawyer, and Arthur Fox, founder of the Professional Drivers Council. Joseph Rauh, civil rights and civil liberties attorney, led a panel on the rights of union reformers to receive support from nonmembers of their unions. Yablonski also guided a panel on practical problems facing union democracy lawyers, which ran the gamut from planning court strategy to financing cases by winning legal fee awards. In addition to representatives of the Department of Labor and NLRB, the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations sent its general counsel, LaVern J. Duffy, who spoke about the committee's investigation into labor racketeering.

One highlight of the conference was the panel on union trial procedures. Clyde Summers, who originated the idea of union public review boards, chaired the session. Reports were presented by Msgr. George Higgins, chairman of the United Auto Workers Public Review Board, and by Joseph Ames, former chairman of the Judicial Panel of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. Mortimer Gavin, a member of the former teachers' union review board, served as a panel commentator. Higgins' report on the auto workers board was supplemented by David Y. Klein, its executive director. UAW members who were dissatisfied with some aspects of the functioning of their board aired their criticisms and Review Board representatives responded. The AFSCME panel turned into a debate because Ames had been removed as chairman of the judicial panel shortly before the conference. Jerry Wurf, AFSCME president, criticized the conference for failing to include an official union spokesman and was invited to address the panel himself or send a representative. AFSCME vice president Domink J. Bakolato spoke at the panel on public review. Two other AFSCME official representatives participated in a second panel.

In the future, the Association for Union Democracy plans to increase the frequency of their publication, *Union Democracy Review*, from four times a year to every second month. It will also seek volunteers in cities to act as a local contact to seek out help for unionists who need it in that area. Lawyers will be asked to become cooperating correspondents and send AUD information on union democracy cases in which they are involved. In return, AUD will distribute the reports to lawyers on its lists. AUD will also prepare and distribute a draft set of model union bylaws to lawyers and unionists for comment, and will publish a manual with information on Duty of Fair Representation cases prepared by attorneys with experience in this field.

For further information contact: Association for Union Democracy, 215 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10003. Telephone: (212) 473-0606.