

Workers Committee To Strike Back

After staging a militant and spirited rally in September, the Workers' Committee to Strike Back (formerly the Workers' Committee to Defend the Right to Strike) has begun to step up its offensive to fight the attacks on our strike weapon. The petition drive and rally in September were mainly to protest the attempts by the Hawaiian Telephone Co. and its cohorts, the Hawaii Employers' Council and the US Chamber of Commerce, to deny unemployment benefits to the phone workers for the 38 days they were on strike earlier this year. The eager response to the petitions and the rally showed that workers from different industries and shops saw the necessity to unite and fight increasing attacks by the bosses.

"RIGHTS" DEPEND ON UNITY AND STRENGTH

In commenting on the reason for changing the committee's name, a spokesperson for the group said, "In the course of our work through the committee and in watching and participating in other workers' and community struggles, we can see that in this society working people have no real absolute rights to defend." He added, "Any 'rights' that we have, whether they are written down in laws or not, depend on our own unity and strength as workers, because the bosses and the government will try to step on us every chance they get."

A good example of what this brother is saying is the recent attack on the HATS picket line (see last issue of *Hoe Hana*), in which the police brutally strangled and arrested one of three picketers for "trespassing." But when 50 workers and supporters showed up in the same spot the next day, the company and hotel requested no action by the police.

THREE MOST CRITICAL ISSUES

While still concentrating on the attacks on our strike weapon, the WCSB has sharpened its focus to three of the most critical issues in that area. They are, as laid out



by the committee:

1) UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FOR ALL STRIKERS.

The fight is still going on against the bosses' legal suit that will set a precedent of barring unemployment compensation to strikers in all future strikes in Hawaii and in at least 25 other states. Anyone who attended the court hearings could clearly see the judge's favoritism toward the Chamber of Commerce, Hawaiian Tel and HEC lawyers. Judge Pence overruled practically all the arguments made by the union's lawyers.

We cannot leave it up to the courts and lawyers to decide the outcome of this case. The WCSB has planned another mass action: a protest march from the Haw'n Tel building on Alakea St. to the Chamber of Commerce offices on December 2, the day before the hearings reopen after a month's recess.

2) SMASH THE ANTI-DOCK STRIKE BILL.

The anti-dock strike bill has already passed the US Senate and is now sitting in House Committee. The bill would prevent West coast dock workers from striking cargoes bound for Hawaii and other Pacific areas under US control for 160 days by court injunction. When the present Taft-Hartley 80 day cooling off period is added to that, it will mean that the dock workers would have to wait more than two-thirds of a year before fully using their strike weapon.

Big business lobbyists for the bill, like Shipping Tie-ups Over Permanently (STOP), Operation

Scabs Sue Military

Scabbing military personnel, who have been holding the jobs of striking HATS airplane mechanics for the past several months, went into federal court last October 16 in an effort to block a Defense Department directive ordering them out of their stolen jobs.

The HATS strikers won a big victory in early October when their struggle and growing public pressure forced the military to call off their scabs. Local Army officials promised their personnel would be called off immediately, though this promise has apparently been violated. The Air Force wanted until Oct. 16, to give their men time to find other jobs. This time was allowed them, and the union dropped its half million dollar law suit against the Army and Air Force and withdrew its request for a permanent injunction to prevent military scabbing at the Hawaiian Air Tour Service operation.

This "kindness" on the part of the union was later used by the scabs to get enough time to work with union-busting attorney Bob Katz to prepare a suit against the



Black Eye and the Chamber of Commerce is trying to alarm the public by falsely representing the effects of a dock strike through a large public campaign. Yet the labor opponents of the bill have done nothing to counter their actions, and are simply relying on their lawyers and lobbyists and "friendly" politicians in Washington. If this bill is passed it will open up new inroads for the bosses to try and clamp down on other workers performing vital services such as transportation, public utilities or other services and industries the bosses need to keep their big profits flowing in and their large corporations running.

The West coast dock workers have, in the past, aided the struggles of workers in Hawaii. Last May they refused to touch a ship loaded with Dole bananas which helped force the company to settle the Dole can plant workers' strike here. We must not let the bosses limit or weaken the dock workers' strike weapon. It is time that we take this struggle out of the Committee and caucus and put it before the people of Hawaii, clearly exposing the bosses' schemes.

3) STOP GOVERNMENT STRIKE BREAKING

Local workers have recently scored a major victory for all US workers by forcing the Pentagon to order its military personnel to stop

scabbing for companies involved in labor disputes and strikes.

Now, another arm of the government, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), is carrying on blatant strike breaking actions. The NLRB does this by conducting union decertification elections in shops where workers are on strike.

A clear example of this is happening now in the case of the 9-month long Hawaiian Air Tour Service strike (see HATS story below). It's becoming clearer every day what interests the NLRB and other "neutral" government agencies really serve.

To help workers know more about these issues, the WCSB is calling a mass general meeting of workers and other interested people to discuss and find out more about these three main points. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 7:00 pm at Kalihi Library.

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HATS STRIKE



HATS strikers Dennis Lambert and Alfredo Corpuz at recent rally

military to allow them to continue scabbing. HATS boss Hans Mueller no doubt is behind this newest legal strategy to keep his prized strikebreakers.

The ten scabs who filed the suit include Army scabs Cecil Chambers, Warrant Officer Billy Cochran, Neal Ross, Gerald Seriano, James Van Fleet and Robert Wood, and Air Force scabs James Beasley, Larry Lee, Raymond Meyer, and Wilfred Mellner.

NLRB- Strikebreaker

Now that the HATS strikers may have succeeded in peeling off the military scabs, they must now face another Federal strikebreaker—this one in the person of the National Labor Relations Board.

With the help of attorney Bob Katz, a scab named Williams filed for a decertification election last September, and the NLRB seems ready to order a new election—right in the middle of the strike! And the scabs will be able to vote!

Under the National Labor Relations Act employees may file for a decertification one year after the union representation election. The HATS election was in July, 1972. So HATS boss Mueller's obvious strategy was to avoid good faith bargaining for over 13 months, resist the union's major demands and force a long strike, in the course of which Mueller could rely on loyal scab Williams to file to decertify and the NLRB to go along with this obvious union-busting trick.

Workers' attorneys Herb Takahashi and Eric Seitz are fighting hard in the legal arena against this

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