



# A JOB AIN'T THE ANSWER

Getting jobs, keeping jobs, making jobs—that's all most people can think about. City mayors lure corporations with tax breaks. Detroit's Mayor Young is bulldozing a whole community to give GM the site it demands. The government lifts environmental regulations which industry claims impede economic growth. Union leaders, to keep their own jobs, urge workers to accept cutbacks. Many people even say, "We need a good war to put people back to work."

Deep in our hearts we know all these measures won't work. We know capitalism operates by displacing human beings with machines, so plants which today employ 6000 will soon employ 3000. We know U.S. multinationals, like GM, Ford, TRW, ITT, are investing overseas to take advantage of cheaper labor and more accessible resources. We know modern war needs technicians and scientists more than it does ground troops and workers, and stockpiling weapons only brings a nuclear holocaust closer. We know society doesn't need most of the goods we produce by our dehumanizing labor and that the plants we work in create new Love Canals. But rather than accept responsibility for changing the system which has turned us into slaves to constantly-expanding toxic wastes, and constantly-expanding multi-national corporations, we beg the master to give us back our jobs so he can lay us off again.

## HOW DID THINGS GET SO BAD?

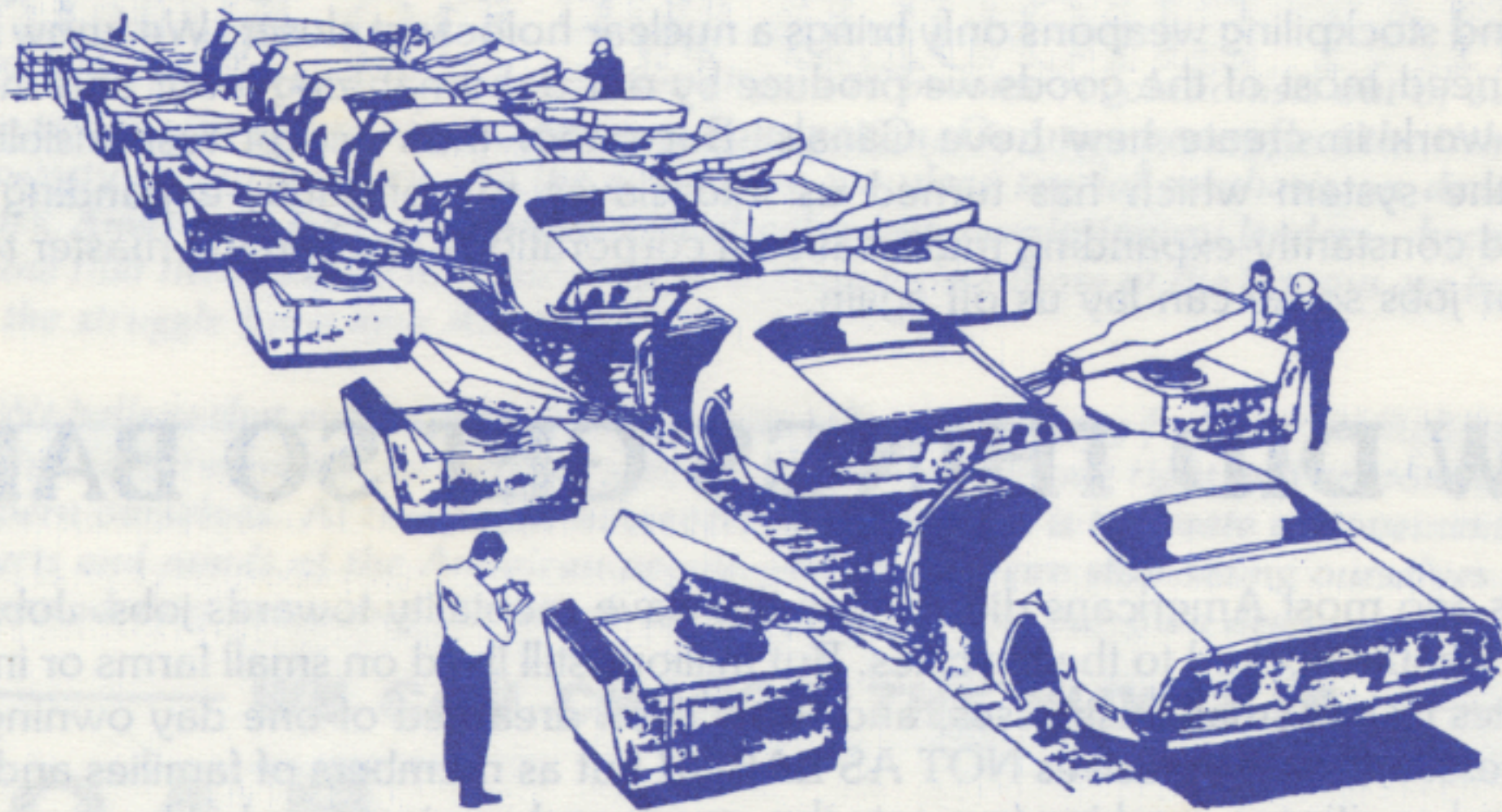
50 years ago most Americans didn't have this slave mentality towards jobs. Jobs mattered, and people flocked to the big cities. But millions still lived on small farms or in small communities or ran small businesses, and some even dreamed of one day owning their own business. We saw ourselves NOT AS LABOR but as members of families and communities and as citizens, working to create the goods and services needed by our country and our people. Factory work was hard, wages low, but mass production was just beginning. Even though we were producing for the market, capitalism was still progressive because we were still producing for basic needs.

Then came the Great Depression. Suddenly 17 million people were on the streets. Millions lost their homes, their farms, their businesses. Out of this crisis the labor movement was born. Workers in factories and offices exploded in a wave of nation-wide sit-down strikes, insisting upon their *human* dignity. Workers, they said, are first of all human beings and should control their conditions of work.

But the labor movement did not challenge the basic operations of the capitalist system which had caused the Depression in the first place. Instead it was pacified by New Deal reforms which sanctioned union organization and provided unemployment insurance and Welfare for the cast-offs of capitalist expansion. So workers became an interest-group, struggling for higher wages and benefits rather than for a new economy to meet our human need for meaningful work.

With World War II there were jobs aplenty. 14 million men and women entered the armed services. Blacks, after threatening to march on Washington, were incorporated into the industrial work force for the first time. Women, farmers, shopkeepers poured into the factories, motivated partly by patriotism but also lured by what then appeared as the freedom which comes from working in modern industry for good pay.

After the war U.S. capitalism expanded by leaps and bounds. Using the advanced technology from the war and cheap energy and materials from the Third World, we were soon producing more than we really needed. So the corporations began a systematic campaign to turn us into thoughtless consumers, unable to distinguish between our Needs and our Wants. Women, forced back into homes by the end of war work, were the special target of this campaign.



**Can you find the human beings in this picture?**

Meanwhile the McCarthy witch-hunt had stifled critical thinking about the destructive nature of capitalism. So Americans accepted the lie that we could make up for the indignity of our working lives with bigger paychecks to buy bigger cars, bigger houses, fancier clothes and appliances. Pursuing private happiness in the form of material goods, we did not care that we were passing on these materialistic and individualistic values to our children or that we were creating a Las Vegas atmosphere in our country which was encouraging white collar and street crime. We closed our eyes to the millions whom capitalism had cast off onto the Welfare rolls. We thought that we could forever control Third World countries so that we could use 40% of the world's resources to satisfy our greed. We were confident that we would always be No. 1.

For a brief moment during the 60's the black and anti-war movements inspired us to think more grandly about ourselves. The black movement forced us to recognize that racism had kept blacks at the bottom so that whites could move upwards. The anti-war movement challenged us to recognize that the Vietnam War was a total violation of the principles of self-determination on which our own nation had been founded. But the "Movement" collapsed as the pacification programs initiated by Johnson and continued by Nixon, Ford and Carter, bought off former militants with well-paying jobs as community organizers and social workers.

NOW THE PARTY IS OVER. U.S. capitalism has entered into a new stage, the stage of multinational capitalism. Seeking greater profits, U.S. capitalism is rushing to join foreign capitalisms, abandoning American workers, American cities and the American people. The productive base to support social and public services is drying up. As the price for remaining in this country, U.S. capitalism is demanding increasing concessions from workers.

## **WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?**

Faced with this crisis we have only two alternatives:

*1. We can continue to put our faith in capitalism, hoping that things will get better when all around us they are obviously getting worse.*

*2. Or we can refuse to accept the slot of Labor and Job-Holder to which capitalism has reduced us. As human beings and as citizens we can take responsibility for the struggles necessary to create a new economy, an economy which serves our deep human need for the kind of Work that develops our skills, encourages our cooperation and enables both men and women to work and share in building strong families and communities and in making political decisions for our communities and country.*

Meeting in yearly local conventions, we can decide what to produce, how much to allocate to goods production and how much to services, when to use and when not to use advanced technology, always making our decisions according to the human needs of ourselves and our children—and not to increase profits or to compete on the world market.

The time has come for us to get together and begin exploring how we can acquire the power which will enable us to build this new kind of economy.

The time has come for us to challenge everyone we know and meet to repudiate the individualistic and materialistic values that have made us collaborators with capitalism in destroying our own humanity.

To those who ask what do we do in the meantime, we should make clear that there is no longer any meantime. Between today's crisis and tomorrow's new society there is only continuing disintegration and demoralization until we are ready to commit ourselves to the revolutionary struggle for a NEW AMERICA.

GET TOGETHER WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS TO DISCUSS THIS LEAFLET. Contact the NOAR branch nearest you so that we can talk about what you and we can do together to create a new future for ourselves, for our children and for our country.

JOIN NOAR IN MEETING THE POLITICAL CHALLENGES OF THE 1980's!

## **N.O.A.R. - Detroit Branch**

PO BOX 07249 DETROIT, MI 48207 Phone: 345-6987

For a free brochure describing our publications on Politics, Education, Welfare, Health, Women, Work, etc., send a self-addressed stamped envelope.

### **National Organization for an American Revolution**

We are American citizens who have chosen to become revolutionists out of our deep concern for the future of our people and our nation. Our members reflect the rich ethnic diversity of our country. At the same time we place special emphasis on developing black Americans and other Americans of color into revolutionary leaders—because we know that there will be no American revolution unless those at the bottom are involved in the struggle for a new America.

We believe that eventually we will have to take power away from the capitalists, who, in their determination to increase profits, are destroying our right and responsibility to govern ourselves. At this point, however, our main task is to create a movement in the hearts and minds of the American people—so that we can stop seeing ourselves as victims and start exercising the power within us to control our own destiny.

**WE CAN CHANGE THE WAY IT IS**

**N.O.A.R.**

**P.O. Box 2617**

**Philadelphia, PA. 19121**

**February  
1981**