

stituents didn't have clothes to cover their backsides.

While they were slashing the people's budget in 1981, they **all** (Democrats and Republicans alike) voted for the Reagan-swollen "defense" budget. They might slow down a little in 1983 because big business is getting worried about the deficit and they can't take it **all** out of the people's hides.

But only tremendous pressure from the people will make the politicians go very far in this direction.

They are now (at the end of 1982) talking about a bridge and highway program that would put about two percent of the unemployed to work. That's better than nothing. But not much better, when you consider that they want us to pay another five-cents-a-gallon gasoline tax. We, the people, can make them do a lot better than that!

The program outlined above will take organization and action to put it into effect. The election of 1982 won't put it into effect. And the election of 1984 won't do it either.

But a **movement of people** can do it. A movement of the unemployed, the city poor, and all the people who need the above-mentioned things, starting with the unemployed steelworkers themselves, can do it.

Some of the Democrats are talking about a massive public works program using steel. But whether they are sincere or not, the Congress in Washington as a whole, as well as Reagan himself, will never listen to **votes alone**. That was clear within two days after the 1982 election! It's **action** that counts. The squeaky wheel gets the

grease. The powerful union gets the results. And so it is with the protection of our jobs and the saving of our homes, our families, and our lives.

Company propaganda on prime time

Right now we are getting a smokescreen of company propaganda on the TV and in the newspapers. If it isn't management itself, it's some commentator or some "impartial" news announcer, who tells you how terribly overpaid we are and how the super-billionaires who own the steel industry are weeping in their champagne.

The propaganda is telling us there is nothing to do, but for those remaining to take wage cuts, work harder, give up their (practically) once-in-a-lifetime 13-week vacation—thus laying off still more people!—and accept permanent unemployment for more than half the steelworkers.

They want us to accept this like a heaven-sent disaster that cannot be reversed. They want us to be meek and subservient and blame **ourselves** for the decline of the U.S. steel industry.

Let's look at the facts and see just what's wrong with the official line—that is, the company line.

Right now, most of the steel plants in the U.S. are in bad shape, it's true. The Japanese have more modern plants. So do the West Germans. So does the Soviet Union and so, to some extent do India, Brazil, and several other countries, including South Korea.

But whose fault is that?

Is it the fault of U.S. "high wages?"