

AGAINST LABOR CONCESSIONS

Concessions and How to Beat Them, by Jane Slaughter, a labor journalist who works out of the Detroit area, is a detailed guide and handbook for explaining to labor movement activists why wage and other concessions to employers should not be made, and recommending a strategy for resisting concession demands. The book points out that since 1980, hundreds of major manufacturing and service industries and enterprises have been able to negotiate labor contracts that have reduced wages, and rolled-back employee benefits. Slaughter argues that harmful effects of these concessions have been the intensification of wage competition among workers, and weaker labor unions, and that these consequences express a widespread objective and philosophy of management. Granting that worldwide technological and economic changes have weakened organized labor's bargaining position in the U.S., she maintains that concessions won't improve labor's situation, and that a carefully worked-out offensive strategy for resisting concessions should be adopted. Elements of the strategy she recommends include a united stand against concessions, more power on the shop floor, coordinated bargaining, a commitment to women workers and minority workers, and organizing the unemployed. In addition, she recommends nationalizing major industries whose declining profit level jeopardizes their attractiveness as private investment ventures.

Widely read and reviewed in the U.S. and Europe, this 152 page book can be obtained for \$4.50 from the Labor Education and Research Project (LERP), P.O. Box 20001, Detroit, MI 48220.

Financial contributions, large and small, to the United States Pacifist Party, are welcomed. Also, the Party welcomes gifts, such as automobiles, photographic equipment, office equipment, and bicycles, that can be used in the promotion of its program, or sold to increase its revenue.

(THE MAGNITUDE, Con.)

"National Needs Statement: Federal expenditures for national defense serve to protect America's people, its institutions, its lands and its allies from foreign aggression.

The basic objective of our defense program is to prevent both nuclear and conventional war. Our defense program seeks to deter other nations from threatening our vital interests and those of our allies and friends. This deterrence must be based on the maintenance of strategic nuclear capabilities, which make nuclear war with us an unacceptable option; maintenance of adequate maritime strength in key areas; strong forward-deployed forces in NATO and Northeast Asia; and the ability to deploy rapidly and sustain our military forces worldwide...

U.S. defense policies are designed to deter war by maintaining nuclear and conventional forces sufficient to convince any potential adversary that the cost of aggression would be too high to justify an attack. Should deterrence fail, we must have sufficient strength to defeat the attack and achieve our national objectives while limiting - to the extent possible and practicable - the scope of the conflict."

(A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES, Con.)

tract from society's ability to feed the hungry, provide shelter for the homeless, heal the sick, and provide quality education for everyone. Placing anything ahead of these goals is a mistake.

The Party also believes that military force is a deadly trap, in which, through "deterrence", societies gain periods of "peace" at the cost of creating conditions which precipitate catastrophic wars. In this practical sense also, nothing should be spent for military "defense".

Because of this ambiguous meaning of "priorities", the USPP is cautious about asking for a "change in national priorities". Rather, it calls for the abolition of the military establishment, and the devotion of society's resources to removing as much as possible poverty, and other causes of conflict, and to generating nonviolent methods and institutions for resolving conflicts and achieving justice.