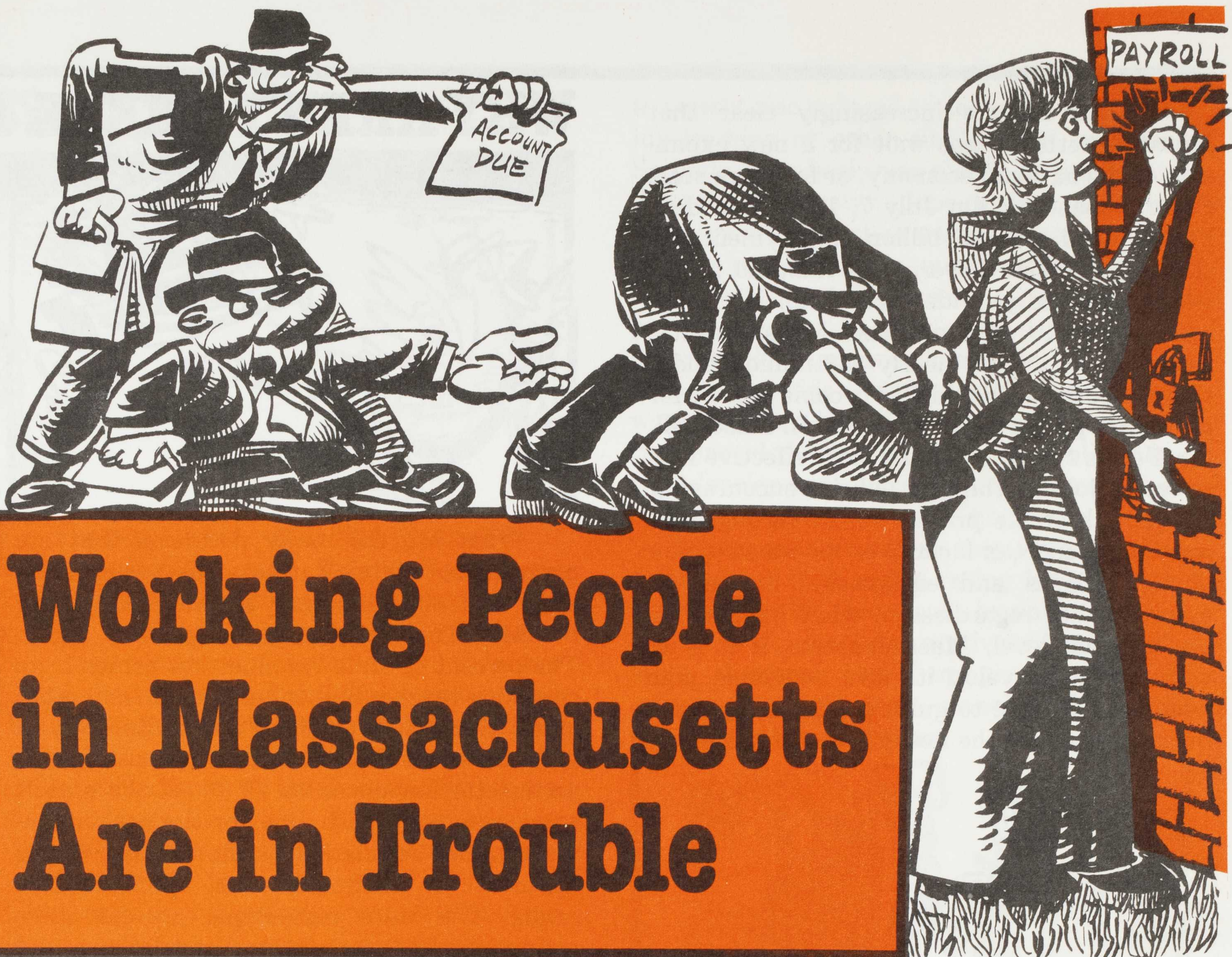




# Working People in Massachusetts Are in Trouble

The average unemployment rate here is now 9%. The national average is 7.7%. In some parts of our state, like Springfield, New Bedford, Cape Cod, or Lowell, the unemployment rate has been "double-digit" for some time. And of course, for the young, women, and minorities, the jobless rate is much higher. Historically, the Massachusetts rate has exceeded the national average. In 1930, our unemployment rate was 6.4%, but the U.S. rate was 5%. In 1940, when the country was suffering with 14.4% out of work, Massachusetts had a 16.8% rate.

## Jobs are leaving

Massachusetts. In 1974, the number of jobs in Massachusetts outside of farming had grown only 4½% since 1970. At the same time, jobs in the southern states jumped 19½%. Jobs in the West grew by almost 15%. U.S. government

figures show that during this same period, manufacturing jobs in our state — the best paying, most stable type of employment — *dropped* by almost 5% while the South's share of manufacturing jobs grew by almost 12%.

## The cost of living

in Massachusetts is higher than anywhere in the continental United States. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which computes the cost of living index, reports that in 1976, Boston is the costliest city in the country, whatever your income level. If wages in Massachusetts were the highest in the country, that situation might not be so bad. But our wages are not the highest. Workers' pay in Lawrence, Worcester, and Boston (the cities where the U.S. government measured wages in 1973) was lower than the national average in all occupational groups, in all industries.

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