



TWO DAYS OFF THIS MONTH
YOU'RE KIDDING ME
BUT I BET YOU MADE THE BUCKS
YEAH BUCKS FOR TRUCKS
BUCKS FOR BEANS
BUCKS FOR ALCOHOL
BUCKS FOR COURTS
AND LAB REPORTS
TO FIND OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME

graphic: Doug Minkler

AGAINST FORCED OVERTIME

shops?

Another argument for a shorter workweek goal is its universal appeal. How often has the labor movement been weakened because of disunity? Workers who work for one particular company, or in one particular industry or occupation, may have grievances specific to their situation while the situation of workers elsewhere is different. On the other hand, common goals can help to unify people. The shorter workweek demand can help to build unity because more free time is a goal that almost any worker could get behind.

Also, less time spent working for the bosses would mean that people would have more time and energy for organizing and getting together to fight for further social and economic changes.

★ How realistic?

How much exactly would a shorter workweek cost the employers? According to a 1978 study by labor economists Sar Levitan and Richard Belous, cutting the workweek to 35 hours while keeping each workers' paychecks the same size as under the present 40-hour week would cost the employers the same as providing a 14.3% payraise. In 1984 the productivity in manufacturing in the U.S. grew by 3.5%. At that rate, it would take approximately four years of productivity increases to make up for the increased costs to the employers of a 35-hour workweek.

Profits created by our labor are put into new and more productive plant year after year. As a result, the total number of worker-hours required for producing goods and