CHEAP LABOR IN THE UNORGANIZED SOUTH

The only major effort to organize the South was in 1947 when the C.I.O. planned Operation Dixie. But for the most part the C.I.O. set up the southern unions according to the traditions of the South, that is, segregated. These dual unions gave all the bargaining power to the companies while locals scabbed on each other. At the same time, the Ku Klux Klan gained influence and many of the local union halls doubled as Klan meeting places. Some integrated locals were organized, but did not acknowledge the special problems Negroes faced in the South;these locals were integrated on paper but with Jim Crow Laws that outlawed integrated meetings, they could not maintain themselves. By 1949 the C.I.O. closed down Operation Dixie and the South was left segregated and unorganized.

Today the biggest obstacle to organizing the South is Section 14b of the Taft-Hartley Act. 14b allows states to pass laws prohibiting union shop contracts and other compulsory membership rules. These so-called right-to-work laws keep the price of labor in the South down;the South cannot organize so long as Taft-Hartley remains law.

Until the South is organized on the basis of equality, wages will be lower there and northerners will lose jobs. Successful organizing in the South means understanding the particular oppression of the Negro worker and fighting for civil rights on the streets as well as in the plants.

CHEAP LABOR IN LATIN AMERICA

Many companies find their better "business climate" in Central and South America. There, unions which act independently of the military dictators in order to defend the living standards of their members are simply not allowed to exist. But what does this have to do with us in New England?

Under the leadership of the C.I.A., the major unions work with the corporations who run away to Latin America to block the development of any genuine unions. This project, the American Institute for Free Labor Development, is funded primarily by our taxes and our union dues to bust unions in the Southern Hemisphere. Some of the board members of th A.I.F.L.D. are Lane Kirkland Lloyd McBride (USWA),William Wimpisinger(IAM),the presidents of the ILA, the ILGWU, the OCAW, and the IUE, along with executives from Gulf and Western, PanAm Airways, Bendix International W.R. Grace and Co, to name but a few. Thus the representatives of the most significant corporations work with American labor leaders to insure that those corporations can profitably run away to Latin America.

Saving our jobs and our communities depends on a union movement that sees itself as part of a working class that extends from Canada to Chile and is willing to fight for that class as a whole and not merely for that part of the working class that lives in the Northern United States.