

THE MEDIUM

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BLACK CONSTRUCTION WORKERS MOVE TO ENFORCE ORDER

BY: VELTRY JOHNSON

The membership of the United Construction Workers Association converged on Construction industry sites throughout the greater Seattle area this past week seeking implementation of a two year old court order. The UCWA contends the order signed by Judge William Lindberg in 1970 should have produced by now nearly 480 jobs for black and minority construction workers. Tyree Scott, UCWA Director said it has produced, however, only 110.

Several projects including Interstate 90 highway construction between the Mercer Island floating bridge and Issaquah, the 30 story financial center being constructed downtown and the \$11 million, 24 story Safeco Tower in the University District were shut down last week. Seven construction projects on the University of Washington campus were closed down earlier this week.

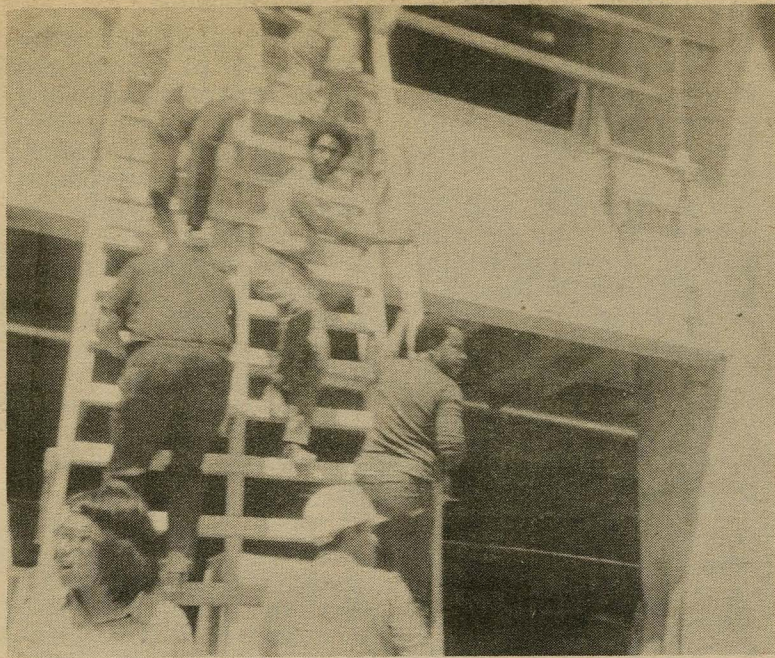
A temporary restraining order to prevent further shutdowns was issued Tuesday by Superior Court Commissioner David C. Hunter; the UCWA burned the order in a further protest gesture. Marathon negotiations Monday evening between the UCWA, the Mountain Pacific Chapter of the Associated General contractors and several individual contractors failed.

In a supportive measure members of the Central Contractors Association also began the shut down of work projects this past week. Willie Allen, president of the CCA told the Medium the action was taken in hopes of speedy resolution of the minority hiring problem. Several

additional closures by the CCA members are expected should the impetus of the UCWA Action fail to gain results. Allen added CCA actions will focus on closing down construction sites and keeping them closed until the court order is acted upon. All the construction sites closed by the UCWA in the past week have reopened.

Last Tuesday renewed controversy and violence flared at the Central Seattle Community College Construction site when members of the UCWA appeared to shut down work on that project. Several construction workers of the Century Construction Company refused to halt work. Water and building materials were thrown or

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Demonstrating members of the United Construction Workers Association scaled ladders in Tuesday's confrontation at Central Seattle Community College construction site.

EASIER SICKLE CELL TEST

BOSTON - (NBNS) - A new, inexpensive test for sickle cell anemia, which afflicts millions of Blacks, has been reported by a team of researchers at Tufts University School of Medicine.

Officials at the University say the simple screening test can be conducted on a mass basis at a cost of only three to four cents each.

Senior scientist Dr. Mortimer S. Greenburg associate clinical professor of medicine, said the screening test for sickle hemoglobin will enable hospitals to identify carriers of the trait. If two carriers marry, their children have a one-in-four chance of getting the disease.

Some two million

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EDITORIAL

Was Angela's Trial Fair

After Angela Davis was found innocent Sunday of all murder, kidnap and conspiracy charges, she said "a fair trial would have been no trial at all."

People have said that the mere fact that Angela was acquitted proves she received an unbiased trial. Perhaps the jury members and her trial judge were persons of such character that the court room part of her trial was impartial. But was the entire trial fair.

Angela's trial, which lasted nearly two years, actually began a day after the August 7, 1970 shoot-out in Marin County which left four persons dead. Miss Davis was then accused of conspiring the kidnap attempt and was charged under a California law for murder, kidnap and conspiracy. That California statute is discriminately used. How can a law which is used at the whim of government officials as a punishing tool against only certain individuals be called a fair law.

It was no surprise when Angela later became one of the FBI's ten most wanted fugitives since political dissenters, black militants and communists were high on then FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover's "no no" list.

It would have been fair if, after being arrested, Miss Davis had been arraigned, tried and been set free in no more than a week or two. As a United States citizen, she has a constitutional right to a speedy trial. Instead, she was incarcerated in a six-foot cell for sixteen months.

During the months she was held in solitary confinement, Angela's health deteriorated, her eyesight got poor and she began chain smoking. Is this just treatment for an innocent person to be put in jail and held there for months without a trial and every request for bail denied. She was innocent. Under the law, a person is innocent of all charges until proven guilty.

Does the government have the right to inflict such suffering on any individuals?

Does the government have the right to shut a person behind bars for sixteen months, shuffle her back and forth to court for thirteen weeks, then after she is found innocent, turn her loose without any type of retribution.

That Angela is free is a great deal to rejoice about. And the jury should be congratulated for reaching the decision they reached. But, we hope that Miss Davis' trial, the entire two year trial, will call attention to the judicial system. And perhaps something can be done so another innocent person won't suffer unjustly as Miss Davis did.

Judges Overrule Food Stamp Ban

Washington, D. C. -- (NBNS) -- The ban on food stamps for "unrelated" persons in a household was ruled unconstitutional by a special three-judge federal court.

Enacted by Congress to prevent "hippie" communes from getting food stamps, the law also barred food stamps for needy persons living with families to

which they were not related. The judges ruled in a case involving an elderly diabetic who lived with a friend and friend's children.

The court said the "relationships among economic unit and sharing cooking facilities have nothing to do with their personal nutritional requirements" which require food stamps.