

**Brothers and
Sisters, Workers
throughout the
land,**

**We call upon
you to join us in
Philadelphia on
July 4, 1976, in an
historic rally and
parade for jobs,
equality and
freedom.**

**July 4th Coalition
P.O. Box 998, Peter Stuyvesant Sta.
New York, N.Y. 10009
Tel. [212] 673-1776**

We are going to Philadelphia to protest Gerald Ford's attempt to celebrate the Bicentennial of the American Revolution while we, who live by the sweat of our labor, are under attack by the very same financial interests that Ford and this government so faithfully represent.

We are going to demonstrate that we will not tolerate the unemployment, inflation, speed-ups and union-busting that is pushing our backs to the wall.

And we are going not only to protest but also to celebrate—**our** history, **our** struggles, and our determination to build a better world for ourselves and our children.

THIS IS A MOMENT WHEN THE TRUTH MUST BE TOLD.

Massive unemployment has become a serious problem for all working people in this country, not just for Black and minority people for whom the problem has always been present.

Inflation widens the gap between the ends we are always trying to make meet.

Cutbacks in essential services are destroying our cities.

Speedups and profits before safety kill 14,000 of us each year.

Runaway shops continually undermine our bargaining power, as the multinational corporations take advantage of non-union and virtual slave labor in other parts of the country and overseas.

Most of all, the one tool we have to fight back and defend ourselves—the union—is being crippled, and, in many cities, busted.

And for many, for Blacks, minorities and women, for the vast unorganized work force, there is still no union. Exclusion from unions continues, as do the attacks on our right to organize.

Workers are divided by race, sex and work area. Divided, the way big business and their politicians would like to keep us.

**THESE ARE THE FACTS
THAT NOBODY CAN DISPUTE.
NOBODY WILL TRY,
EXCEPT GERALD FORD.**

It is known that he will preside over an "official" Bicentennial celebration to be staged in Philadelphia on July 4th of this year. Although people like the Queen of England are expected to attend, the main attraction will be the President who is supposed to deliver a "major address."

He will try to unify the country behind his policies—the policies which are ruining us while enriching the big corporations. He will try to picture the history of this country as the history of presidents, generals and business tycoons like Henry Ford.

However, you should know that another Bicentennial observance will take place in Philadelphia on that day. It will not bear the "official stamp" nor will it be addressed by such stellar figures. It will feature us, the working people of the country.

We believe our active support, as workers and trade unionists, in the preparations for the organizing of our celebration as well as our presence in Philadelphia on July 4 is necessary and we want you to share our belief. These are some of our reasons.

**WE, NOT THEY, CAN CELEBRATE
THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN
THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

The idea that we are created equal with the inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and that a nation could be founded based on the recognition of these rights is worthy of honor. It deserves to be honored even if there existed a large gap between the idea and the reality—a gap which still exists today.

We, not they, have fought for the realization of that equality and we, not they, have the right to hail it as a great principle and dedicate ourselves to closing the gap between the founding theory of this country and the reality in which we live.

THE HISTORY OF THIS COUNTRY IS OUR HISTORY—NOT THEIRS

Our history teaches us that in reality it has been the rich who have been "equal." Since they have secured the power, their wealth assured them they would not have to struggle for their live, liberty and happiness. It has been the working people who have had to fight tooth and nail for recognition of their basic rights of survival against the wealthy and every right or benefit we now possess was obtained only with tremendous struggle. No such rights or benefits are guaranteed unless we are prepared to defend them against the never ceasing attacks of the wealthy and their political organizations.

The history of this country is a history of the struggle of working people, Black and white, men and women...all those who have worked in this country and struggle for the betterment of their lives.

It was the working people who bled and fought in the American revolution itself. The workers, called slaves, who freed themselves from slavery, the workers, not the robber barons, who built the industrial back of the country.

It was the working people who fought to organize themselves against conspiracies of employers, against the goons and private police, against the pro-boss courts and legislation, against traitors to our cause, against the attempts to divide us by nationality, race, sex and skills.

It was the working people who fought for and won the eight-hour day, ended child labor, who demanded safety in the plants and workman's compensation, living wages and social security. It was workers who fought for anti-discrimination and equal opportunity laws. It was we who gained what good there is in this country...not Gerald Ford and the big business interests he represents.

So we are going to Philadelphia on July 4th. We will dramatize our demands and answer Ford's lies in a peaceful and orderly parade.

More than that, we will unify with tens of thousands of people from all over the country, from all sectors of the population and all political points of view... people who oppose the government's policies and realize that we must build a national movement to stop those policies.

IT IS A QUESTION OF SURVIVAL

...of fighting for what is ours, for what we deserve and against the attacks with the only tools we have—organization, unity, militancy.

The July 4th Coalition, a national coalition of some 200 groups, organized in sixty cities of this country, is committed to fighting for our rights and the democratic rights of all people in this country and the world. What better way to defend ourselves than to unify with others who are willing to unify with us?

What better way to celebrate the highest ideals of our revolutionary traditions than by raising the banner of our rights as workers alongside that demanding—in the words of Tom Paine—Freedom For All Oppressed People.

**Join us in Philadelphia on July 4th
For Jobs and A Decent Standard of Living
For Full Democracy and Equality
For a Bicentennial without Colonies—
Freedom for all Oppressed Nations**

I have to be with you in Philadelphia on July 4th. Please send information immediately on bus and train departures from my area.

Name

Address

City..... Zip.....

Telephone

Mail at once to: July 4th Coalition, P.O.B.
998, Peter Stuyvesant Station, New York,
N.Y. 10009 Tel. (212) 673-1776

Labor Sponsors of the July 4th Coalition*

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**In the fight for Jobs, Equality, Freedom,
Independence, Peace.**

*Organizations listed for identification purposes.





