

## Workers Seize Plant To Protest Closing

MILAN (LNS) — Last December 11, the owners of the GMB print shop in Segrate, a suburb of Milan, announced that they intended to shut down their factory. In response, GMB's 180 employees occupied the plant. And now, three months later, the workers are still there—24 hours a day. In those three months, the printshop has been converted from a producer of semi-pornographic comics to a producer of leaflets, posters and pamphlets for workers struggles in the Milan area.

What the GMB workers have done is not unusual. There are thousands of occupied factories all over Italy, one manifestation of the crisis of the Italian economy which has produced spiraling inflation and massive unemployment. The occupations come as a result of an

### Chicago Woman Acquitted For Rape Charge

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In testimony before a woman judge, Chester alleged that "three women invited me to come up for a rape." He also claimed that the women attempted to take off his pants while sitting on his legs. The court ruled that there was insufficient evidence and Baer was acquitted.

Freddie Bauer stated that she first heard of Chester when she read his column in the University paper in which he claimed that women enjoyed being raped, and that rape was really a woman's fantasy. He further contended that when women protested being raped that they were merely being coy.

### Nixon Speaks On Law And Order

"There are those who say that law and order are just code words for repression and bigotry. That is dangerous nonsense. Law and order are words for goodness and decency in America."

"This is tough legislation but we must settle for nothing less. The time has come for soft-headed judges and probation officers to show as much concern for the rights of innocent victims of crime as they do for the rights of convicted criminals."

—from a radio speech on crime March 16, 1973

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## Court: Education Not A Right

WASHINGTON (LNS)—On March 23, the Supreme Court ruled, in a 5-4 decision, that education was "not among the rights afforded explicit protection under our federal Constitution." The four Nixon appointees plus Potter Stewart formed the majority. The minority opinion consisted of the four Warren Court holdovers: Marshall (the only black on the Court), Douglas, White, and Brennan.

The ruling came as part of a decision which upheld the right of Texas school districts to fund their schools unequally, based on property tax revenues. At issue was the education of Chicano children. The decision declared it proper for the predominantly Chicano schools to receive \$231 per child per year while in the schools of a neighboring district of wealthy homes, \$294 was allocated for each child.

Texas isn't the only state where such disparities exist. In New York for example, there is a range of from \$1800 to \$600 per child depending on the wealth of the school district.

The suit to equalize school spending in Texas was brought by fifteen Chicano parents from San Antonio, who sought the application of the 14th Amendment's "equal protection" clause. They asserted that it was discriminatory for their children to receive an inferior education because they lived in neighborhoods whose assessed land and property values did not yield high enough revenues even though they were taxed at a higher rate than the wealthier areas.

The U.S. District Court in San Antonio had supported the Chicano parents' case, ordering Texas to find alternate financing methods. But the recent Supreme Court decision overturned that ruling. Had the decision gone the other way, every state but Hawaii would have had to find means other than property taxes to finance their school systems.

The implication of this ruling go far beyond the Texas school system. By declaring that education "is not among the rights" guaranteed by the Constitution, the Court has added more fuel to the Nixon Administration's argument that being poor is the fault of the poor and no one else.

In a society which demands a high-school diploma just to get a job, where reading is a virtual necessity to survive, the notion that education is not something to be administered "equally" is astounding. But not so astounding really, when you consider that the right to adequate health care, the right to a job, and the right to eat decently also seem to be among the rights not protected by the Nixon Court's interpretation of the Constitution.

In fact, the Supreme Court's decision addressed itself to just these issues. It feared that if it voted in favor of equal spending for schools, soon the allocation of tax funds for things like medical facilities, and other "public services" would come under the same "equality" provision.

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