

Trade-Union Coordinating Committee Meeting - October 24, 1979

Present: Britton, Lovell, Lyons, Mailhot, Morell

Guests: Cole, Leonard, Rose, Seigle, Shilman

Birmingham - Ken Shilman reported on right-wing and company campaign to force women out of Jim Walters mines. Because of the physical danger and unfavorable relation of forces in the mine where Sara and Ellen were working, the comrades in Birmingham decided we had to pull the comrades out of the mine. The branch mobilized to organize a defense for the comrades, and a national defense effort was undertaken. Ken and Shelley Davis went to Birmingham to help on the political and legal efforts, and Tom L. spent time there. However, despite these efforts, we were forced to organize a retreat.

Sara and Ellen are looking for other jobs and we do not have a perspective of them going back to work in that mine. We will follow through on complaints filed with the EEOC and the NLRB, and use the case every way we can at the upcoming UMWA women miners' conference, in NOW, etc. However, there is no basis for a sustained political campaign around this case in Birmingham or nationally. There is no reason for Sara and Ellen to remain on the miners' fraction unless they get work in another mine.

We need to present to the entire party a balance sheet on the experience, to explain the lessons we have learned.

Discussion.

Motion by Lyons:

- a) that a written report be prepared based on Ken's presentation.
- b) that Ken and Tom go to Birmingham to report on discussion here.

Carried.