

WOMEN FIGHTING INCO

Wives and families of Sudbury Local 6500 have begun to mobilize in support of the Inco strike. A women's support group, Wives Supporting the Strike, was formed in September to keep up morale among strikers' wives who are faced with the financial and emotional stress of surviving on \$30 in food vouchers per week.

The 12,000 strikers, now into their tenth week, must face a long, cold winter on the picket line. Current Inco stockpiles mean that management will probably not be forced to negotiate until spring when nickel supplies have been reduced. The company's empty contract offer directly attacked previously-won rights. This reality plus probable layoffs in 1979 offered the workers no choice but to go on strike.

The Wive's Committee say it is their strike too. To ease the pressures that the strike causes, the group plans activities such as babysitting co-operatives, car pools, buying food for groups of families, potluck suppers, and neighbourhood entertainment. Committee members have organized these activities by neighbourhood so that every woman can have input into the group and keep informed. Recently, a successful family day on the picket line was organized.

The strikers' wives are not the only Sudbury women affected by the strike. In 1975, Inco hired 100 women in a token gesture to International Women's Year. After last year's layoffs, only 40 women are left and their jobs will be gone in the next layoff.

Sudbury women don't want a repeat of the 1958 strike when church leaders and politicians brought thousands of strikers' wives to a back-to-work rally. Within a month, the strike had ended in humiliating defeat for the union just before Christmas.

Strikers and their families now face the prospect of a bleak Christmas. To express solidarity with the strikers and their families, and to help raise money for their Christmas fund, a benefit rally has been planned for Dec. 8. in O.I.S.E. auditorium, 252 Bloor St. W., at 8 p.m. There will be a \$2 admission charge to cover expenses.

Linda Obonsawain, of the Wives Supporting the Strike Committee, Joan Kuyek, a leader of the Citizens' Strike Support Committee, and Kathy Duhaime, a union member on strike, will speak about the Sudbury situation. There will also be entertainment and a party with a cash bar afterwards.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT:

COME TO THE SOLIDARITY BENEFIT

If you can't come, please send donations to: United Steelworkers Local 6500
92 Froid Rd. W.
Sudbury.

Sponsored by Organized Working Women, The International Women's Day Committee, the Ontario Federation of Labour, United Steelworkers Local 6500, and the Ontario New Democratic Party.