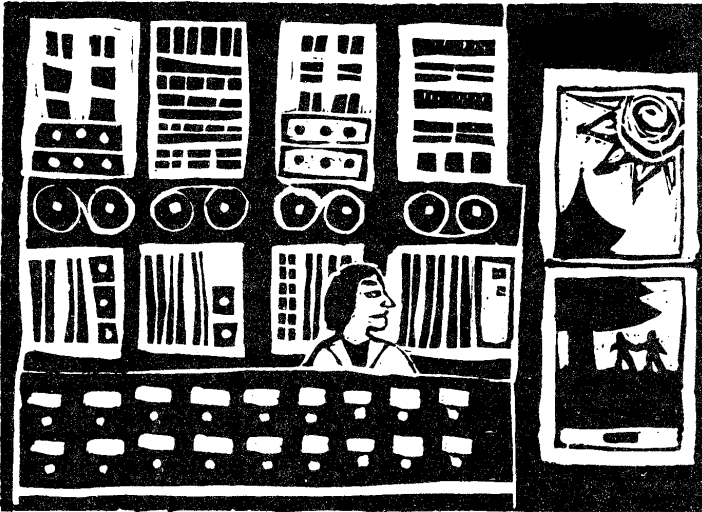


# LESS TIME FOR WORK, MORE TIME FOR LIFE!



tivity go? It makes it possible for the boss to throw the worker next to us onto the streets, as each of us now does the work it used to take two workers to do.

## Winning Shorter Hours Around the World

Over a hundred years ago, U.S. workers fought for (and eventually won) the 8-hour day. Today, many of us find ourselves putting in 10- and 12-hour work days – working longer, and harder, than we did 100 years ago. All this overtime leads to increased stress and on-the-job accidents, and keeps us from our families. Meanwhile, millions of workers are jobless, and millions more working dead-end part-time jobs.

In France, Germany, South Korea – all over the world – workers are demanding shorter work weeks and longer vacations. Rather than join the bosses' race to the bottom, it's time for us to link up with our fellow workers around the world to reduce working hours and increase employment.

## We Lead the World

According to a recent report by the International Labor Organization, U.S. workers lead the industrialized world in the number of hours worked each year – adding 36 hours to our work year in the 1990s.

While American workers are piling on overtime (much of it mandatory) and taking on two or three jobs in order to cope with low wages, workers around the world have been fighting for – and winning – short work weeks and longer vacations. As a result, U.S. workers now put in 499 hours (about 12 1/2 weeks) more a year on the job than German workers.

## Working Ourselves Out of Our Jobs

The ILO Report also ranked the U.S. #1 in productivity. That means we're working harder, and producing more, than workers anywhere else in the world. And because we're working so long and so hard, we're working ourselves right out of our jobs.

Industrial productivity (the amount of goods or services we produce each hour) doubles every 25 years or so. But our pay (adjusted for inflation) doesn't go up (indeed, it's been drifting downward for decades), and our hours don't go down. So where does all our produc-

## Create Jobs with Good Pay & Benefits

A shorter work week with no cut in pay (and no speed-up) would force the bosses to hire more workers, reducing unemployment and reversing the downward pressure on our wages. It would make it possible for millions of workers to escape the trap of piling up low-paid, no-benefit part-time jobs in order merely to survive. It would enable the jobless to escape poverty, and give our youth a future to look forward to – not to dread.

## Our Time is Our Lives

Every hour we spend on the job doing the bosses' bidding is an hour we can not spend doing the things that make life worth living – raising our children, hanging out with our friends, gardening, bowling, fishing, relaxing ...

But if we wait for the bosses or the politicians to deliver a shorter work week, we'll soon find ourselves putting in 12- and 14-hour days. The only way to reclaim our lives is to organize – to build unions controlled by the members and determined to fight the bosses to win better lives for all.

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# The Fight for a Shorter Work Week

Speakers from Brazilian Immigrant Center, IWW, Coalition of Contingent Academic Labor, and others

**Community Church of Boston • 565 Boylston, Copley Square**  
**Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m.**



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