



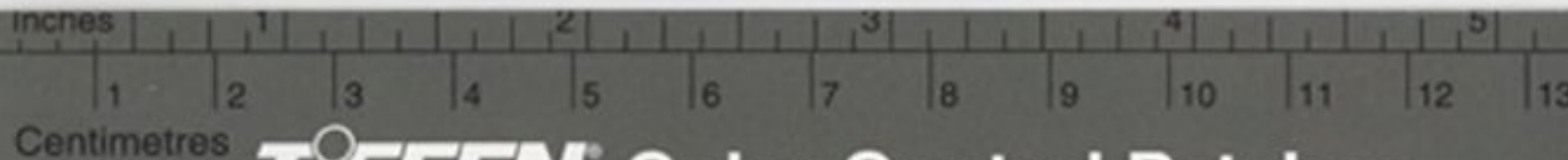
**DIG
WE**

MUST!

**- INTO THE
COAL OPERATORS'
PROFITS!**

J. C. PEELE, M.D.
KINSTON, N. C.
COMMUNIST PUBLICATION

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A PROGRAM FOR COAL MINERS

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Introduction

The powerful movement of militant rank and file coal miners is having a strong impact on the mine owners, the coal state politicians and the United Mine Workers of America.

A new black lung compensation law was won in West Virginia when 43,000 miners walked off the job declaring "no law, no coal." This started the movement in other coal states for similar laws. A Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act was finally passed by Congress, and President Nixon was forced to sign it with the threat of a nationwide coal strike hanging over his head.

The present leadership of the United Mine Workers, which has played along with the coal operators for years, was vigorously challenged during the last union elections, and a strong rank and file movement has been formed which is demanding a more militant and democratic union whose leaders will recognize the rights of the membership.

There is a big need now to move ahead for a real fight to end the *causes* of black lung and other needless hazards in the coal industry. However, there is a serious danger that even the small gains that have been made can be wiped out.

The coal operators and the Nixon administration are out to take away what has been won. The coal companies are moving to destroy the Mine Health and Safety Act. They don't care about continuing to throw coal miners to the slaughter. Nixon fired the one man in the Federal Government who did speak out for mine safety, and replaced him with another more to his liking. (The *UMW Journal* reports that "President W. A. Boyle expressed satisfaction