

# SOLIDARITY FOREVER

Songs for UMWA members  
on strike against  
the Pittston Coal Company



If you have any songs you've written  
for the striking Pittston workers,  
please send them to:

UMWA Organizing Department  
900 15th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

## DOWN AT THE PICKETLINE

(Tune: Down By The Riverside)

1.. I'm gonna stand for my union rights  
Down at the picketline  
Down at the picketline  
Down at the picketline  
Down at the picketline  
I'm gonna stand for my union rights  
Down at the picketline  
Down at the picketline

### CHORUS:

I aint gonna go to work today  
Unless I work for union pay  
I aint gonna go to work today  
I aint gonna go to work today  
Unless I work for union pay  
I aint gonna go to work today

2. I'm gonna win back my benefits  
Down at the picketline. . .

3. I'm gonna pick up my union card  
Down at the picketline...

4. I'm gonna fight for job security  
Down at the picketline...

5. I'm gonna stand with my family. . .



## GIVE ME THAT OLD TIME UNION

(Tune: Old Time Religion)

### CHORUS:

Give me that old time union  
Give me that old time union  
Give me that old time union  
It's good enough for me

1. Let me work for union wages  
They've been cheating us for ages  
Let me work for union wages  
It's good enough for me

(repeat chorus between each verse)

2. We won't let Paul Douglas bust us  
We'll have dignity and justice...

3. We know we have no intention  
Of giving back our pension...

4. We will not work on Sunday. . .

5. It will do when I am dying. . .

6. It was good for all my children. . .

7. It will do when I have black lung. . .

## WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?

My daddy was a miner  
I'm a miner's son  
And I'll stick with the union  
Until the battle's won

### CHORUS:

Which side are you on? Which side are you on?  
Which side are you on? Which side are you on?

They say in Dickinson County  
There are no shades of gray  
You're either with Paul Douglas  
or the UMWA

### CHORUS

They say that up in Greenwich  
Pittston calls the tune  
But we'll outfox their lawyers  
And laugh at all their goons

### CHORUS

Pittston you don't stand a chance  
Despite the bankers' loans  
For no one has the power  
Of the daughters of Mother Jones

### CHORUS

## CHORUS

From Splashdam up to Moss Three  
From Jewell Ridge to McClure  
Our good old union will prevail  
Of that you can be sure

## CHORUS

Pittston has its assets  
Protected well by Vance  
But Farrell's goons will be exposed  
For we'll pull down their pants

## CHORUS

Pittston thought in Greenwich  
That folks just would't care  
But miners look around you  
And take some comfort there

## WE'VE BEEN WORKING FOR PITTSTON

(Tune: I've Been Working On The Railroad)

We've been working for Pittston  
20 years or more  
We've been working for Pittston  
And we've been keeping score  
We are fighting for our pensions,  
Job security and more  
And we've been working in the union  
And you're not gonna milk us poor

Douglas why won't you  
Douglas why won't you  
Douglas why won't you negotiate?  
Douglas why won't you  
Douglas why won't you  
Negotiate today?

We want a union contract  
And we're willing to take a stand  
We want a union contract  
It's a fair and just demand.



## WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED

We shall not, we shall not be moved  
We shall not, we shall not be moved  
Just like a tree that's planted by the water  
We shall not be moved

The union stands together...

We're fighting for our communities. . .

Our families are united. . .

We're fighting for a contract...

We're fighting for our children...

We're fighting for our pensioners. . .

We'll build a mighty union...

We're fighting for our disabled. . .

Paul Douglas owns Pittston,  
And he should be removed  
Paul Douglas owns Pittston,  
And he should be removed  
But like a tree that's rotting by the river,  
He should be removed

## THE PICKET BOOGIE

(Tune: The Hokey Pokey)

They keep the raises out, they put some cutbacks in  
The offer that they're making is a crying sin  
But we'll do the picket boogie and we'll turn it all around  
And that's what it's all about!

The language they put in keeps better pensions out  
We look at their proposals and we want to shout  
Let's do the picket boogie and we'll turn it all around  
And that's what it's all about!

They rake the profits in until their pockets bulge out  
Then they say our kids and families can do without  
So we'll do the picket boogie and we'll turn it all around  
And that's what it's all about!

Now we're all joining in to keep concessions out  
We're sticking with the union and there is no doubt  
That we'll do the picket boogie and we'll turn it all  
around  
And that's what it's all about!

We'll do the P-I-I-I-CKET BOOGIE  
We'll do the P-I-I-I-CKET BOOGIE  
We'll do the P-I-I-I-CKET BOOGIE  
And that's what it's all about!

## THIS OLD MAN

1. This old man, he does one  
Now Paul Douglas is on the run

### CHORUS:

With a knick-knack paddy-whack  
Give a dog a bone  
Hey, Paul Douglas, go back home

2. This old man, he does two  
He doesn't care about me or you

3. This old man, he does three  
Taking back what he promised me

4. This old man, he does four  
The pension system is no more

5. This old man, he does five  
We won't listen to Douglas' jive

6. This old man, he does six  
Union busting is his long-planned trick

7. This old man, he does seven  
Now Paul Douglas is in hog heaven

8. This old man he does eight  
He refused to negotiate

9. This old man, he does nine  
I'd rather strike than cross the line

10. This old man, he does ten  
By sticking together we'll win again

## STAYING OUT ON THE LINE

(Tune: This Little Light of Mine)

### CHORUS:

We're staying out on the line  
Till we get that contract signed  
We're staying out on the line  
Till we get that contract signed  
We're staying out on the line  
Till we get that contract signed  
Get it signed, get it signed, get it signed.

1. There's no way we'll submit  
To a cut in benefits  
There's no way we'll submit  
To a cut in benefits  
There's no way we'll submit  
To a cut in benefits  
Benefits, benefits, benefits.

2. The union is standing tall  
All for one and one for all  
The union is standing tall  
All for one and one for all  
The union is standing tall  
All for one and one for all  
One for all, one for all, one for all.



## THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

This little light of mine  
I'm, gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine  
I'm, gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine  
I'm, gonna let it shine  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All across the coalfields, I'm gonna let it shine...

All over Pittston, I'm gonna let it shine. . .

Over Paul Douglas, I'm gonna let it shine. . .

Up in Connecticut, I'm gonna let it shine. . .

We won't work on Sunday. . .

Here in Virginia. . .

And in West Virginia. . .

All through Kentucky. . .

All over America. . . .

## I'M WORKING WITH THE UNION

(Tune: I'm Working on a Building)

If I was a miner  
I'll tell you what I'd do  
I'd get out on the picketline  
And work with the union too

### CHORUS:

I'm working with the union  
I'm working with the union  
I'm working with the union  
For my job, yes, for my job

If I was a trucker  
I'd tell you what I'd do  
I'd park my truck  
And work with the union too.

If I was a foreman  
I'll tell you what I'd do  
I'd stop my scabbing  
And I'd work with the union, too

If I was Mike Odom  
I'd tell you what I'd do  
I'd stop my lying  
And I'd work with the union too.

## OH, MIKE ODOM

(Tune: Oh, Susannah)

### CHORUS:

Oh, Mike Odom  
Oh don't you lie to me  
I've lived in the mountains all my life  
And it was the land of the free

You think you will bring in your scabs  
To take our loved ones' place  
But we will win the battle  
And we will win with grace.

You took our pensioners' benefits  
After they have worked so hard  
But they will stand up for their rights  
Even though they are tired

Our politicians may take sides  
But they never will again  
Because when it comes time to vote  
We can bring it to an end.

We may just be old country folk  
And this we're proud to be  
If you come to church on Sunday  
Then there we will be.

## PAUL DOUGLAS DON'T ALLOW

(TUNE: Mama Don't Allow)

Paul Douglas don't allow no unions around here  
Paul Douglas don't allow no unions around here  
We don't care what Paul Douglas don't allow  
Gonna have our unions anyhow  
Paul Douglas don't allow no unions around here

Paul Douglas don't allow no pensions around here  
Paul Douglas don't allow no pensions around here  
We don't care what Paul Douglas don't allow  
Gonna win our pensions anyhow  
Paul Douglas don't allow no pensions around here

Paul Douglas don't allow no bargaining around here  
Paul Douglas don't allow no bargaining around here  
We don't care what Paul Douglas don't allow  
Gonna get a contract anyhow  
Paul Douglas don't allow no bargaining around here



## ROLL THE UNION ON

### CHORUS:

We're gonna roll, we're gonna roll,  
We're gonna roll the union on  
We're gonna roll, we're gonna roll  
We're gonna roll the union on

And when Paul Douglas is in the way  
We're gonna roll right over him  
Roll right over him  
Roll right over him  
When Paul Douglas is in the way  
We're gonna roll right over him  
We're gonna roll the union on

When the scabs are in the way...

When the state police are in the way...

When Vance Security is in the way . . .

Whoever's in the way ...

## SOLIDARITY FOREVER

(Tune: Battle Hymn of the Republic)

Solidarity forever, solidarity forever, solidarity forever  
For the union makes us strong!

1. When the union's inspiration  
through the workers' blood shall run  
There can be no power greater  
anywhere beneath the sun  
For what force on earth is weaker  
than the feeble strength of one?  
For the union makes us strong

chorus

2. Paul Douglas is waging war  
on working people everywhere  
He took away our pensions  
And he doesn't even care  
The only thing he thinks of  
is the price of corporate shares  
But the union makes us strong

chorus

3. Douglas took away our benefits  
that he never toiled to earn  
But without our brain and muscle  
not a single wheel could turn  
We can break his haughty power,  
gain our freedom when we learn  
That the union makes us strong.

chorus

4. Is there aught we hold in common  
with this greedy parasite  
Who would lash us into serfdom  
and would crush us with his might?  
Is there anything left for us  
but to organize and fight?  
For the union makes us strong.

chorus

5. In our hands is placed a power  
greater than his hoarded gold  
Greater than the might of armies  
magnified a thousand fold  
We can bring to birth a new world  
from the ashes of the old  
For the union makes us strong.

## UNION MAID

There once was a union maid  
She never was afraid  
Of goons and ginks and company finks  
And the deputy sheriffs who made the raid;  
She went to the Union Hall  
When a meeting it was called,  
And when the company boys came 'round,  
She always stood her ground.

CHORUS:

O you can't scare me, I'm sticking with the  
union,  
I'm sticking with the union, I'm sticking with  
the union,  
O you can't scare me, I'm sticking with the  
union,  
I'm sticking with the union, till the day I die.

This union maid was wise,  
To the tricks of the company spies,  
She couldn't be fooled by company stools  
She'd always organize the guys  
She always got her way,  
When she struck for higher pay,  
She'd show her card to the National Guard,  
And this is what she'd say:

O you can't scare me. . .