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GEORGE ALLEN, THE RAMS, AND CAPITALISM

The firing of professional football coach of the Los Angeles Rams highlights one of the central contradictions in American society, between capital and labor. Dan Reeves, owner (major stockholder) of the Rams terminated Allen's position, although Allen is perhaps the most competent coach in professional football, as Reeves will readily admit. The men whose congealed labor makes the Rams a football team, the players, are solidly backing Allen. The Los Angeles fans are incensed at Reeves' coup. Yet this man, who for some accident of fate has so-called ownership of Deacon Jones, Merlin Olsen, Roman Gabriel, and Ed McCord, can legally dismiss Allen on a self-admitted personal whim. A threatened strike by some of the leading Rams workers (including the above) may yet force Reeves to withdraw his action (nothing can beat football players in their relationship to the means of production), yet this does not go far enough in challenging the nature of Reeves' position. No man has a God-given right to 'own' a team of hard working men, let alone fire a successful coach. To be truly revolutionary, the demands of the Rams players must go beyond the re-instatement of Allen, and lead to workers' control, and the eventual collectivization of the Rams.

Workers of the World, Unite!!!