

# THE MILITANT

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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## U.S. rulers try to narrow political rights

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS AND BRIAN TAYLOR

PITTSBURGH — Recent moves by Washington to curtail the democratic rights of opponents of U.S. policy toward Cuba were a top agenda point at the meeting of the National Network On Cuba (NNOC) here September 28-29. These are part of a broader effort by the U.S. rulers to narrow

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the space for political and union activity by workers, immigrants, and others in the United States.

Participants in the Pittsburgh meeting discussed how NNOC affiliates and others can respond to these anti-democratic moves, which include stepped-up government intimidation of individuals who have traveled to Cuba.

In recent months, U.S. Treasury Department officials have increased threats of fines and imprisonment against people who they claim have violated existing laws and executive orders restricting travel to Cuba. FBI agents and other federal agencies have increased harassment of such individuals as well, said Andres Gómez, one of the na-

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## 'Militant' supporters kick off sub drive

BY NAOMI CRAINE

On the first weekend of October socialist workers, Young Socialists, and other distributors and readers of the *Militant* begin a six-week subscription drive. Their aim is to win 1,200 new readers to the socialist newsweekly, 425 subscribers to its sister publication in Spanish *Perspectiva Mundial*, and sell 550 copies of the Marxist magazine *New International*.

The drive begins October 5 and ends November 17, which coincides with the last weeks of the U.S. presidential election campaign and the final two months of the Young Socialists recruitment drive to double their membership from 80 to 160. The subscription effort can reinforce socialist election campaigning and sales of Pathfinder books and pamphlets, and thus recruitment to the YS.

Discussion of political questions arising out of the U.S. presidential elections makes the *Militant* an invaluable resource for thinking workers and rebel-minded youth. Each week the socialist paper analyzes the concrete developments in bourgeois politics and in the bipartisan drive by the White House and Congress against workers' rights — from the passage of the anti-labor "Defense

Continued on Page 5

# Palestinian resistance sparks crisis in Tel Aviv

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Palestinian resistance to provocations by the Israeli regime, including three days of street combat between Palestinian security forces and Israeli soldiers September 25-27, has sparked a crisis for Tel Aviv. For the first time since Israeli forces occupied the Palestinian territory of the West Bank three decades ago, they met not only a hail of stones from youth demanding their withdrawal, but an armed response from a Palestinian police force recognized by Tel Aviv. Since then demonstrations of up to 30,000 Israelis in Tel Aviv and other cities have protested the policies of Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and divisions have grown among supporters of the Zionist state around the world on how to respond.

Emergency talks organized in Washington by the Clinton administration at the start of October failed to stem the conflict. Palestinian demonstrators burned U.S. flags and stoned Israeli soldiers in Hebron and other West Bank towns October 3, in response to the failure of the summit between Netanyahu and Palestine Liberation Orga-

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## As we go to press

BY GARY WATSON

TORONTO — Fifteen thousand members of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) have gone on strike at General Motors of Canada Ltd. Late in the evening of October 2, CAW members at assembly plants in St. Therese, Quebec, as well as Oshawa, Ontario, set up picket lines in a fight against the contracting out of their jobs to non-union suppliers.

Company plans could eliminate over 5,000 jobs in the next few months. There are 28,500 CAW workers at General Motors. Eleven thousand GM parts plant workers also plan to strike by October 10, if a settlement is not reached. The *Militant* will report from the picket lines in next week's issue.



Palestinian police officer takes aim at Israeli troops as youth stand by near Gaza City.

## Undocumented workers demand rights in France

BY RAFIK ZAÏGOUCHE AND CLAUDE BLETON

PARIS — "First, second, third generation, we are all children of immigrants." At the call of the National Committee for Undocumented Immigrants, some 20,000 demonstrators pointed out that France is a country of immigrants and demanded that the "undocumented of the St. Bernard Church," as well as others be given regular papers.

For Traoré, one of the "undocumented" leaders, the presence of so many French demonstrators was very important. "Today they are hitting the immigrants, but tomorrow they will hit the French as well," he said.

The immigrant rights demonstration takes

place as unions in France gear up for a new round of protests against government austerity measures. Paris subway and bus workers went on strike September 27 and teachers held a nationwide strike, marching in Paris on September 30 to protest job cuts. Railroad and civil service unions are planning a 24-hour work stoppage October 17.

French President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Alain Juppé insist that painful austerity for the workers is needed to get France ready to adopt a common European currency by the end of the decade. Unemployment in France stands at a staggering 12.6 percent.

Most trade unions and a variety of politi-  
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## Steelworkers strike at Wheeling-Pitt

BY TONY DUTROW

PITTSBURGH — Some 4,500 determined steelworkers at eight mills in Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania hit the picket lines at 12:01 a.m. October 1. Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel is the ninth largest integrated steel producer in the United States.

WHX Corporation, the parent company that owns the steelmaker, forced the strike when it refused to consider the union's proposal for a better pension plan. The current

plan is inferior to that of all the other integrated steelmakers.

At the heart of the union's proposal is a "defined benefit plan" which guarantees a fixed retirement income based on each year worked. The current plan ties benefits to employer contributions, and profits from investments of those contributions.

The substandard retirement plan that WHX merely wants to "enhance" has been in effect since 1986. In 1985 the steel com-

pany declared bankruptcy and workers struck for 98 days.

According to the October 2 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, WHX is sitting on a nest egg of \$406 million in cash and stocks that it will use to operate during the strike.

Members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 1190 in Steubenville, Ohio, flocked to the union hall to sign up for picket duty as the strike began. Union members had recently organized a rally and picnic attended by over 2,000 workers and their families, September 22, which helped prepare for the strike.

At the Allenport mill near Charlerois, Pennsylvania, USWA Local 1187 members organized a protest in front of the plant to highlight their demands, they wore T-shirts that said, "No pension. No contract."

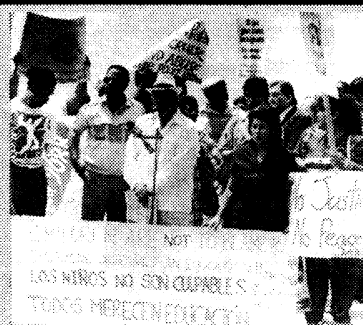
Supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign will be heading to the Wheeling-Pitt picket lines to support the striking unionists, and to sell the *Militant* and Pathfinder books. Anyone who would like to participate in a campaign team should call the campaign offices in Pittsburgh or Morgantown (see listings on page 12).

Tony Dutrow is a member of USWA Local 1557 in Pittsburgh.

## March on Washington for immigrant rights

October 12, 1996

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**Peasants in Bolivia demand right to land**

Some 20,000 Indian farmers protested in La Paz, the capital of Bolivia, September 26, demanding titles to the land they work and live on. One peasant woman was killed and at least seven injured in confrontations with the cops. Public school teachers and some health workers held a 24-hour strike the same day in support of the protest. The march began August 27 in the city of Santa Cruz, 600 miles east of the capital. Thousands of farmers joined as the march wound its way up and across the mountains. Among them were farmers fighting the eradication of 11,000 acres of coca plants by the government. A land-reform bill is expected to be introduced in Congress September 30.



Armenians marched in Yerevan September 23, protesting election results they charge are a fraud.

**Strike in Haiti closes City Hall**

Some 750 administrative and cleaning employees in Haiti's capital city of Port-au-Prince went on strike September 25. They joined 50 nurses at the state university hospital who walked out the day before to demand eight months in back pay. Street cleaners, who have not been paid in two years, blocked access to the municipal cemetery and protested in front of the Finance Ministry. In response, Port-au-Prince mayor Emmanuel Charlemagne said his government is broke and appealed to the federal government of President Rene Preval. Mayors from 6 of Haiti's 9 administrative districts have threatened to shut down public offices.

**40,000 protest Armenian election**

Tens of thousands demonstrated September 23-26 in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, charging fraud in elections that declared President Levon Ter-Petrosian reelected in one round. On the third day of protests, 40,000 demonstrators stormed the parliament building. Government troops fired at protesters, killing 2 and injuring 59. Since then armored tanks and troops have patrolled

the streets and dozens of opposition activists have been arrested. According to the Associated Press, Ter-Petrosian banned public rallies. He supported the troops shooting at protesters, claiming they were forced to open fire.

Many of the demonstrators backed Vazgen Manukian, who officially received 41 percent of the vote to president Ter-Petrosian's 52 percent. Manukian is a former prime minister who ran promising to raise salaries. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which had 89 international observers overseeing the elections, criticized "very serious" irregularities in voting procedures.

**POWs choose living in Chechnya**

Dozens of Russian prisoners of war have chosen not to go home, preferring to remain in Chechnya. Konstantin Limonov, a former interior ministry soldier, announced on television his refusal to participate in a prisoner exchange negotiated between Chechen and Russian authorities. He said he had converted to Islam and taken a Chechen name. A senior Russian officer said that Limonov and his comrade Ruslan Klochov, who

also decided to stay in Chechnya, would face trial for desertion if they returned. "The character of this whole war also plays a role in their decision," said Sergei Sorokin, an activist of the Russian Anti-Militarist Association. "They encounter a war for freedom and sometimes they cross to the other side and actually join in the fight against Russia. They chose to fight for freedom, for liberty."

**Kremlin: Yeltsin is 'well enough'**

The Kremlin announced September 24 that president Boris Yeltsin is well enough to govern Russia, and rejected suggestions that he should resign. Although Russian premier Victor Chernomyrdin was handed the reigns of power by Yeltsin September 8, he said "it is out of the question" that Yeltsin would step down. Chernomyrdin would take control of the country if Yeltsin did resign, pending new elections. Yeltsin has had three heart attacks over the past year and a half. Revelations about the severity of the president's health problems have shaken the Russian political world and depressed Russian markets.

**Uzbekistan plans privatization**

The government of Uzbekistan is planning to sell off at least 300 state-owned companies, and as many as 1,000. But government officials are wary of problems that occurred in other former Soviet Union republics attempting to return to a capitalist system and property relations. "Elsewhere, the shares went to those who were rich already. We don't want a redistribution of property, but a sale," said Abdullah Abdulkadirov, deputy chairman of the state property committee. Peter Klein, general manager of a Dutch joint venture bank of ABN Amro, explained that "they [the government of Uzbekistan] are trying to learn from the mistakes of other countries, where privatization did not always go smoothly." The *Financial Times* reported

that while "in Russian and other republics the employees managed to obtain a majority stake in many companies and block painful restructuring, in Uzbekistan the workers can own no more than 23 percent."

**Japanese prime minister dissolves parliament**

On September 27, Japan's prime minister Ryutaro Hashimoto dissolved the national parliament, opening the way for new elections, expected to be held October 20. Hashimoto and his conservative party hope the move will bolster their electoral position. Hashimoto became prime minister in January, and the four-year term of the current assembly was scheduled to expire in July 1997. The prime minister's strategy comes after a tentative truce with the governor of Okinawa about reducing the U.S. military bases located there and to ensure elections take place before an unpopular national sales tax hike takes effect in April.

**Veto on abortion ban sticks**

Falling 9 votes short of the two-thirds majority needed, the U.S. Senate voted 57 to 41 September 26 on a motion to override President William Clinton's veto of a bill banning a type of late-term abortion. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about 1.3 percent of abortions performed annually are late term, some of them using the so-called partial-birth procedure, medically known as intact dilation and evacuation. The bill, which was passed by Congress last spring, was vetoed by Clinton in April. The U.S. House of Representatives voted September 20 to overturn the presidential veto. Clinton said he vetoed the bill because it contained no exception to protect the mother's health. The ban would have subjected doctors to up to two years in prison and civil lawsuits for violating the law.

**Pentagon didn't tell troops of drugs used in Gulf War**

The Pentagon decided not to tell troops fighting in Washington's 1991 war in the Persian Gulf that they had been given an "investigational" drug. The Pentagon did not get consent from people taking the drug — pyridostigmine bromide — because of the wartime waiver granted by the Food and Drug Administration. However, even with the waiver officials are required to warn troops about the risks. Additionally, recent disclosures from the Pentagon said that U.S. troops in the Gulf may have been exposed to low levels of sarin nerve gas. A Defense Department spokesman admitted September 26, "I believe there was a conscious decision made at the time, not to tell the troops."

— MEGAN ARNEY

**THE MILITANT**

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# Puerto Rico activists call for independence

BY SETH GALINSKY

LARES, Puerto Rico — Thousands of people gathered here under a scorching sun September 23 to commemorate the 1868 armed uprising against Spanish colonial rule known as Grito de Lares.

Although the 1868 rebellion was crushed by Spain, independence supporters have turned the date into an annual event to rally opposition to U.S. domination of the island, which replaced the Spanish colonizers. This year, independence leaders called for a new campaign to win freedom for the colony.

Puerto Rico has no voting representative in the U.S. Congress, but U.S. laws apply here. While Spanish is the first language of the overwhelming majority, English is used by all U.S. courts on the island.

Javier Ramos Rosa, 20, said he came to the event "because it's correct. It is our right to have full independence. But they have not allowed us that."

Junior high and high school students, government workers, and some factory workers skipped work or school to attend.

Three events were held at the main plaza in Lares. The largest event was organized by the National Hostosiano Conference, a coalition that includes the main pro-independence groups with the exception of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP). The Nationalist Party held an event in the morning, and the PIP later in the day.

"Take back the bases and give us back the imprisoned patriots," proclaimed a large banner next to the speaker's platform at the Hostosiano Conference rally.

The U.S. Navy has its most important Caribbean naval base in Puerto Rico — Roosevelt Roads Naval Station — which is one of the largest in the world. The base, which includes facilities on the main island, occupies two-thirds of the island of Vieques — much of which it uses for live ammunition practice.

While Washington proclaims the right to exercise its military might on the island, 15 Puerto Ricans active in the fight for independence are being held in U.S. prisons under extremely harsh sentences. Two of them are accused of involvement in the 1983 Wells Fargo holdup in Hartford, Connecticut, carried out by the Macheteros, who used the money to buy toys for children and finance their political activities. The other 13 were arrested in the Chicago area, accused of membership in the Armed Forces of National Liberation and convicted of seditious conspiracy.

## A headache for imperialism

Noel Colón, president of the Hostosiano Conference, told the crowd, "We need to deepen unity of all the anticolonial forces that, in spite of their differences, agree on the necessity of an immediate and complete decolonization."

Colón noted that the United Nations Commission on Decolonization is expected to issue a report within the next two years that will include a recommendation on the status of Puerto Rico. Also, Colón said, 1998 is the 100-year anniversary of the U.S. occupation of Puerto Rico.

The independence movement, he said, has "created a headache for imperialism." He pointed to the 100,000-strong *Nación en Marcha* (The Nation Marching) event last July protesting the meeting of U.S. governors in Fajardo, opposition to continued U.S. military occupation of Vieques, and "solidarity with the Cuban revolution."

Juan Mari Brás, a longtime leader of the independence fight, read a declaration "From Lares to the World" that had been

approved unanimously by the Hostosiano Congress.

The fight for independence "cannot be postponed anymore," he said. "We are calling for active solidarity with our cause. There is no other way to help us except by getting out from under this suffocating colonialism."

Mari Brás and Colón projected an international campaign to get governments and organizations around the world to attend the next hearings of the UN Commission to back independence and to mobilize people in Puerto Rico. "This could be our last opportunity to present our case to the United Nations," Colón said.

At the beginning of the program, the organizers played a tape recording from Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, who is being sought by U.S. authorities for his involvement in the Wells Fargo robbery in Hartford. Ojeda Ríos criticized the Hostosiano conference for allying with the Popular Democratic Party (PPD), which supports the status quo, in organizing the *Nación en Marcha*. He joined Hostosiano criticism of the PIP for backing the Young bill in the U.S. Congress, named for its sponsor, U.S. representative Dan Young, Republican from Alaska.

## Debate on plebiscite bill

The bill calls for a plebiscite organized by the U.S. government to determine the status of Puerto Rico. Currently Puerto Rico is called a Free Associated State or commonwealth. The Young bill calls for a series of plebiscites to decide the future status of Puerto Rico: statehood, independence, or some form of the status quo.

The Puerto Rican Independence Party is backing the Young bill, claiming that there has been a shift in the U.S. Congress and that many congresspeople now recognize that Puerto Rico is a colony. The bill is also pushed by the pro-statehood New Progressive Party (PNP), led by Puerto Rico governor Pedro Rosselló.

In the week after the Grito de Lares, Rule Committee Chairman Gerald Solomon, (R-NY) succeeded in adding a clause that if Puerto Rico becomes a state, it must first adopt English as its official language, including requiring public school instruction in English. This clause effectively killed the bill. Such a requirement is so immensely unpopular in Puerto Rico that pro-statehood Resident Commissioner Carlos Romero Barceló was forced to ask for its withdrawal.

The PIP event was a campaign rally for the party's candidates for governor, the Puerto Rican senate, mayoral races, and resident commissioner, Puerto Rico's nonvoting representatives to the U.S. Congress.

The main groups in the independence fight view the PIP's activities around the plebiscite bill as a mistake at best. The New Puerto Rican Independence Movement (NMIP), which belongs to the Hostosiano Conference, cited both the PIP's support to the Young bill and its refusal to join the *Nación en Marcha* demonstration as reasons to withdraw its previous support to PIP can-



Militant/Kristin Meriam

## Demonstration in Lares September 23 called for stepped-up independence campaign

didates this year. The PIP organized its own event during the U.S. governors' meeting in Fajardo, which drew more than 25,000.

"The Young bill is meant to strengthen the annexationists," noted Julio Muriente, president of the NMIP, in an interview. "The big problem is that it is a unilateral decolonization carried out by the U.S. Congress. The U.S. Congress acts as judge, jury, and witness." But the U.S. government has no right to deny independence to Puerto Rico, to place conditions on how independence is carried out, or to annex the island, the independence activist stressed.

In a column in *Claridad*, a pro-independence weekly, Muriente said that while the NMIP was not going to endorse candidates, it understood why many independence supporters would end up voting for the Popular Democratic Party. The PPD opposes statehood and independence, arguing that currently Puerto Rico has the best of both worlds, the right to U.S. citizenship and travel to the United States, while maintaining its own culture and traditions. The PPD joined the *Nación en Marcha* after Governor Rosselló stated that Puerto Rico is not a nation.

A hot topic in the press here, which was also discussed at Lares, is the upcoming phasing out of Section 936 of the Internal Revenue Code. This is a U.S. law that exempts U.S. corporations in Puerto Rico that meet certain conditions from paying taxes. Tax exemptions have been in effect for 75 years, put in place as part of U.S. president Harry Truman's Operation Bootstrap.

Since 1970, when further tax exemptions were implemented, 2,000 factories have opened on the island, employing 130,000 workers who do everything from manufacturing computer diskettes to packing Star-Kist tuna.

The largest beneficiary has been the pharmaceutical industry. One half of prescription drugs consumed in the United States are produced in Puerto Rico. In 1995 alone \$6 billion dollars in medicines were ex-

ported from the island, 25 percent of its gross domestic product.

Washington hopes to collect \$7 billion over the next decade by removing the exemption. Some people fear that without the exemption many factories will close and new investment will be slowed.

Unemployment in this country of 3.7 million inhabitants is officially at 14 percent, almost triple the rate in the United States, although lower than in much of Latin America. Average per capita income is \$7,500, half of the average in Mississippi, the poorest U.S. state, but higher than all of Latin America, except Argentina. About a third of the residents of the island collect food stamps.

Governor Rosselló backed the elimination of Section 936, which is to be phased out by the year 2006. He argues that by giving up the subsidy, he can convince the U.S. government that Puerto Rico can accept the responsibilities of being the 51st state, without special aid.

The main problem, Muriente said, is that "the U.S. put the exemptions in place and now they take them away" in another unilateral action.

## Discussion on independence

While pro-independence sentiment in Puerto Rico is in a minority, it has a big impact on politics. Many of those who say they are opposed are often attracted to the independentistas at the same time. At the Grito de Lares celebration two students told this reporter they were against independence.

"We're not ready for it," said Noemí Ramírez, 22. "The free market gives us a lot of things. Without the United States we would starve to death. Besides, Puerto Ricans don't like to work."

But Ramírez and her classmate Francesca San Miguel, 21, came to the Grito de Lares celebration this year because "we like to

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# 100,000 protest social cuts in Argentina

BY MEGAN ARNEY

Argentina was brought to a standstill as millions of workers stayed home, banks and public schools closed, buses and subways stopped, and airlines canceled flights as part of a general strike.

More than 100,000 people demonstrated in the capital, Buenos Aires, September 26, protesting the government's austerity campaign. The demonstration began a 36-hour strike called by the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), Argentina's main union organization. The action follows a similar 24-hour work stoppage last month.

"There is a lot of discontent," Héctor Pérez, a glass factory worker, told reporters. He was one of hundreds of volunteer monitors deployed at the Plaza de Mayo by the CGT.

Argentina has record unemployment, standing at 17.1 percent, and is now crawling out of an 18-month recession, following the Mexican peso crisis last year.

It is under these conditions that President Carlos Menem is spearheading the attacks on the unions through labor legislation he is presenting to Congress. The proposed laws include ending the requirement that employers pay permanently laid off work-

ers a month's salary for each year of service; replacing wage negotiations industry-wide with negotiations at company level; and extending the current 8-hour workday to 12 hours with time off as compensation instead of overtime pay.

Menem is also trying to make it easier for companies to hire and dismiss workers, cut family allowances, privatize state-owned companies, and deregulate Argentina's economy. He has threatened to enact these provisions by decree if Congress doesn't approve them quickly.

Some of the austerity proposals codify what the union tops have already conceded. A number of unions, including food industry workers headed by current CGT leader Rodolfo Daer, have signed contracts containing more concessions than required under current law.

"The union bosses are fakers," bank employee Julio Martínez, 23, told reporters as he headed for the Plaza de Mayo. "When they had to defend the workers, they didn't. And now people are so upset that they finally have to respond."

At first Menem derisively described the labor action as "a touristic strike," insinuating that it was an excuse for a long week-

end. By September 27, Menem conceded that the strike was "relatively successful."

Argentine news organizations estimated that 80 percent to 90 percent of workers nationwide stayed home. Economists said the strike cost the country's rulers \$1.2 billion a day.

The austerity measures are aimed at weakening the unions and destroying the gains made by workers from the late 1940s to mid-50s. During that period of capitalist boom workers wrested social concessions from the government of President Juan Domingo Perón. Perón used these concessions to gain popularity with workers, while he maneuvered for a better position for Argentine capital against the main contending imperialist forces in the area — Britain and the United States. The Peronist movement, which included the CGT, was a mass movement with hundreds of thousands of workers in its membership.

Menem and his Peronist party now run the government. "That allows Mr. Menem to deal a blow to the unions, much as Richard Nixon's anticommunist credentials let him open the door to China," wrote *Wall Street Journal* reporter Jonathan Friedland in a September 27 article.

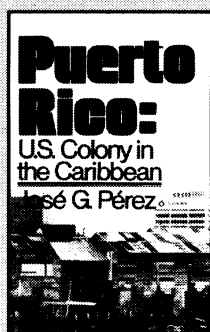
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**Puerto Rico: U.S. Colony in the Caribbean**

JOSE G. PEREZ

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# Harris talks with auto workers in Detroit

BY CINDY JAQUITH

DETROIT — "I'm a socialist but I don't spend a lot of time talking about the future under socialism," James Harris told a campaign rally here September 27. "I concentrate on what working people are living through today and the struggles we must engage in to rid ourselves of capitalism. Because it is our generation that must be up to this task."

Harris, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, campaigned here and in northern Ohio the last week of September. At his wrap-up campaign rally, he was joined on the platform by Dylan Wilkerson, a high school student who participated in last summer's U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange; Rosa Garmendia, Michigan SWP candidate for Congress in the 11th C.D., and Ved Dookhum, a leader of the Young Socialists who is traveling with Harris.

Harris spent most of one day campaigning in Toledo, Ohio. First he talked with workers at the Jeep plant there, a number of whom were attracted by signs supporting the October 12 march on Washington for immigrant rights. Many Jeep workers are either Latino or from the Midwest.

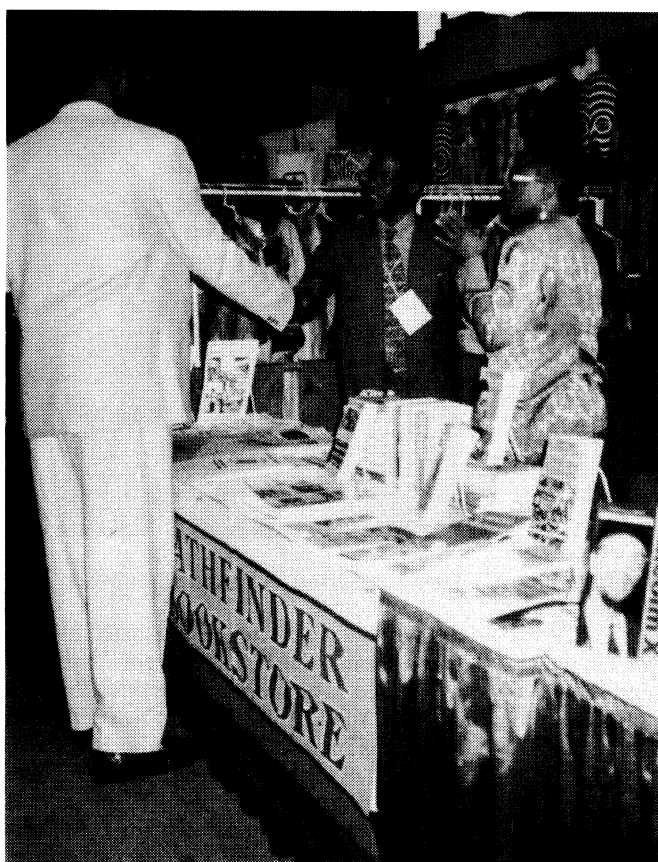
The socialist presidential candidate was then interviewed by the city's main daily, the *Toledo Blade*, which ran an article the next day.

## Harris visits youth 'Autonomous Zone'

That evening, Harris met with activists from the Autonomous Zone, an organization of Toledo youth who engage in social protests, such as picketing public appearances by ultrarightist Patrick Buchanan. The youths questioned Harris for several hours. "It's obvious there's an objective situation for revolution, but as Lenin pointed out, that's not all that's required," said one young man. "What are the first steps that we can take?"

Another activist raised, "A lot of us have had problems working with the unions. We run into people in the AFL-CIO or UAW [United Auto Workers] who are like Buchananes." "What do you say to a Jeep worker who says, 'I make \$60,000 a year. Why do I need socialism?'" asked a third youth.

"I say the same thing to the Jeep worker



Militant/Toni Jackson  
James Harris, SWP presidential candidate at National Political Convention in St. Louis (see article on Page 10).

that I'm saying to you," answered Harris. "I don't tell people what they want to hear. I tell them that what is before us is deepening economic crisis and social explosions."

"I can't give the perfect speech where everyone will say, 'Yes! Let's make a revolution,'" Harris continued. "Capitalism itself will convince working people as the crisis deepens. So what socialists do is explain politics and urge others to engage in protests, to read books on the lessons of working-class struggle in the past, and to join our movement. This is all part of the preparation process."

Taking up the questions about the unions, the socialist candidate pointed out, "It's a mistake to equate the union with the union bureaucracy, which claims to be more progressive than the ranks." This is false, he explained. The election of John Sweeney

as head of the AFL-CIO and the involvement of youth in "Union Summer" do not indicate any change, Harris said. "These moves are all aimed at retaining the dues base of the bureaucracy and giving an appearance of vitality to the labor misleadership."

Harris explained that the only way for the labor movement to regain vitality "is to think and act socially — to take up the fight for immigrant rights, for affirmative action, against the attacks on Iraq. He urged the young people present to peruse a campaign table full of books from Pathfinder on many subjects, including the labor movement.

By the close of the meeting, activists had purchased copies of *Teamster Rebellion*, *Fascism and Big Business*, *Sexism and Science*, *Lenin on Imperialism*, and two copies of the Young Socialists' Political Principles, Campaigns, and Rules of Organization.

The next day a worker bought the *Communist Manifesto* and *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*, when Harris campaigned outside the UAW-organized American Axle and Manufacturing. The socialist candidate also campaigned among strikers at the Detroit *Free Press* and *News*, and addressed students at the University of Detroit.

## BY MAGGIE PUCCI

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Laura Garza, U.S. vice presidential candidate on the Socialist Workers Party ticket, made a campaign stop here, September 22-25. The tour began with a Militant Labor Forum at the Pathfinder bookstore attended by about 35 people, including several students and young workers, a reporter for *Pacifica Ra-*

*dio*, and a filmmaker currently putting together a documentary on the 1996 presidential elections.

Garza pointed to U.S. president William Clinton's signing of the reactionary "Defense of Marriage Act" in the middle of the night as an example of the rightward shift of ruling-class politics. Garza was joined on the panel of speakers by Sam Manuel, candidate for Washington, D.C., delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, and Caroline Bhengu, a leader of the Young Socialists in Washington.

Manuel announced that the Socialist Workers presidential slate of James Harris for U.S. president and Garza for vice president would be on the ballot in Washington, D.C., as would Manuel's name as the only opponent to Eleanor Holmes Norton, the incumbent non-voting Washington, D.C., delegate to the House.

After the forum, many participants went with Garza to a popular night spot where a fund-raiser was being held for the local coalition working to build the October 12 immigrant rights demonstration here.

On September 24, Garza began the day with a 10-minute interview on *Radio Mundo*, a popular Spanish-language radio station.

## Garza visits international students

Later that morning Garza spoke before a class of 25 students at Woodrow Wilson High School. Accompanying Garza was Brian Williams, the Socialist Workers candidate for city council. Several other campaign supporters were in attendance, including Diana Newberry, a leader of the Young Socialists from New York who is traveling with Garza, and Bhengu from the local YS chapter.

The advanced level English as a second language class included students from Cambodia, Senegal, Mexico, Poland, Russia, and the Czech Republic. A lively debate ensued when Garza asked students what they thought about abortion rights. Many students said they had been taught that abortion was the same as killing babies. Garza responded, "It's OK if you disagree with a woman getting an abortion, but it has to be up to the woman to decide what will happen to her body and her life." Many of the students did not know that abortion is legal in the United States. Three signed up for more information about the Young Socialists.

That night Socialist Workers campaign supporters attended a candidates night sponsored by the Washington Tenants Advisory Council. Sam Manuel made a five-minute statement to the crowd of about 75 people, and participated in a question and answer period.

At a meeting for young people interested in the campaign that wrapped up the tour, Young Socialists members and other youth interested in the YS were able to continue discussions with Garza. Joanne, who is about to start school at American University, asked to join the Young Socialists.

*Washington Hispanic*, a Spanish-language community newspaper, conducted an interview with Garza. Washington campaign supporters plan to follow up on the interest several other radio and newspapers expressed in the campaign.

# Public education is under attack in N.Y.

BY WENDY LYONS

NEW YORK — Public education is under attack here. A series of articles in the local press recently highlighted the deteriorating condition of the schools. Students are attending classes in closets, bathrooms, projection booths, locker rooms, gyms, and cafeterias. In one school, pictured on the front page of the *New York Times*, pupils share half their desktops with stacks of books cleared out of storage rooms to make space for classes.

Teachers scrambled to get enough chairs at Public School 114 in Canarsie, Brooklyn. The teachers' union contract calls for a maximum class size of 32. Forty-six students showed up to Jennifer Ambramowitz's first grade class. She managed to cram 46 desks into the classroom but could only round up 43 chairs. The school system is 10 percent over capacity, or around 91,000 students. A teachers' union survey said that 30,000 classes in the city are overcrowded.

School funding has been continuously slashed over the last half decade and there is no plan by the city's capitalist politicians to allocate funds for new schools. Republi-

can mayor Rudolph Guliani defended cutting the school system's capital budget request in half, saying he was only following the lead of the Democratic Party administration of David Dinkins who earlier cut capital spending 25 percent citywide under pressure from the bond holders.

Instead of building more schools the city administration and school board are hoping to start year-round classes where students would attend school for 45 days and be off for 15 days, causing havoc with child care. Split sessions, which already exist in some schools in New York, would be expanded. Under that system, students are forced to rush through classes for five hours straight so the next shift can come in and do the same thing.

Sara Mosle, who taught the fourth grade on such a schedule, wrote a column in the *New York Times* describing the difficulties for working parents, "who couldn't always pick up their children in the middle of the day. And because the school was continually packed with students, it couldn't offer after-school programs. Even very young children were often left to play in the streets or wander home alone. Teachers were instructed to escort their students off the school grounds — lest there be an accident that might leave the school open to a lawsuit."

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York stepped into the picture and offered to take 1,000 of the most "difficult" students into the Catholic schools to ease the overcrowding for "modest fees." Guliani jumped at the offer, which has been floated since 1991, hoping to set the stage for a voucher system in the schools here.

There was a brief flurry of concern expressed by School Chancellor Rudy Crew about the violation of the constitutional

guarantee of the separation of church and state. The mayor then announced that he would get around public money being spent by having owners of industry donate the money, and is pushing ahead with the plan.

Numerous articles in the press are blaming immigrants for the overcrowding of the schools. This has resulted in stepped-up demands by capitalist politicians to deny public schooling for children of immigrants.

Meanwhile, New York is one of the first states to begin implementation of the anti-working-class measures contained in Clinton's welfare reform bill. Even immigrants who are long-time legal residents are being denied food stamps if they can't prove they've worked a job for at least 10 years.

## CORRECTION

The review of *The FBI Files* that appeared in the October 7 *Militant* under the headline "The FBI's war on Native Americans" listed the wrong price for the book. The publication costs \$8, or \$6 per copy for orders of more than 10, plus \$2 shipping and handling per book. Orders can be sent to the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, P.O. Box 583, Lawrence, KS, 66044.

## Campaign for the socialist alternative!

- Sign me up as a Young Socialist for Harris and Garza. I want to campaign for the socialist alternative and against the parties of exploitation, racism, and war.
- Sign me up as a campaign supporter and keep me informed of protests, picket lines, and other political activities.
- Enclosed is a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ contribution
- I want to invite a candidate to speak at my union, school, or organization
- Enclosed is \$10 for a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*, a socialist newsweekly, or \$6 for 4 months of *Perspectiva Mundial* in Spanish.

NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____	UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____

Mail to: Socialist Workers 1996 Campaign, P.O. Box 2652, New York, NY 10009



# SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

## Books snapped up at Puerto Rico festival

The following articles were sent in by supporters of Pathfinder Press, the *Militant*, and *Perspectiva Mundial* from around the world. The *Militant* encourages others to send in short articles, anecdotes, and photographs for this column. Next week the *Militant* will run the monthly chart of book sales by Pathfinder distributors.

BY RON RICHARDS

LARES, Puerto Rico — The sales of Pathfinder literature at the annual commemoration of the 1868 Grito de Lares pro-independence uprising got off to a good start. As we pulled the boxes of books out of the trunk and untied the tables on top of the car, a person came up and said, "I want to buy the Malcolm X book." By the time the tables came down, after 10 hours of sales in the intense heat of a tropical sun, the sales count stood at 40 single copies of *Perspectiva Mundial*, 5 subscriptions to the Spanish-language magazine, and 27 Pathfinder titles worth \$309. This was one of the best one-day sales in Puerto Rico in the last 10 years.

The next day a Pathfinder table at the Río Piedras campus of the University of Puerto Rico resulted in sales of five single copies of *Perspectiva Mundial*, two subs, and six books. These tables were staffed by socialists who live in New York, Chicago, and Miami as well as Puerto Rico.

The two best-selling books were the Spanish-language editions of the *Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels and *Socialism and Man in Cuba* by Ernesto Che Guevara. Four copies of each were sold. Of the 33 books sold in the two days, 18 were about the Cuban revolution.

We also sold three copies of the issue of *Nueva Internacional* with the article "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq," and copies of *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara* in both Spanish and English.

At the Grito de Lares events, crowds of independence supporters filled the narrow streets around the *Plaza de la revolución* all day. Dozens of artisans sell T-shirts and hand-made goods decorated with Puerto Rican flags and other pro-independence motifs. The Pathfinder table was the only major vendor of books.

BY FELICITY COGGAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Pathfinder supporters are organizing to follow up a number of new contacts met at a book-sellers' gathering here in late July. The con-

ference, organized annually by the National Booksellers Association, was attended by 51 booksellers from around the country.

An Auckland bookshop specializing in foreign language titles to serve the city's growing immigrant population has expressed interest in acquiring Pathfinder titles in Spanish and French. Books Pasifika, which specializes in Maori and Pacific Island history and culture, plans to include a number of Pathfinder titles — especially those on South Africa and Malcolm X — in their regular database mailing to libraries in New Zealand, the Pacific, the West Coast of the United States, and Europe.

School Supplies, which distributes to high school libraries and teachers from 11 branches around New Zealand, has prepared a two-sided promotional flier devoted to Pathfinder for its next mailing. The flier titled "Primary Source Materials from Pathfinder Press" highlights books on South Africa, Malcolm X, the Russian revolution, women's rights, the Palestinian struggle, and *The Truth about Yugoslavia*. It will be mailed to high school history and social studies departments all over the country.

BY NELL WHEELER

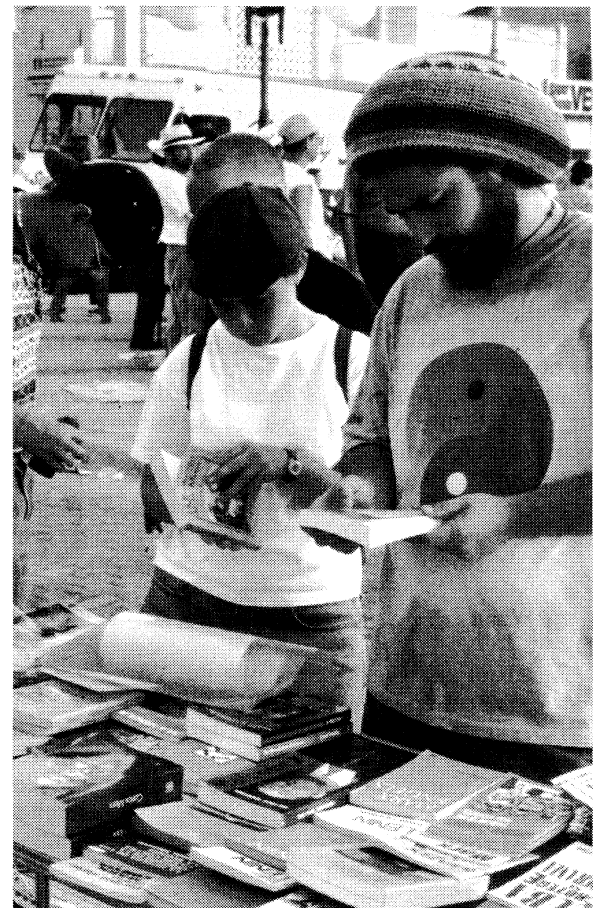
NEWARK, New Jersey — Eighty participants turned out to celebrate the grand opening of the new Pathfinder bookstore here September 22. Bookstore manager Bob Miller explained that since 1975 there has been a Pathfinder bookstore in Newark, but until now it had been located on the second floor. The day before, as volunteers set books up on the shelves, "for the first time in 23 years passersby could, and did, look through the windows to see the whole range of titles."

Ma'mud Shirvani, coauthor of the introduction for *To See the Dawn: Baku, 1920 — First Congress of the Peoples of the East*, gave the keynote address at the gathering. Shirvani discussed the current situation in the Middle East and the worldwide reach of Pathfinder. "Increasing book sales here and abroad indicate the class is arming itself for struggle," Shirvani said. "Kurdish political activists in France have translated 'Opening Guns of World War III' and are distributing it themselves," he added, referring to an article from the Marxist magazine *New International*.

Kathy Fitzgerald, a volunteer at the Newark bookstore, spoke about the need to raise funds to complete the project and also to make and pay pledges for the Pathfinder Fund. More than \$1,500 was raised, meeting all outstanding construction expenses.

Chris Kozlowski, a young worker who lives in Edison, New Jersey, was at the New Brunswick Book Fair, and then came to the opening the next day. He bought five titles on Cuba and a Pathfinder Readers Club membership, as well as a *Militant* subscription. In his view, "economic circumstances are getting to the point where they will provoke a crisis. The workers will start to look for an alternative, for some way out of this system."

Bud Haithcoath, a United Auto Workers member at Ford, helped staff the book table in New Brunswick and also attended the opening. In describing the immediate and large response to a murder at the hands of a cop in New Brunswick, Haithcoath said, "More people are becoming politically motivated and are fighting back against that kind of attack and don't accept that some people are somehow less human than others. And that's good, because police brutality will probably rise as the bosses and the government try to keep things under control."



Militant/Kristin Meriam  
Selling Pathfinder titles at Grito de Lares celebration September 23.

## Abu-Jamal witness arrested

BY GLOVA SCOTT

PHILADELPHIA — "I feel like I'm on trial," protested Veronica Jones at a supplementary hearing to determine if her testimony should be included in a post-conviction relief appeal by Mumia Abu-Jamal. Abu-Jamal, present at the hearing, is a Black activist framed up in 1982 and sentenced to death for the murder of officer Daniel Faulkner. The prosecutor had Jones arrested while she was still on the stand, saying she was a fugitive witness on an open bench warrant concerning passing bad checks.

Jones was a key witness at the original trial. She was not available to testify at last year's post-conviction hearings. She was located by investigators and contacted by Abu-Jamal's defense lawyers this past April. She agreed to come forward and explain how she was pressured by Philadelphia cops to testify against Abu-Jamal. This hearing was presided by Judge Albert Sabo, the same judge in Mumia's first trial and in the post conviction hearings as well.

Jones, a former prostitute, detailed how

on three separate occasions police offered to drop various robbery and weapons charges if she agreed to help them. Originally, she told investigators that she had seen two men flee the scene after the shooting of Faulkner. But on the stand, she denied her earlier account.

The district attorney grilled Jones, trying to trip her up over details in her testimony. Jones steadfastly stated that she had lied in the first trial. The district attorney questioned Jones about personal relationships. Providing no proof, the prosecutor accused Abu-Jamal's lawyers of paying back rent for Jones. And finally, she questioned Jones about being arrested for passing bad checks in Woodbury, New Jersey, four years ago.

Jones, remembering the incident, said that she while she was bought in by police and pictures taken, no bail was ever set. She was released and never charged. She was never told of any court date. Nevertheless, Judge Sabo allowed police to take Jones into custody to be extradited to New Jersey.

"Why are they executing this now?" asked Leonard Weinglass, Abu-Jamal's lead attorney. "They should not be allowed to take a witness from the stand. Nobody had been shown a warrant."

The court room was cleared. Angry defenders of Abu-Jamal gathered at an impromptu press conference on the west side of City Hall. Weinglass said that arresting Jones is part of an ongoing pattern of intimidating any witness who speaks in defense of Mumia Abu-Jamal. A collection was taken to raise bail money for Jones.

## Six-week drive for new 'Militant' readers

Continued from front page

of Marriage Act" to the reasons for the demise of the so-called Republican revolution.

The *Militant* also covers the resistance to capitalist austerity by workers and oppressed peoples around the world. It champions the Palestinian struggle for self-determination, takes the side of workers resisting cuts in social programs in France and Germany, and supports fights for affirmative action and equal rights for immigrants. Workers and young people who decide to read the *Militant* every week — or *Perspectiva Mundial* every month in Spanish — get a better understanding of the world today and how they can be part of the struggle to change it.

In addition to selling introductory subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, an important side of the sales drive is sales of hundreds of copies of *New International*. The issues of this Marxist magazine, available in English, French, Spanish, and Swedish, are invaluable for understanding the class issues in politics today. What's behind the explosive struggles in the Middle East? What are the dynamics of the bipartisan campaign against entitlements? Why does Washington despise the Cuban revolution? What is the meaning of the latest revelations about CIA involvement in drug dealing and the counterrevolutionary war against the Nicaraguan revolution in the 1980s? These and other big questions in

politics today can best be understood by reading and studying *New International*.

Each copy of *New International* sold counts toward the monthly goals socialists have adopted for selling books and pamphlets published and distributed by Pathfinder. A central aim of the sales drive is to achieve the subscription targets while also meeting these monthly book goals.

Next week's *Militant* will run a chart of the goals adopted by supporters in each city, as well as those of socialist workers in the industrial unions for sales to fellow workers on the job. Along with coverage of efforts to sell Pathfinder books, we will be reporting weekly on the progress of the subscription drive. Readers are encouraged to send short articles on what they are doing.

The article from Los Angeles below gives a good example of the possibilities to sell *Militant* subscriptions along with dozens of Pathfinder books and single copies of the socialist periodicals.

BY CRAIG HONTS

LOS ANGELES — The Pathfinder literature table at the debate between ultrarightist David Duke and Los Angeles civil rights figure Joe Hicks became a center of political discussion for many participants. People crowded around before, during, and after the September 25 forum. Can-

didates and supporters of the Southern California Socialist Workers campaign sold 22 copies of the *Militant*, 17 Pathfinder titles, and a subscription to the *Militant*. In the days prior to the debate, campaign activists and Young Socialists sold 24 copies of the *Militant*, 2 subscriptions, and 7 Pathfinder titles.

On September 28, literature tables at two different protests against anti-affirmative action Proposition 209 bustled with political discussion. Supporters of the socialist press sold 17 Pathfinder titles and 20 copies of the *Militant*. Nearly \$400 worth of revolutionary literature has been sold at recent affirmative action protests.

Also on September 28, at a Town Meeting in the Black community on CIA, contra, cocaine connections, a socialist campaign team sold 55 copies of the *Militant* and 3 Pathfinder titles. Campaigners also distributed 1,000 copies of a statement demanding the U.S. government release all files linked to the charges, and the arrest and prosecution of U.S. officials complicit in the contra drug trade. "People were snapping up those leaflets," said Ollie Bivins, a McDonnell Douglas worker who sold the *Militant* to waiting lines of hundreds of community residents. "They were hungry for ideas."

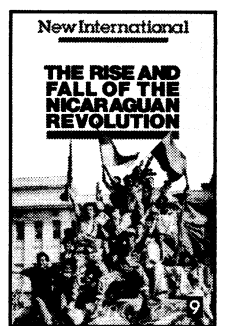
Supporters of the *Militant* sold 136 copies and five subscriptions to the participants attending the National Political Convention in St. Louis September 27-29.

from Pathfinder

### The Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution

Includes the achievements and worldwide impact of the workers and farmers government that came to power in Nicaragua

in 1979, and the political retreat of the Sandinista National Liberation Front leadership that led to the downfall of the government in the closing years of the 1980s. In *New International* no. 9 \$14.00



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax: (212) 727-0150. Please include \$3 to cover shipping and handling.

# YS builds chapters, demonstration

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists (YS), an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information about the YS write to: Young Socialists, P.O. Box 14392, St. Paul, MN 55104. Tel: (612) 644-0015. Compuserve: 105162,605

BY CAROLINE BENGU

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Young Socialists in Washington D.C. took advantage of the Socialists Workers Campaign to meet young people who are interested in politics. The YS here set a goal of recruiting three young people as part of the national drive to double the membership of the organization. Two people have joined so far. Below is an interview with Alison Copeland, one of the new members of the YS.

**Bengu:** How old are you?

**Copeland:** 24 years.

**Q:** When did you join the Young Socialists?

**A:** About six weeks ago. I met the YS during the petition drive to get the Socialists candidates on the ballot in Washington D.C. I signed up as a Young Socialist for Harris and Garza and became part of the petition drive.

**Q:** Do you work or go to school?

**A:** I work at the Latin American Youth Center as a health educator.

**Q:** Were you involved in politics before you joined the YS?

**A:** I was involved in environmental justice issues. I viewed my involvement in this fight as a political fight against the big corporations who are the main polluters of the environment the world over. Coming to Washington, D.C., I was looking for a group involved in doing Cuba work because I am interested in Cuba and am planning to visit Cuba this summer.

**Q:** What made you decide to join the YS?

**A:** The YS is the only group that made

sense to me ideologically. Many of the issues that I was concerned about like human rights, U.S. and world politics are being clarified in my involvement with the YS. I also understand why defending Cuba is such an important struggle to be involved in. Overall I feel very confident about the YS mission to change society and for me to be part of that fight.

**Q:** What activities are you involved in?

**A:** I am involved in the DC Hands Off Cuba Coalition. I am also involved in the immigrant rights coalition that is building the October 12th demonstration, which will be taking place in Washington D.C.

**Q:** What books are you reading now?

**A:** I am reading *Socialism on Trial* and *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*. I'm excited about the class series the D.C. chapter is having on the book *Socialism on Trial*

because so many things get clarified.

**Q:** What message can you give to all the young people who will be reading this article?

**A:** Read and be prepared to explain politics to other young people. Get involved in political activities. Do not give up the fight for a better world and learn to have a long-term view of history, because we are not going to see immediate results of the fight we are involved in. Do not get involved in politics to get credits, but to help change society.

**We want to know what Young Socialists are doing around the country and internationally. The YS Steering Committee encourages all chapters to write about your experiences for the YS column and send pictures to the Militant.**

28 new members in the YSI	
From July 10 to October 4	
City	# of new members
Athens, Georgia	1
Atlanta	2
Chicago	2
Cleveland	2
Denver	2
Houston	1
Los Angeles	3
Morgantown	1
Newark	1
New York	3
Salt Lake City	1
San Diego	1
San Francisco	3
Seattle	1
St. Paul	1
Washington, D.C.	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>

## Books on class struggle hit presses

BY GREG McCARTAN

A steady stream of books and pamphlets published by Pathfinder will be coming off the presses in October. Several titles out of stock for years will be available again, including *Crisis of the French Section (1935-36)* by Leon Trotsky; *Leon Trotsky on China*; and *The Chinese Communist Party in Power* by P'eng Shu-tse.

Editors of *New International* have announced that the Spanish-language *Nueva Internacional* no. 4 and French-language *Nouvelle Internationale* no. 5, which both contain translations of "Imperialism's march toward fascism and war" by Jack Barnes, also be available again soon.

Top on the list of reprints is *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions*. This book was first published in 1981, and put out in a new expanded edition in 1994. Since then

some 1,600 copies have been sold by communist workers and young socialists.

"This reprint will be a real celebration," said Maggie Trowe, who organizes the print shop. "We call this a handbook for workers because it shows how through our struggles and resistance, tens of millions of workers revolutionize themselves, their unions and all of society. The book helps working people see why the industrial working class is the target of the capitalist rulers as they try to resolve their unfolding economic and social crisis."

"It also explains why it is possible and necessary for a revolutionary working-class movement to develop. A movement that will take up broad social questions, like the fight against racism and for women's equality, as it battles the assault of the rulers and ultimately wrests power from them. Each book we reprint aids that process and helps in the construction of a working-class vanguard."

### Books on Chinese revolution

The two books on China will be an aid for those seeking a deeper understanding of the dynamics of the Chinese revolution and its impact on world politics. They are also a school on Stalinist policies in the midst of gigantic revolutionary struggles.

In 1925-27 a powerful revolutionary upsurge shook the cities and countryside of China, posing the possibility for working people in that country to take political power and follow the road of the October 1917 revolution in Russia.

But the revolution was crushed at the hands of Chiang Kai-shek and his allies. A central cause of the defeat was the disastrous course of Joseph Stalin in subordinating the Chinese Communist Party to an alliance with the capitalist Chinese Nationalist Party, or Kuomintang. In the Soviet Union, Stalin had become the chief spokesperson for a privileged bureaucratic social layer who drove workers and peasants from power. This bureaucracy, utilizing the political prestige and influence won in the workers movement by the Bolshevik party under Lenin, sought to defend its position by subverting revolutionary struggles around the world.

*Leon Trotsky on China* reprints the articles and letters written by Trotsky, a central leader of the Russian revolution, as part of a fight to reverse this course and to draw the lessons of this defeat. The book also contains Trotsky's comments from the 1930s on the centrality of China's struggle against Japanese and U.S. imperialism, and his observations on the Chinese peasant army under Mao Zedong.

*The Chinese Communist Party in Power* contains interviews and articles by P'eng Shu-tse, a founding member and leader of China's Communist Party who fought to continue the policies of the Bolshevik party under Lenin and opposed the anti-Marxist course of Mao. P'eng writes on the battle to topple the Chiang Kai-shek regime, the



Workers demonstrate at factory in France, June 1936.

## Miami fund leads the pack

BY TED LEONARD

Miami and New Zealand are at the top of the Pathfinder Fund chart this week. After four weeks both areas are ahead of schedule, but many areas collection is lagging. Janet Post, a supporter of the international fund drive in Miami, described how support-

ers there have stayed on time in their contributions. "We keep a chart entitled 'Fund Drive to Reprint Pathfinder Books' that tracks the contributions both locally and internationally to graphically follow the drive each week. We also have regular organized discussions among supporters of the Pathfinder Fund to discuss the importance of making regular payments and who else we can reach out to for contributions."

Supporters of the Pathfinder Fund in every city should discuss how to step up the collection of pledges in order to get the fund back on schedule. "We have only received \$20,000, which puts us at 16 percent collected, when we should be at 40 percent," fund director Maggie Trowe said.

"There is a tradition among Pathfinder supporters that we take pride in meeting our fund drive goals 'in full and on time,'" Trowe continued. "This is possible if we take steps now to turn around the slow pace of contributions. Funds received are immediately used to make possible the production of reprints like *Crisis of the French Section (1935-36)* by Leon Trotsky; *Leon Trotsky on China*; and *The Chinese Communist Party in Power* by P'eng Shu-tse, which are in production in Pathfinder's print shop right now."

Work is being done now to prepare to go back to press to produce 450 copies of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions*, and 1,000 copies of *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*. Interest has risen in *The Bolivian Diary*, one of Pathfinder's strongest sellers, with increased debate on the significance of Guevara's internationalist work and with the release of a film on the revolutionary's Bolivian campaign.

Keep those checks rolling in! Contributions received by noon Tuesday will be counted on the chart in the *Militant* each week. Reports on fund-raising meetings and activities should be received by the previous Friday.

Pathfinder Fund			
CITY	GOAL	PAID	% of GOAL
Miami	\$2,800	\$1,435	51%
San Francisco	\$10,000	\$3,427	34%
Detroit	\$6,000	\$1,965	33%
Washington DC	\$3,500	\$1,000	29%
Brooklyn	\$6,500	\$1,720	26%
Salt Lake City	\$3,600	\$850	24%
Greensboro	\$2,400	\$545	23%
Pittsburgh	\$6,000	\$1,250	21%
Cleveland	\$3,100	\$490	16%
New York	\$8,000	\$1,255	16%
Morgantown	\$1,500	\$200	13%
Chicago	\$7,500	\$850	11%
Los Angeles	\$12,000	\$1,013	8%
Twin Cities	\$7,000	\$465	7%
Newark	\$8,500	\$540	6%
Des Moines	\$2,350	\$110	5%
Boston	\$6,000	\$250	4%
Birmingham	\$4,500	\$150	3%
Seattle*	\$9,000	\$290	3%
Philadelphia	\$5,000	\$125	3%
Peoria	\$2,750	\$20	1%
Houston	\$3,000	\$0	0%
Atlanta	\$2,700	\$0	0%
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>\$123,700</b>	<b>\$17,950</b>	<b>15%</b>
Australia	\$750		
Canada		\$30	
Montreal	\$465		
Vancouver	\$100		
France		\$511	
<b>New Zealand</b>	<b>\$4,220</b>	<b>\$2,054</b>	<b>49%</b>
Sweden	\$400		
United Kingdom			
<b>INTERNATIONAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$129,635</b>	<b>\$20,545</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>40%</b>

\*Raised goal



# Affirmative action debate heats up in L.A.

BY JON HILLSON  
AND CRAIG HONTS

NORTHRIDGE, California — After weeks of controversy, veteran Los Angeles civil rights figure Joe Hicks and ultrarightist Republican politician David Duke squared off over the issue of affirmative action in front of a capacity crowd of 770 students at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) on September 25.

An additional 350 students watched the debate in a nearby auditorium, while up to 1,000 more students argued the issue outside the Student Union. More than 150 campus and Los Angeles city police officers were present, and those attending the live debate were subject to metal detector searches.

The forum, hosted by the student government, focused on Proposition 209, the so-called California Civil Rights Initiative. This November ballot measure, if ratified, would outlaw all state related employment, contracting, and education affirmative action programs.

Such programs, said Duke, a former Louisiana Ku Klux Klan leader, "are not about equality. They are about discrimination on the basis of race against better qualified whites." Duke hopes "209 wins, and wins big, but it is only a first step. It doesn't go far enough, because it leaves affirmative action in place in the private sector."

Hicks, a former president of the Los Angeles Southern Christian Leadership Conference, told the predominantly Black, Latino, and Asian student audience that there had been "historic preferential treatment the American majority enjoyed for hundreds of years."

"Race is a real factor in current discrimination," Hicks said, requiring special efforts to "ensure inclusion. Affirmative action is not quotas, because quotas are illegal... Affirmative action just gets us into the pool, and gives a square shot."

Despite student ushers attempting to restrain applause, the audience erupted in sustained cheers for Hicks, and jeers for Duke, during the two-hour exchange. Only written questions from the floor were allowed.

Duke said he was defending the "rights of white working people. There are a lot of these people out there hurting, really hurting. They are victims of reverse discrimination."

"Reverse discrimination is the cry of every unqualified white guy who ever got aced out of a job by a more qualified Black, Latino, or women," Hicks retorted. "But I'm sure that line plays well where you [Duke] come from, with Joe 'Something' when he goes home with his six-pack and talks with his buddies."

"We lost points on that," one Black student, shaking his head later, noted in reference to the "Joe Something" remark.

Duke made clear his aim in the debate. "I want to appeal to the white people in the audience, to the white people watching. You are in a battle for your civilization. If affirmative action continues, you'll be outnumbered, you'll be outvoted, and the discrimination you see today will be nothing compared to the that of the future," he said, as groups of students began hissing.

"You have the right to have your children live in a nation that reflects the values of their forefathers," Duke continued, "not wake up in Mexico, or Haiti, or Zimbabwe." The tense silence was cracked by boos, cat-calls, and groans from the crowd.

"I was waiting for the sheet to come down," a Black student said, "and it did."

"I like the idea of having a debate. I don't like the idea of paying David Duke. I'm totally against 209," said Shean O'Hayyer.

"What's important is that we have a debate," Randy Anisco, a Filipino student said. "My view of affirmative action has two prongs. Everyone should have equality, but I don't think qualified students should be kept out of admissions because of it."

Duke's pitch won applause from a small section of the crowd in both venues. "He represents what I feel," a white student said afterwards, "but I don't like Duke."

There was a lot of controversy over whether the debate would occur at all. Student government sponsors resisted pressure from California Republican Governor Peter Wilson, a key backer of Proposition 209, and "Yes to 209" leader Ward Connerly to cancel the event. Both were embarrassed by Duke's racist profile, but had twice rejected invitations from the students to speak on a panel or debate the ultrarightist.

On the day of the debate, the CSUN Daily Sundial reported that the College Republicans had gathered 2,500 signatures to recall student body president Vladimir Cerna, a



Militant/Craig Honts

Above, young activists demonstrate against Proposition 209 at La Marcha in Los Angeles last August. If ratified in November, it will outlaw affirmative action programs.

defender of affirmative action and equal rights for immigrants. Cerna, who is Salvadoran, led efforts to organize the debate.

An effort to stop the debate in court was thrown out by a judge on September 23.

Members of the Berkeley-based Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action by Any Means Necessary (BAMN) launched a campaign to thwart the proceeding. The sect vowed to stop the debate, as a protest against Duke. On the day of the event, BAMN, members of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP)—an ultraleftist outfit with a history of provocative behavior—and Refuse and Resist showed up on the campus will bullhorns, determined to get to Duke.

In a designated free speech area, the ultraleftists were debated by CSUN students, most of them Black and Latino, as Hicks and Duke argued inside. When members of PLP spotted a well-known member of the rightist Jewish Defense League, they attacked him. Anticipating such an opportunity, Los Angeles cops waded in, assaulting the crowd with shots of several "flash bang" grenades, and four rounds of rubber bullets. Reinforced by 20 mounted cops, and seven helicopters swirling above, the police blocked the exit of hundreds who had nothing

to do with the ultraleftists. Six activists were arrested.

On September 27, conservative columnist David Horowitz wrote in the *Los Angeles Times* that Republican presidential candidate Robert Dole could overtake President William Clinton in the polls and win in California if he campaigned aggressively for Proposition 209.

The same day, Republican vice presidential candidate Jack Kemp rejected such advice during a campaign stop here. "We are not going to campaign on a wedge issue. We have endorsed [Proposition 209], but as a transition to a new era. We are not going to let this issue tear up California."

He pledged a Republican administration would double the number of Black-owned businesses and cut Black unemployment by 50 percent by the year 2000.

As young Latinos and Chicanos hoisted anti-209 placards at a campaign event in Fillmore, the Republican candidate stated that a Dole-Kemp regime would say to California, "mi casa es su casa [my house is your house]."

Craig Honts is a member of the United Transportation Union.

## 700 Protest Prop. 209

BY CAROLE LESNICK

LOS ANGELES—Nearly 700 people turned out September 28 for activities aimed at rallying opposition to Proposition 209, an anti-affirmative action measure that will be on the November ballot. The morning meeting was sponsored by Los Angeles Metropolitan Alliance, a newly formed coalition of civil rights, labor, and community organizations.

"We didn't ask for affirmative action laws," Constance Rice, regional counsel of the NAACP, told the audience of more than 500, which included labor activists, union officials, and staff members. "We marched, fought, and died for full equality. Now we're fighting for what we won in the sixties."

Other speakers included Day Higuchi, president of the United Teachers of Los Angeles, Jean Morrison, president of San Fernando Valley National Organization for Women, Los Angeles city council member Mark Ridley-Thomas, Maria Elena Durazo, president of Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 11.

Later the same day, nearly 200 activists, many of them young, rallied at City Hall to protest Proposition 209 in a demonstration sponsored by the LA Affirmative Action Defense Coalition. On September 29, more than 100 people, many of them Asian and Latino students, attended a debate on the referendum sponsored by the Japanese-American Citizens League at the University of California at Irvine.

Carol Lesnick is a member of United Auto Workers Local 148 at McDonnell Douglas in Lakewood, California.

# Thousands outraged at CIA drug ties

BY JON HILLSON  
AND OLLIE BIVINS

LOS ANGELES, California — Outrage over revelations of CIA complicity in massive cocaine dealing in this city's Black community exploded as 2,500 angry residents massed at the Vision theater in Leimert Park, September 28. The overwhelmingly Black crowd cheered calls for getting to the bottom of the charges and prosecuting guilty government officials involved in the 1980s drug trade.

The "Town Hall" meeting was sponsored by KJLH-FM, the most widely listened to radio station in the Black community, and co-hosted by the Congressional Black Caucus. At least 1,000 attending listened to the event outside the jammed theater.

The mounting scandal erupted in August with the publication of a three-part series by Gary Webb in the *San Jose Mercury News*. The articles document connections between CIA operatives in the U.S.-organized Nicaraguan mercenary contra army and a huge cocaine smuggling operation they used to raise funds for guns, supplies, and personal use in the mid-1980s. Direct U.S. aid to the hired counterrevolutionary marauders was prohibited by a congressional ban at the time.

The Webb series fills in gaps with spectacular news about how this cocaine, turned into crack, first made its way into the Black communities of South Central, Watts, and Compton, devastating whole sections of the Black community, the consciously targeted market of the contra drug wholesalers. Thousands of Latinos also became addicted to the cheap available drug.

"They want us to be tough on crime? Okay, we're tough on crime," said Danny Bakewell, leader of the Brotherhood Crusade, "wherever it is, including the U.S. government, no matter how high it goes. "And we want them prosecuted, in jail,

in jail!" Bakewell said, to shouts and cheers.

Other speakers, including Los Angeles County supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite-Burke; Percy Pinkney, senior advisor to U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein; Los Angeles City Councilman Nate Holden; and Compton mayor Omar Bradley backed calls for a federal investigation.

California State senator Thomas Hayden detailed CIA involvement in the drug trade in Burma and Thailand during the Vietnam war, with Pakistan during U.S. support to Afghan guerrillas, as well as in Central America. "In one sense, this is nothing new," Hayden said, "but what is new is how much cocaine was sent into South Central. How could it be an accident, if penalties for crack possession are five times worse than for the white powder used on the [affluent] West Side [of Los Angeles], and the jails are piled up with Blacks and Latinos?"

Maxine Waters, the South Central Democratic member of Congress, was greeted with a standing ovation. Her office prepared more than 2,000 copies of a 53-page reproduction of the *Mercury News* series and related documents for the audience.

"I want you to read this," she said, "so you can defend the allegations in it." The upcoming congressional investigation will be "a long haul. We'll see what they come back with," she said, urging the audience to "be disciplined. We may have to have 10,000 people on the steps of every federal building in the country at the right time."

Many in the audience thought now was the "right time" to do something, while the issue is hot. In a brief question period, after five hours of speeches from the stage, the several people who got to microphones were critical that nothing concrete was projected.

Outside, after the event, a young Black woman who works at the *Los Angeles Times* expressed a common sentiment. "We've got to hit the streets. We need some mass ac-

tion, now. And we need to do it," she said, "with everybody, from every community. This is a human issue."

The Brotherhood Crusade announced a candlelight vigil on October 3 at Martin Luther King Hospital to protest the CIA cocaine connection. Many crack victims, including infants, are treated there.

At least 10 workers from the big McDonnell Douglas plant in Lakewood attended the forum. Black workers in the plant began passing around copies of the *Mercury News* series after downloading it from the Internet.

Supporters of the fascist outfit headed by Lyndon LaRouche distributed hundreds of copies of their newspaper, *The New Federalist*, to those attending the meeting, and staffed a literature table behind a big banner which read, "Jail the Drug Kingpin Bush."

In a related development, new attention has been focused on a 1990 court motion seeking information on the 1986 bust of an alleged money launderer, who told cops he was a CIA agent. The suspect, LA County sheriff's deputy Daniel Garner, was allowed by the officers to notify the spy agency as the police executed a search warrant of his house. Garner later served time in federal custody.

The cops concluded he was working with the Blandon family. Danilo Blandon, the CIA operative, contra fund-raiser, and top cocaine kingpin at the center of the *Mercury News* article, is currently an agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

In his motion, Garner's lawyer stated "all records of the search, seizure and property also 'disappeared' from the Sheriff's Department."

Ollie Bivins is a member of United Auto Workers Local 148 at McDonnell Douglas in Lakewood, California.

# U.S. rulers try to narrow political rights

## Opponents of Washington's Cuba policy respond to harassment by federal cops

Continued from front page

tional coordinators of the Network.

Representatives of local and national affiliates of the NNOC also discussed activities to broaden opposition to Washington's economic war on the Cuban people, which has escalated since President Clinton signed the misnamed Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act (or Helms-Burton law) in March. Some 80 people attended the gathering of the Network, a coalition of local and national groups that organize activities opposing Washington's policy toward Cuba.

### The Tom Reeves defense case

"Roxbury Community College in Boston, and Professor Tom Reeves, facilitator of the RCC Caribbean Focus Program, have received harassing letters from the U.S. Treasury Department about a field study tour to Cuba in March 1996, sponsored by the college," said Carol Thomas. Thomas represented the Boston-based July 26 Coalition at the NNOC meeting.

She said the Treasury Department is demanding that Reeves turn over to the government names and other information about participants in the trip. Top figures in the school administration are threatening to fire Reeves if he does not comply. Thomas reported that an Ad Hoc RCC Cuba Tour Defense Committee has been formed to protest the government's actions and support Reeves in defending his constitutional rights in face of the demands of the federal agency.

According to a press release by the Roxbury Community College (RCC)-based defense committee, the school's Caribbean Focus Program "regularly holds accredited courses on Caribbean topics, including field study to the Caribbean." These have included classes and trips to Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico. In 1995, the program offered the first course on Cuba, followed by a study tour of the country in March of this year.

"Application was made to the U.S. Treasury Department for permits for a total of 17 participants in the tour," Thomas said. The Treasury Department granted licenses to one professor and five full-time RCC and Tufts University students. Thomas explained that 11 others — part-time students who included teachers, social workers, church representatives, and health-care professionals — re-applied under a provision of the regulations allowing research by community organizations with an established interest in Cuba. "Telephone conversations with Treasury officials just prior to the tour indicated that the application was under consideration and that licenses might be granted



Militant/Angel Lariscy, inset: Carole Lesnick

**Cuban youth leader Kenia Serrano (above, left) talking with striking Caterpillar workers in Peoria, Illinois, April 1995. Rally in Riverside, California, protesting the cop beating of two immigrant workers, April 1996 (inset). Washington has increased harassment of opponents of U.S. policy toward Cuba as part of broader probes against democratic rights.**

retroactively," Thomas said.

Upon returning from the trip, participants issued a report that condemned the U.S. embargo on Cuba and urged wider contacts between Cubans and Americans, especially young people.

The RCC Caribbean Focus Program has also been the host of the Faculty-Student Cuban Youth Lectures Committee, and Reeves is on the board of that group. The Lectures Committee had sponsored three successful speaking tours of Cuban youth leaders between 1992 and 1995. The group had invited two Cuban youth to visit the United States and speak on campuses at the beginning of this year. The State Department turned down the visa requests of the two Cuban youth, however, despite the fact they had received invitations from dozens of professors in 73 universities and colleges across the country.

### Treasury sends threatening letter

Soon after the March study trip Reeves received a letter from the Treasury Department saying there is "reason to believe that a number of unauthorized individuals participated in the Field Study." The letter pointed out that "criminal penalties for violation of [federal] Regulations range up to 10 years in prison, and \$1 million in corpo-

rate and \$250,000 in individual fines... and civil penalties of \$50,000." It demanded that Reeves provide the Treasury Department details in writing about the trip, including the "name and current address of all individuals who participated in the Field Study."

According to the Ad Hoc committee's press release, Reeves responded that the demand for information "constitutes discriminatory enforcement of the law based on national origin and political viewpoint." He further stated, "Regulation of academic travel to Cuba violates the rights of U.S. citizens to travel abroad, to seek information concerning public issues from foreign sources, and to exchange information with people in other countries."

The former vice president for academic affairs of the college approved the decision by Reeves and his attorneys that he was under no constitutional obligation to respond to the Treasury Department's written inquiries. The vice president was subsequently fired, supposedly for reasons unrelated to this case. The new acting dean ordered Reeves to comply with the government demand. "Professor Reeves believes that such a demand is a serious violation of academic freedom, as well as of the rights of free speech, assembly, and travel," said Thomas.

The American Civil Liberties Union is providing legal counsel for Reeves. The RCC-based defense committee, which was launched in September, is now circulating a petition to publicize and win support for his case. "We vigorously oppose any effort to force Professor Reeves to surrender documents he believes should remain confidential, and we deplore intimidation against him by the College or any action which may endanger his position as Professor and as Facilitator of the Caribbean Focus Program," the petition states.

NNOC affiliates agreed to circulate this petition widely, to help rally support for the defense effort. They will also be asking all supporters of civil liberties to send letters of protest to the Treasury Department and RCC administration.

### Numerous probes by the government

Julia Aires of the Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice based in Gainesville, Florida, received a similar letter from the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the Treasury Department in mid-September. Aires said the federal agency demanded details on a trip to Cuba last January in which coalition members participated. Group members have traveled to Cuba previously, Aires said, but this was the first time the government took such action.

The letter was accompanied by a three-page questionnaire demanding detailed information. Treasury Department questions ranged from the itinerary while in Cuba, to the names and addresses of all travel companions, and the "name of the leader or con-

tact person for any group which was involved in sponsoring, organizing or facilitating your trip to Cuba."

Aires said she has forwarded the letter to attorneys at the New York-based Center of Constitutional Rights (CCR), who are working with her on how to respond.

Bob Guild of Marazul Tours, a travel agency that books charter flights to Cuba for groups and individuals authorized to travel to the island, said in an interview that he knows of four people who have been ordered by the Treasury Department to pay fines for traveling to the Caribbean island allegedly in violation of Treasury Department regulations.

At the Pittsburgh meeting, Michael O'Heaney of Global Exchange reported that the Treasury Department is pursuing its case against Ben Truehoff, a piano repairman in San Francisco. The Treasury Department ordered Truehoff to pay a \$10,000 fine earlier this year for traveling to Cuba to deliver pianos. Having obtained a license from the Commerce Department for the piano shipment, Truehoff traveled to Cuba to assure its safe delivery and retune the pianos as necessary after arrival. Truehoff has challenged the ruling that he violated U.S. regulations. Recently, the Treasury Department notified him it would up the fine to \$100,000 if he traveled to Cuba again, O'Heaney said.

### Harassing phone calls

Federal agents are also making harassing phone calls to other individuals involved in fact-finding trips to Cuba and in activities protesting U.S. government policy toward Cuba.

Jack Willey attended the NNOC meeting representing the Young Socialists. He is the organizer of the YS national steering committee. Willey reported that he had gotten a call at his house in Minneapolis five days before the Network meeting. The man on the other end of the line stated he was from the Treasury Department, but did not offer his name. He proceeded to ask questions about Willey's trip to Cuba this summer.

The YS leader participated in the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange July 24-August 6. More than 140 students, young workers, and other youth took part in the trip, which was sponsored by the NNOC. Since their return, many have been speaking and writing articles in defense of the Cuban revolution. The trip was fully hosted in Cuba by the Federation of University Students (FEU), which provided accommodations and covered all expenses on the island. According to federal regulations, fully hosted trips to Cuba are not a violation of U.S. laws.

Returning to the U.S., Willey and 20 other youth were stopped and interrogated by U.S. customs officials at O'Hare airport in Chicago. Their passports were copied and several had ticket stubs confiscated.

Willey said it took him 30 seconds before he realized the implications of what the caller was raising. He initially answered one question about the sponsorship of the youth exchange. He then told the caller he was under no obligation to answer any such questions and hung up. Subsequently, Willey informed other youth exchange participants of the incident, so they would be better prepared to respond by exercising their constitutional right to answer no questions and hang up or close the door.

### How to respond when federal cops call

Looking back at the incident, Willey says, he recognizes that the response to such call or visit should be to ask for the person's name and to inform the caller it's your right not to answer any questions. "They can send any inquiries in writing and your lawyer will contact them," the YS leader stated.

After the incident, Willey said he looked around to find out about other cases where workers or other activists opposing Washington's policies have faced government harassment. He said he found the 1986 *Militant* article "Why workers should uphold right not to talk to FBI" very useful (this item is reprinted on the opposing page).

As that article points out, Willey said, **Continued on Page 12**

for further reading

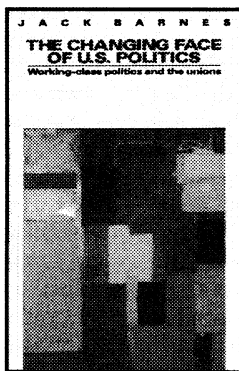
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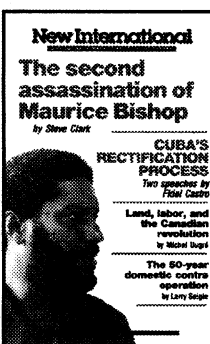
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# Why workers should uphold right not to talk to FBI

The article below is reprinted without changes from the May 16, 1986, *Militant*. It appeared in that issue with the same headline and accompanying graphic. It is relevant to efforts by opponents of U.S. policy toward Cuba today to protest harassment by federal agents and defend democratic rights.

Author Jeff Jones is now a member of the International Association of Machinists in Minneapolis. Sam Manuel is a member of the United Transportation Union in Washington, D.C.

BY JEFF JONES  
AND SAM MANUEL

SAN JOSE — Last November Don Bechler was hauled in by plant security at Westinghouse to face interrogation by an FBI agent. The agent said he was being investigated for in-plant "sabotage." He was grilled for 40 minutes without a lawyer present, which is his legal right. He also did not have his shop steward with him.

Bechler is active in the anti-apartheid movement and the fight against U.S. intervention in Central America. He is also a union activist and a member of the Socialist Workers Party.

This questioning by the FBI was not only a violation of Bechler's democratic rights, but the rights of everyone who has a dissenting point of view, as well as an attack on the union. Charges of "sabotage" against workers in plants that make military hardware are part of the employers' and government's sustained offensive against democratic rights. This is why it is useful to look at what happened at Westinghouse and the lessons of that experience.

Westinghouse is a major producer of military hardware. The plant is in Sunnyvale, California. The production workers are represented by International Association of Machinists Local 565. Bechler is a bench grinder.

The FBI agent had Bechler's personal notebook, which Bechler thought he had lost. The agent said that plant security had given it to him.

After Bechler agreed to talk with the FBI, the agent asked a number of questions about the notebook. It had notes about work, shopping lists, and information on various political activities Bechler is involved in.

The FBI agent told Bechler that he thought potential saboteurs in the plant included unionists who opposed concessions to the company in the recent contract negotiations. Some workers may have been frustrated that there wasn't a strike, the agent said, and therefore decided to commit sabotage.

After the grilling, the FBI agent refused to return Bechler's notebook — implying

that he remained under investigation. At a union meeting 11 days later, it was reported that another worker had been subjected to a similar interrogation by the FBI. Union leaders stressed that members should always demand a shop steward when meeting with the company.

Under pressure from the union, the FBI has since returned Bechler's notebook.

This harassment by the FBI represents a serious attack on the democratic rights of Bechler, the union, and all working people. The FBI has no legal right to walk into a plant, roam around, and begin interrogating workers. And workers, as well as others, are under no legal obligation to voluntarily submit to such questioning.

The FBI, like all other cop agencies in this country, serves and protects big business and its government. When they enter Westinghouse or other plants it is on the side of the company.

This attack on democratic rights occurs in the context of the employers' antilabor offensive and drive toward war in Central America. Such assaults go hand in hand.

As the government gears up for war abroad, it must erode democratic rights at home. The aim is to get workers to accept as normal such things as growing restrictions on security clearances, denying the rights of accused persons to be released on bail, having more cops in the plants questioning workers, and developing an atmosphere of suspicion against workers who buy socialist publications or travel to Nicaragua.

It is part of the government's concerted effort to change workers' perception of what's "normal." Each blow to democratic rights weakens the ability of the labor movement to defend itself against austerity and fight U.S. intervention abroad.

In the last period the government has concocted a series of highly publicized trials of accused "spies" — the greatest number of espionage cases at any one time in the history of the country.

These "spy" trials and charges of industrial sabotage are aimed at dividing and intimidating workers. While initial targets tend to be politically active workers, the ultimate victims are all workers and working farmers. The aim is to sharply limit democratic rights and limit political discussion and debate in order to drag workers into war.

One aspect of the employers' anti-democratic drive is seeking to establish the "right" of the FBI and other cop agencies to enter workplaces and interrogate workers. Among the ways in which the FBI and cops justify their intrusion is the alleged need to



defend "national security" by stopping "saboteurs" and cracking down on "drug use."

By agreeing to talk to an agent, a worker falls into the trap that has been set: the act of talking itself is a form of collaboration with the agent. This is true regardless of whether a shop steward is present or not. Although Bechler denied the charges of sabotage, the fact that he talked to the agent had already caused damage to workers' rights. The content of what a worker says in such a situation is not the key problem. The agreement to cooperate — talk — when not legally compelled to, means the cops scored a victory.

The goal of the FBI in these circumstances is not to get a worker to say something "damaging" — that's just a bonus for them when that happens — but to get the worker to accept and help establish their "right" to engage in such interrogations. This reinforces the lie that cops stand above struggles between workers and bosses and in that sense are neutral. It helps reinforce one of the most elementary forms of class collaboration: actions based on the illusion that the cops are neutral, that they are simply enforcing the law without fear or favor.

Moreover, it breaks down trust between workers. A precedent is set that it is okay to talk to the FBI and their finks when instead workers should have nothing to do with them.

Bechler had no legal obligation to talk to the FBI. He in essence gave up his, rights by doing so. And, whatever he did say is now potential material to be used against him, the union, and others regardless of his

intentions. There is no such thing as an off-the-record talk with cops.

Under the Constitution and Bill of Rights, no one is ever obligated to voluntarily speak to a cop — FBI, CIA, immigration, city, state, customs.

The accompanying reprint of a 1950s statement issued by the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee explains one's rights in relation to the FBI: "The FBI, unlike courts and grand juries, does not have the power of subpoena of compulsory examination. You may decline an invitation to visit FBI agents or to receive them in your home or office.... The use of investigative power by governmental agencies to intimidate or threaten is expressly forbidden by law."

In other words, one is never legally obligated to voluntarily engage in conversation with the FBI and other cop bodies.

Looking back on what happened to him and the union, Bechler commented: "Once I started talking to them, they had me. I let them establish their 'right' to even hold such conversations.

"The fact that the union stood up for me and forced the FBI to return my notebook was a victory. It showed that it is possible to resist FBI violations of democratic rights.

"The basic lesson to draw from this experience, however, is: never, under any circumstance voluntarily talk to the FBI or any other cop."

Jeff Jones is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 565. Sam Manuel is the organizer of the San Francisco branch of the Socialist Workers Party.

## Statement on the FBI and your rights

Below is a statement issued in the 1950s by the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (NECLC) on the rights of individuals in relation to the FBI. The *Militant* at the time reprinted this document. The NECLC was founded in 1951 to defend victims of the McCarthy witch-hunt. Prominent constitutional attorney Leonard Boudin served as its general counsel from 1954 until his death in 1989. The NECLC general counsel today are Michael Krinsky and Eric Lieberman.

The Emergency Civil Liberties Committee has received many letters and telephone calls from people who have been visited by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. These people indicated confusion about their obligations to their government and about their rights as citizens.

Since we believe that the average person as a rule does not know his duties or his rights concerning FBI interrogation, we offer this general information for those to whom it may be helpful.

You may feel, as many people do, that you have a moral obligation as a citizen to supply any governmental agency with all of the facts which would be helpful in a given

situation, provided that neither your rights nor those of others are being violated. It is even possible that the inquiry concerns the application for government employment of someone with whom you are acquainted.

However, you frequently do not know the purpose of the inquiry, and the inquirer will rarely tell you in advance. Therefore, it is important for you to know that you are under no legal obligation to talk to representatives of the FBI or of any other governmental agency, unless you have been subpoenaed.

The FBI, unlike courts and grand juries, does not have the power of subpoena and of compulsory examination. You may decline an invitation to visit FBI agents or to receive them in your home or office.

Unfortunately, at the present time many FBI inquiries appear to be concerned with political associations rather than with obtaining facts for constructive purposes of criminal investigation. The very nature of political inquiries means that many of the questions will be of the sort which no citizen is, or should be, required to answer. The protections afforded to you by the Bill of Rights as interpreted by the Supreme Court in recent as well as earlier decisions are as

available to you in such an interview as they would be in open court or before a Congressional body.

If you have any doubts as to the FBI's questions you may refuse to answer until your attorney has been consulted, or you may insist on having your attorney present during the interview. You may also ask to have the questions put in writing.

In determining your responsibility to answer questions, remember that there are no off-the-record conversations with the FBI. The agent in question is under a duty to make some report of his interrogation or interview. He may, possibly, be recording the conversation without your knowledge. Be most careful to be accurate. For the obvious reasons of civic duty, morality and personal safety, do not answer questions if you do not have personal knowledge of the facts. False statements, although made orally and not under oath, may be the basis for a criminal prosecution.

Finally, the use of investigative power by governmental agencies to intimidate or threaten is expressly forbidden by law. We suggest that you report any attempt at intimidation to the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee.

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# St. Louis convention urges Blacks to 'march on the ballot box in November'

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS  
AND SAM MANUEL

ST. LOUIS — Leaders of the Nation of Islam and the National African-American Leadership Summit (NAALS) organized a national political "convention of the oppressed" here September 27-29 at the America's Center TWA Dome. While offering some criticisms of the Democratic and Republican party, they urged people "to march on the ballot box in November, like they did for the Million Man March."

"We've been ignored by the Republicans and taken for granted by Democrats," said Benjamin Chavis, convention organizer and national director of NAALS and the Million Man March Inc. "We intend to change our relationship with these political parties."

Some 4,000 people attended a September 28 rally where Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan was the keynote speaker. Farrakhan declared to the audience, "We are not building a third party, we are building a third political force that will cut across all parties." He told the participants, "This is the last free ride the Democratic Party will receive from Blacks."

The convention was billed as a follow-up to the Million Man March organized last October. Although its organizers had predicted 20,000-30,000 people would participate, about 700 hundred delegates attended the working sessions of the event, many of them from the Nation of Islam (NOI). A number of young people attended the convention, including a group from Tennessee State University.

Various people involved in struggles attended as well. Relatives of Antwan Sedgewick came to the conference to win justice for the 20-year-old Black youth, who was found hanging by his neck on Oct. 4, 1995, in Hampton, Virginia. Cops ruled his death was a suicide.

"His friends said the day before he was killed, he was threatened by two cops who told him, 'We're going to get you,'" said Antwan's father, Clarence Sedgewick. A vigil is planned for October 5 at 2 p.m. at the Hampton Coliseum. "We are trying to get more people to help us," Sedgewick stated.

Seth Big Crow and other Native American activists involved in the Crazy Horse Defense project attended the event to garner support for a fight against unwarranted use of the name "Crazy Horse" by the Heileman Brewing Co. and the Hornell Brewing Co. The Lakota people launched a struggle to remove the name of the Native American leader from the malt liquor marketed by the two companies and a boycott of their AriZona Iced Tea.

## Snubbed by 'prominent' Blacks

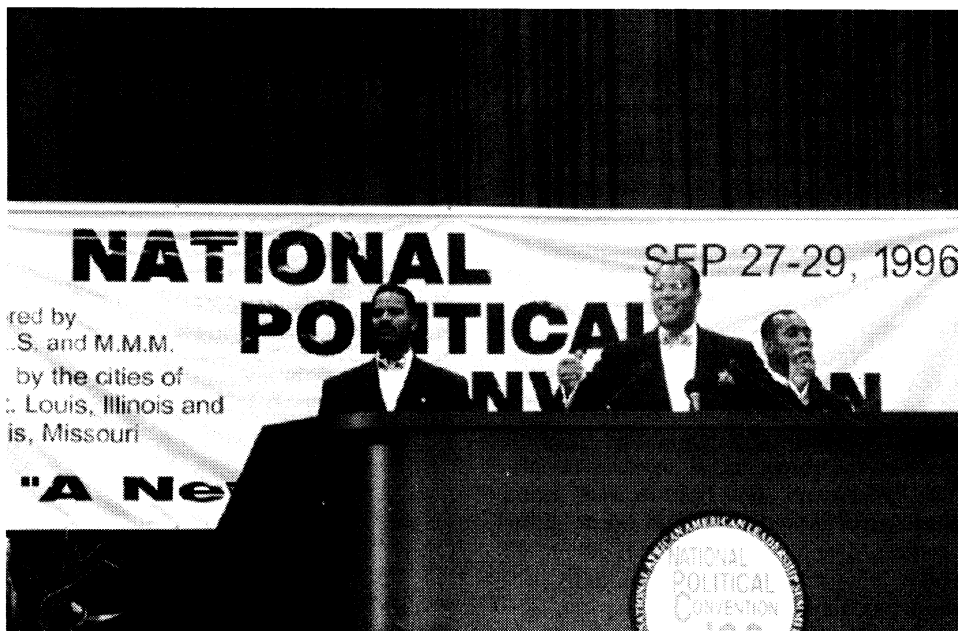
According to the *Washington Post*, the "convention was snubbed by virtually every prominent black political figure in the country." Congressman Earl Hilliard of Alabama and Columbia University professor Manning Marable were scheduled to address the convention, but failed to appear. U.S. congressman Bill Clay had publicly stated disapproval of the gathering.

St. Louis mayor Freeman Bosley, who is Black, went out of town. "The mayor believes that the concerns this convention plans to address should have perhaps been addressed prior to the Democratic National Convention so that those delegates attending the convention could have had their concerns more properly addressed," his spokesperson, Patricia Washington, told the *St. Louis American*.

East St. Louis mayor Gordon Bush, who was billed as a sponsor of the conference, also did not appear. "Mayor Bush supports President Clinton and will not be a party to any third party movement at this time," said Bush's chief of staff Ishaq Shafiq. "He is heading Clinton's campaign here."

"We're not about creating a third party. We don't have to do that," East St. Louis NOI minister Ralph Muhammad insisted to the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*. "All we have to do is deal with the issues."

Farrakhan denounced the elected officials as "slaves who sold out to the Democratic plantation." The Nation of Islam leader told the conventioners Clinton "would be good," but "you're not putting enough pressure on him."



Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, center, addressing a rally attended by 4,000 people held during the convention. Farrakhan called for building a third political force as opposed to a third political party.

Among those who attended the convention and spoke at the September 28 rally were Michigan congresswoman Barbara Collins, Harvard University professor Cornel West, activist and entertainer Dick Gregory, and Illinois state senator Richard Hendon. Some Black political activists who had attended previous activities organized by NAALS, such as Conrad Worrill, chair of the National Black United Front, and New York politician Al Sharpton, were noticeably absent from the conference.

## 'National agenda on issues and actions'

Participants who paid a \$100 registration fee were considered voting delegates, while those who paid \$25 were observers at the convention. Although delegates at the gathering were asked to approve a "National Agenda of Public Policy Issues & Action Items for 1996-2001," most conference participants never received a copy of the document.

Chavis stated in the agenda "executive summary" that it would be sent to the Democratic, Republican, and Reform Parties. The agenda advanced a perspective "to educate and inform" Black people "so they may make the right choice on November 5, 1996."

Several caucus meetings were organized to discuss sections in the agenda that included "political empowerment," education, and international development. At the caucus meeting on international development, delegates advocated the demand in the document for the U.S. government to lift sanctions imposed on Libya, Cuba, and Iraq. "We need to find out how they use sanctions to keep us divided and block Black businesses from investment opportunities in Cuba," said one participant at the caucus meeting.

## March for immigrant rights in France

### Continued from front page

cal organizations, including the Communist and Socialist parties, gave their support to the September 28 demonstration. But their contingents were dwarfed by groups from immigrant and anti-racist associations. Two other demonstrations also took place the same day in eastern France in Metz and in the south of France in Marseilles.

The popularity of the September 28 action could be seen all along the march. There were often as many people on the sidewalks applauding as there were demonstrators.

One of the contingents organized by a Paris committee brought together for the first time hundreds of undocumented workers of Asian origin. Their dynamic contingent was shown on national television with colorful banners in Chinese and other Asian languages. Earlier in the week *sans papiers* leader Madjiguène Cissé said that "the workers of the whole world should join in this struggle because we all have the same bosses."

The September 28 demonstration was a counterpoint to the annual "Bleu, Blanc, Rouge" (Red, White and Blue) festival organized the same weekend by the National

Other discussions in the session included cancellation of the debt owed by undeveloped countries, establishing a homeland in Africa for U.S. Blacks, and setting up an investment program in Haiti and other semi-colonial countries around the world.

One member of the Nation of Islam who had recently returned from Libya stated, "We have to deal with the issue of sanctions and the debt to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank." The agenda called for giving "appropriate compensation for the loss of human lives and material damage inflicted on Libya."

Chavis told the convention, "We are going to get the \$1 billion" from Libyan leader Muammar el-Qaddafi, which is barred by the U.S. government. Qaddafi offered the money to Farrakhan earlier this year.

Arif Muhammad, attorney for the Nation of Islam, announced during the last session of the convention that he and several lawyers were preparing to file a class-action conspiracy lawsuit against the CIA and the Drug Enforcement Agency for their roles in introducing crack cocaine into Black communities in the 1980s.

The final session included reports from chairpersons at caucus sessions based on those discussions. One participant voiced her objection to the omission of women's rights from the agenda. "Where is the section on women's rights?" she asked. "There is a need to involve women in leadership responsibilities." She pointed out how three female political leaders, who participated in the conference, were "lumped together to speak at the same time for less than five minutes."

The agenda promotes an anti-woman position stating that the "crime" of pre-marital sex is "covered or hidden by contracep-

tion or by government sanctioned murder — abortion."

At the beginning of the final session, Chavis launched a 15 minute talk to prepare the audience for the introduction of fascist politician Lyndon LaRouche. Chavis has given several prominent interviews to LaRouche's newspaper, the *New Federalist* and participated in events sponsored by his organization, the Shiller Institute. "We are doing something new," said Chavis, pointing out that a white person had not spoken before the body. Chavis said that LaRouche was the only political party leader who responded positively to the convention's agenda.

## Fascist LaRouche booted off stage

LaRouche was introduced by James Bevel, a close aide of LaRouche and a coordinator of the upcoming October 16 Day of Atonement at the United Nations. As LaRouche approached the podium a few in the audience began to heckle. "Fascist! Get out!" shouted the participants. "Get him off the stage now!" demanded another delegate.

"Eat the meal first before you decide whether you like it or not," said LaRouche, determined to address the convention. "Go! Go! Go!" chanted a handful of people in the audience who drowned out his words. Chavis unsuccessfully tried to calm the protesters until LaRouche was led off the stage by NOI members and Bevel.

As the convention wound down some political activists expressed various opinions on its success. Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate James Harris, who attended the gathering, said the convention failed to live up to the potential that was there for political discussions on a perspective that offered "a working class alternative to the Democrats and Republicans." Harris said, "We found a lot interest in socialist ideas. People were interested in discussions around the National Black Independent Political Party and independent political action."

At the end of the conference a few delegates expressed some objections in the organization of the conference. "There was not enough time to discuss issues affecting Blacks," said John Shapley a 25-year-old student at UCLA. Shapley, an activist in defense of affirmative action and the fight against Prop. 209 in California, said organizers of the convention "skirt the real issue" of independent political action by posturing with "third political force" rhetoric. But he added, "We as young people need to gain exposure to events like this. I came here to learn so I can be prepared to step into a leadership role when its necessary."

Sam Manuel is a member of the United Transportation Union in Washington, D.C. Nan Bailey from Newark, New Jersey, contributed to this article.

Front, a fascist and racist party led by Jean-Marie Le Pen. The National Front's slogan is "the French first."

One of the contingents in the September 28 action shouted "[former Minister of the Interior] Pasqua, the photocopy! Le Pen, the original! [Prime Minister] Juppé, the executive!"

At the demonstration the immigrants shouted "Juppé, give us our papers." Only a minority of the immigrant workers, who were recently expelled again from the St. Bernard church in Paris in late August, have been given temporary residence papers.

Since last March, some 300 immigrant workers and their families, in a struggle to win the right to live and work in France, have sought refuge in St. Bernard Church in Paris. Most of these workers are of African origin and generally came from former French colonies. The cops have organized three brutal evacuations of the immigrants.

Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debré has publicly boasted about the number charter flights he has organized to expel "illegal" immigrants to Africa. So far, however, he has only been able to expel 10 of the 300

Africans from the St. Bernard Church. The others have been released by judges who, bending to mass pressure, have ruled that there were procedural flaws in the police arrests.

Elsewhere in Paris, in suburbs and other regions of France, other *sans papiers* have joined "the 300" in their struggle. Other churches have been occupied and the struggle has now become a national.

"This story about immigrants is a false problem," said Martine Mansson answering the accusation that immigrants take away French jobs. Mansson, a university worker from Metz, came to the demonstration with a delegation from the Lorraine region in the east of France. Her companion, who was born in Senegal at the time that it was still a French colony, is living in France with temporary residency papers. Although he legally has a right to French citizenship, the administration has so far refused.

One hand written poster seen in the demonstration pointed out that Senegalese were sent to be killed in massive numbers in the First World War to "defend the French fatherland," but were now denied the right to live in France.



# Palestinian struggle

Continued from front page  
 nization (PLO) leader Yasir Arafat to resolve any of the issues at stake. The meeting "failed 100 percent, not 90 percent, but 100 percent," Hebron resident Mazen Bakri told the Associated Press. "If it could have failed more than 100 percent it would have."

Hundreds of Palestinians demonstrated in the West Bank village of Saer October 3. The day before Israeli soldiers shot dead an 11-year-old boy there for throwing stones at the occupation force.

"The situation is very black and the future is darker," said Ghazi Hamad of the Hamas group in the Gaza Strip. "We will not keep silent and we are ready to use any means to get our rights."

"We did not reach an acceptable solution. The explosion is expected at any time," added Hatem Abdel Kader, a member of the Palestinian legislative council.

## Summit resolves nothing

"I am not asking for the moon, I am only asking for what had been agreed upon and what had been signed to be implemented accurately and honestly," Arafat said in Luxembourg before he flew to Washington for the October 1-2 talks. King Hussein of Jordan also participated in the two-day summit. Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak re-

fused Clinton's invitation and sent his foreign minister, Amr Moussa, to represent him.

At the meeting Netanyahu refused to agree to a deadline of 60 days to withdraw most of the Israeli troops from Hebron or set a definite date for resuming talks on sovereignty of Jerusalem as called for in a 1993 agreement made in Oslo, Norway. Under Israeli-PLO accords, Zionist troops were to have withdrawn from most of Hebron — a city of 100,000 Palestinians and 400 Israeli settlers — six months ago.

The Israeli prime minister also did not budge in his refusal to close an entrance to a tunnel in Jerusalem. The opening of the second entrance to the tunnel, which is near Muslim holy sites, touched off the latest unrest. The Israeli regime's closing of the borders on the West and Bank and Gaza Strip and an airport planned for the Gaza Strip was also discussed in the Washington talks.

The only thing agreed at the summit was to resume negotiations October 6 between the Israeli government and the PLO. Netanyahu praised the results, saying, "The children of Israel are safer tonight."

Arafat canceled a scheduled press conference following the talks. Senior Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour told the press, "This summit has failed because of Israeli



Militant/Chester Wilson

intransigence."

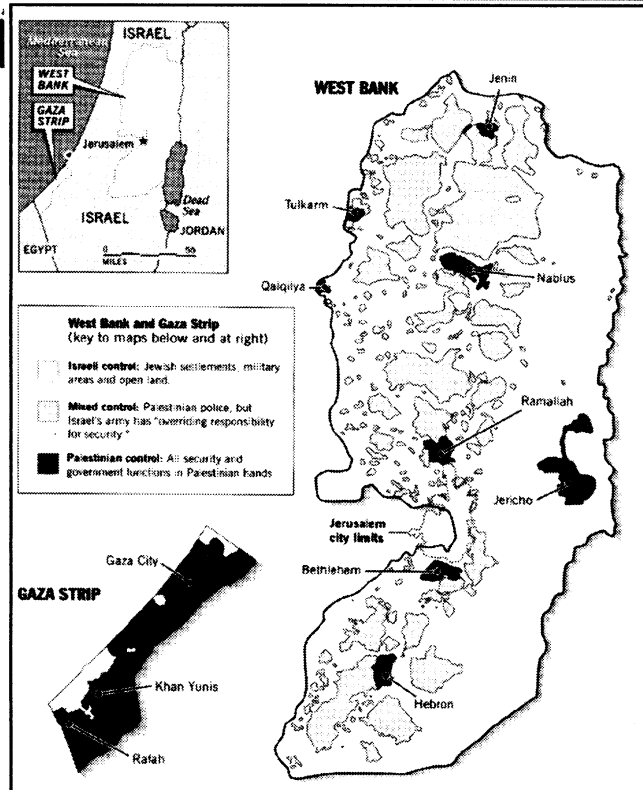
The PLO leader "cannot go to Washington and take part in a media event," Mustafa Natsheh, the mayor of Hebron, had warned beforehand. "Palestinians are expecting him to come back with concrete results. Without results I am really afraid that the frustration felt among Palestinians will lead to a very, very dangerous situation."

After the summit, Clinton acknowledged, "The problems that explode last week in violence, the problems are still there."

## Gun battles erupt

The gun battles erupted when Tel Aviv's occupying army fired thousands of rounds of ammunition at Palestinian demonstrators on September 25 in Ramallah, Bethlehem, and elsewhere in the West Bank.

The protesters were responding to a September 24 predawn excavation — carried out with border cops armed with assault



Top: Picket at Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C. September 27 against attack on Palestinians. Map shows occupied territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

rifles — to complete a disputed tunnel along the edge of Jerusalem's Temple Mount. Two of Islam's most revered mosques, al-Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock are located at the

Continued on Page 12

# Protests condemn Israeli attack against Palestinians

BY VALERIE JOHNSON

BOSTON — In response to the Israeli government's violent attacks on the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank, more than 100 students turned out at a protest at Government Center here September 30. The action was called by a number of student associations at Boston-area campuses, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University, Tufts, and Wellesley.

Kashif Riaz, a member of the MIT Arab Association, explained to the demonstrators that Israeli violence against the Palestinians "is a symptom of a larger problem" and that the "U.S. government is an official sponsor." Riaz noted that Washington has backed the Israeli government as it tosses out the latest Palestinian/Israeli agreements. "The U.S. bears some responsibility" for the actions of the Israeli government, he said.

Northeastern University student Samer Abughazaleh explained that protest was needed to condemn the oppression of the Palestinians. "We want peace, but peace will only come from real justice," he said. "Oppression will lead to more problems" he explained pointing to the \$4 billion U.S. government grants to Tel Aviv every year.

Further protests were scheduled at MIT, Tufts, and Harvard for the next week.

BY CHESTER WILSON

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "Stop the killing, stop the crime, Israel out of Palestine," shouted demonstrators outside the Israeli embassy here Friday afternoon, September 27.

Some 300 protesters came out for the picket line called by the Presidents of National Arab-American Organizations, the American Muslim Council, and others. "Resolution 242, United Nations where are you" and "Peace for Palestine, justice for Palestine" were also popular chants at the demonstration. UN Security Council resolution 242 calls for the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from Arab territories seized in 1967.

An immediate protest against the Israeli military's assault on the Palestinians was organized September 26 outside the Israeli embassy. The 30 participants in that protest, called by *Middle East Report* editor Geoff Hartman, helped to build the larger action that took place the next day.

Many of the protesters were students from area campuses. Thirteen copies of the socialist newsweekly the *Militant* were sold at the Friday demonstration, where participants were eager for analysis of the history of the struggle of the Palestinian people against Israeli occupation and reports on other struggles around the world.

# Cuban foreign minister condemns Tel Aviv at UN

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

UNITED NATIONS — "As we speak today, blood is being shed as a result of the assault by Israel against the Palestinian people. I denounce the criminal Israeli aggression and stand on the side of our fraternal Palestinian people who are fighting for an independent Palestinian state." This is what Cuban foreign minister Roberto Robaina said at the beginning of his talk to the UN General Assembly September 30. Robaina was addressing the 51st session of the Assembly.

The Cuban leader also condemned Washington for its recent military strikes against Iraq. "What political, legal or moral reason makes it legitimate to carry out an attack with missiles against the Republic of Iraq as the U.S. Armed Forces did just a few days ago?" he asked.

"There is no justification to trample upon the territorial integrity of a member of this organization," Robaina stated. He said the motivation for this action by the White House was either "the mean interests in oil or the frenzy of the ongoing carnival-type electoral process in the United States."

Robaina said that the embargo-tightening legislation U.S. president William Clinton enacted in March has caused concern among many governments for its extraterritorial reach. "The Helms-Burton Act, the most sophisticated concoction of the economic war against Cuba, attacks many countries and compels them to feel in their own sovereignty what the Cubans have been facing for a long time."

The legislation provides for sanctions against foreign companies that have invested in Cuban property confiscated by workers and peasants from U.S. nationals after the 1959 revolution in that country.

The Cuban diplomat said a second bill signed by Clinton recently, which calls for

U.S. sanctions against foreign companies that invest in Iran and Libya, is "another instance of unipolarity and of the attempt to dictate the conduct of sovereign states." This measure was sponsored by Republican Senator Alfonse D'Amato and Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy.

"The argument is the alleged war against terrorism," Robaina said, "when in fact the United States is the main promoter of terrorism in its dirty wars in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Angola, South Africa, against the Palestinian patriots; when the United States always supported the bloodiest regimes that have ever existed in this world."

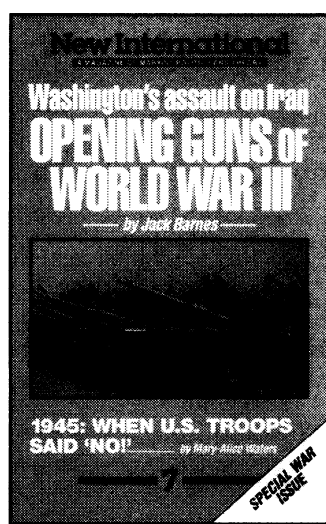
He assailed Washington's action to "de-certify" Colombia for supposedly not combating drug trafficking vigorously enough — denying financial aid and loans to its government. "The country, which by its enormous consumption has become the main market and promoter of this criminal industry and where the greatest profits of this business are generated, does not have the moral authority to assign or demand responsibility from others," Robaina said.

Events in world politics today show that on the eve of the 21st century "what we see everywhere is not a new order, but a perfect and troublesome world disorder." He said that the "neoliberal" policies of privatization, cutbacks of social programs, and other measures of capitalist austerity and imperialist domination are at the root of the problem.

In this world, and despite a vicious economic war by Washington, the Cuban people have been able to reverse the country's economic decline and begin a recovery.

"The socialism we chose for our homeland is the only emancipating, moral, and ethical alternative," Robaina concluded. "It is a path that we selected freely, sovereignly, independently; a path that we will not renounce and that nobody imposed on us."

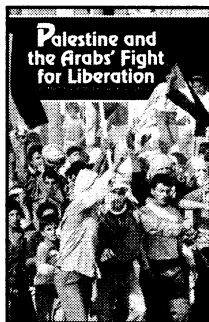
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# Palestinian resistance sparks crisis

Continued from Page 11

Temple Mount and are a symbol of the Palestinian struggle to regain sovereignty over East Jerusalem. Similar explosions occurred in 1990, when Israeli forces killed 17 Palestinians in a protests against Zionists' attempts to lay a symbolic cornerstone for new construction on the Temple Mount.

The *Christian Science Monitor* reported the latest clash was "the last straw in a se-

## NNOC meeting

Continued from Page 8

when someone is questioned by federal agents. "The content of what a worker says in such a situation is not the key problem. The agreement to cooperate — talk — when not legally compelled to, means the cops scored a victory." Answering even one question, the YS leader said, gives federal cops a facade of legitimacy in intruding where they have no business. The questioning itself is a violation of basic democratic rights.

These points are explained succinctly in a 1986 resolution by the Socialist Workers Party titled "Why Class-Conscious Workers Don't Talk to Federal Agents," the YS leader said (see text on page 14).

### Discussion at NNOC meeting

Leslie Cagan, one of the Network's national co-chairs, reminded participants at the Pittsburgh gathering that Margaret Ratner of the Center for Constitutional Rights is centralizing information on incidents of harassment or threats by federal agents. The CCR will also help with providing legal counsel where possible. NNOC affiliates were also urged to obtain attorneys in local areas who can be available to help when needed.

The NNOC is also helping distribute a pamphlet published by the CCR, titled *If An Agent Knocks: Federal Investigators and Your Rights*. The booklet explains that federal agents have no legal authority to force people to answer any questions. "Even when agents do have [arrest or search] warrants, you still don't have to answer their questions," it says.

Participants at the meeting reaffirmed support for helping defend another group being threatened with grand jury proceedings. The Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO)/Pastors for Peace has been served with a subpoena demanding complete records from the group with the names of participants and other information on humanitarian aid caravans to Cuba Pastors for Peace organized in 1994 and 1995.

The judge in this case has put a gag order on the group, banning its representatives from publicly discussing even the preliminary proceedings, and has ordered upcoming court hearings closed to the public. Pastors for Peace is challenging this ruling. NNOC affiliates at the meeting were urged to submit friend-of-the-court briefs asking that the gag order be lifted and the hearings be open.

NNOC activists also discussed including information on how to respond to these moves by the government in upcoming educational forums by local Cuba coalitions across the country.

"If the government can get away with these assaults, the entire Cuba solidarity movement and basic democratic rights of all will be dealt a serious blow," Andres Gómez said.

Activists at the gathering also heard report-backs on the July 24-August 6 U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange and the successful delivery of hundreds of computers to hospitals in Cuba in September by Pastors for Peace. Representatives of several groups reported on speak-outs and other meetings in a number of cities set for October to discuss the Cuban revolution.

Participants agreed that the Network will initiate a call for a nationwide coordinating committee open to all youth groups interested to build participation from the United States to the 14th World Festival of Students and Youth. This event is scheduled to take place in Cuba next summer.

Three new groups were voted into membership at the meeting — the Twin Cities Cuba Network; Cuba Vive, based in Tampa, Florida; and the Young Socialists — bringing the number of affiliates to 77.

The next meeting of the Network was set for February 1-2.

ries of provocations" by the Israeli government, including plans to build nearly 4,000 homes in Zionist settlements; an incident where Israeli forces bulldozed a Palestinian day-care center for disabled people; Netanyahu's six-month delay in troop withdrawal from Hebron; and Tel Aviv's refusal to accept any Palestinian claims on East Jerusalem. Meanwhile, the Israeli government maintains military rule over most of the West Bank, with the exception of six major cities that are controlled by Arafat's Palestinian Authority. "Palestinians were just fed up. All we heard were empty words," said Hanan Ashwari, education minister and a member of the Palestinian legislature. "The tunnel lit the fuse."

### 'The beginning of a new intifada'

Young school girls led the way in a mass march of thousands in Ramallah September 25. Some people dived for cover when the Israeli troops fired on the demonstrators. Others rushed up to the Palestinian police and started arguing, with one civilian making a grab at the policeman's rifle. "Don't just stand there. Protect us," several young Palestinians shouted.

"When my men see a friend killed or injured by Israeli bullets, what do you want them to do?" asked Col. Abu Salah, a 60-year-old Palestinian officer. "Even if I ordered them to stop, they would probably keep shooting until they ran out of ammunition."

According to London's *Financial Times*, on September 27, Arafat ordered the 30,000-member Palestinian Authority security force to fire only in self-defense, while

the Voice of Palestine official radio station urged peaceful protests.

Uzi Dayan, the Israeli central commander, called a state of emergency September 28 as the Zionist military sent tanks and gunships into the West Bank. Cobra helicopter gunships fired on Palestinians in several street battles. These confrontations resulted in the deaths of 56 Palestinians, mostly civilians, and 15 Israeli soldiers. The street combat was reminiscent of the Palestinian *intifada* — uprising — of 1987-93.

Arabs in Israel, who number about 1 million, organized strikes and demonstrations in solidarity with the most recent Palestinian revolt. The Zionist assaults prompted demonstrations of 30,000 Israelis in Tel Aviv September 28 and 3,000 people in Jerusalem September 29 to protest Netanyahu's policies. For many Palestinians the resistance sparked a new confidence in their struggle against the Zionist occupation army. "This is the beginning of a new intifada," declared Abdullah Zaid. "We now have our own armed Palestinian police to protect us against the Israelis."

In the wake of the gun battles, the Zionist army has organized a state of siege with tanks and other armored vehicles sealing in Palestinian hamlets and major cities in one of the biggest military operations in the West Bank since the 1967 war.

### Tel Aviv draws criticism

The actions of the Zionist forces have drawn international criticism. In Cairo, the 22-member Arab League issued a statement declaring it "is following with anger what the Israeli occupation authorities are doing

to wipe out its Arab and Islamic sites."

A joint European Union statement criticized Tel Aviv for resorting to "disproportionate force in particular the use of firearms, tanks, and helicopter gunships."

In addition, London's *Financial Times* reported that Syrian president Hafez Assad warned of a "slide into war" if negotiations did not resume between Tel Aviv and Damascus on the return of the Golan Heights, which Tel Aviv occupied since 1967.

Meanwhile, Madeline Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, tried unsuccessfully to stall a resolution that passed in the Security Council September 29 by a vote of 14 to 0, with Washington abstaining. The resolution had been reworked to avoid condemnation of Tel Aviv's decision to open the tunnel in Jerusalem, but it did mention the "high number of deaths and injuries among Palestinians."

The *Financial Times* editors criticized the "one-sidedness of the U.S. approach" and Washington's refusal to condemn foot-dragging by Netanyahu, who was "needlessly provoking an explosion of Palestinian rage by his insensitive actions in Jerusalem."

*New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman, who generally supports the Zionist state, admonished Netanyahu to understand "if the peace process unravels, the entire structure of Arab-Israeli peace since Camp David will be eroded." Another *Times* commentator, A.M. Rosenthal, unequivocally defended the Israeli regime, asserting that the blame for any "shooting war" that may develop lies with "those governments, politicians, and journalists who immediately found the Israelis guilty."

The crisis revealed divisions among government officials in Tel Aviv as well. During the height of the demonstrations, Yitzhak Mordechai, the defense minister, stated that all factors had not been taken into account with regard to the opening of the tunnel. Another official stated, "Netanyahu says he will not reward the Palestinians because of the recent days. But the point is some of those rewards are actually part of the peace process."

Many Palestinians recognize the conflict is far from over. "The Israeli government has spent the few weeks insulting us and laughing in the face of our leaders," said Yacub Bedawi, a 52-year-old driver. "They have cheated and betrayed us and we will make them pay. They better forget any more of their tricks."

## MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

### CALIFORNIA

#### Los Angeles

**The New Palestinian Rebellion.** Panel discussion: Fri., Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. (1 1/2 blocks west of Vermont), Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

### FLORIDA

#### Miami

**Israel and the Fight for Palestinian Rights.** Ayman Wishah, a Palestinian refugee from the Gaza Strip who is currently a student at Barry University, and Maggie McCraw, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation requested. Translation into

Spanish and French. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Philadelphia

**Stop the Israeli Attacks Against the Palestinians, Defend Palestinian Rights.** Speakers: Bashar Tarabieh, activist from the Golan Heights and the Arab Association for Development; a representative from the Palestine Aid Society; and John Teitelbaum, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
**Socialist Workers Campaign Rally.** Speaker: James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president. Fri., Oct. 18, 7 p.m.  
Both events will be held at 1906 South Street. Donation: \$4. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

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**Protection Inc.** — "It was very heavy-handed.... It's spitting in the face of Haiti and saying, 'You're an occupied country and you don't



Harry Ring

count.'" — A European diplomat on Washington dispatching 40 heavily armed security cops to take over the protection of President Rene Preval.

**Free World Murder Inc.** — "Latin American officers in 1980s

were trained to use beatings, intimidation, even murder to gain informants, Pentagon now admits." — *Los Angeles Times*, September 21.

**Terrorists at work** — On average, planes land at London's Heathrow airport about once every minute and a half. Currently, they're required to stay three miles apart. Now it's disclosed that the Civil Aviation Authority has been conducting secret tests on the feasibility of stepping up traffic by reducing the distance to 2.5 miles.

**Yeltsin's Catch-22** — In the former Soviet Union, a network of Kremlin hospitals provided care for top bureaucrats only. The network has been maintained for their Rus-

sian heirs and Yeltsin's slated surgery will be performed there. The problem is that the skilled operation requires constant practice and the surgeons at the exclusive system don't get that much.

**Clean up a dirty job?** — Assertedly to reduce drug smuggling, British prison visitors are being subjected to extensive searches, sometimes including strip searches of men, women and children. Babies' diapers are checked and mothers are required to change them before entering the visitor area.

**Love those bosses** — A survey found that workers with cancer are laid off or fired five times more of-

ten than other workers.

**And minimum appetite** — In Canada, the Western Catholic Reporter is looking for a copy editor/reporter who is "committed to Jesus and his holy Catholic Church. You must be willing to work for inadequate pay in a job with great spiritual challenges and opportunities."

**Can't pray for the money?** — An Iowa minister organized farmers to pray for bountiful crops and reports impressive results. The next prayer target will be farmers' health and safety. With that, the University of Iowa's health and safety center is looking for grants to hire two researchers to monitor the results.

**Of beans and b.s.** — "My overall message is Starbuck's coffee is a passion and an art form and coffee is an inspiration. We're looking at a focus on the art of whole bean coffee, the romance of espresso, artisans and inspiration." — Julie Kouhia, Starbuck's retail marketing director.

**The market system, no?** — Israeli cops are seeking the deportation of 35 asserted members of the "Russian mafia" (émigrés from Russia and other parts of the former Soviet Union). The cops claim they have been illegally selling radioactive material, smuggling arms, organizing gambling rings and international prostitution.

# Guevara: 'Create two, three, many Vietnams'

October 9 marks the 29th anniversary of the death of Ernesto "Che" Guevara at the hands of the Bolivian army, in a CIA-organized operation.

Guevara, born in Argentina, joined the movement led by Fidel Castro and other Cuban revolutionaries and became a commander in the Cuban Rebel Army. After the overthrow of the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959, he became one of the central leaders of the new workers and

word."

The article is included in *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*, a collection of the revolutionary's speeches and writings published by Pathfinder. The selection below is reprinted by permission of Pathfinder Press.

## BY ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA

In Asia, as we have seen, the situation is explosive, and Vietnam and Laos, where the struggle is now going on, are not the only points of friction. The same holds true for Cambodia, where at any moment the United States might launch a direct attack. We should add Thailand, Malaysia, and, of course, Indonesia, where we cannot believe that the final word has been spoken despite the annihilation of the Communist Party of that country after the reactionaries took power. And, of course, the Middle East.

In Latin America, the struggle is going on arms in hand in Guatemala, Colombia, Venezuela, and Bolivia, and the first outbreaks are already beginning in Brazil. Other centers of resistance have appeared and been extinguished. But almost all the countries of this continent are ripe for a struggle of the kind that, to be triumphant, cannot settle for anything less than the establishment of a government of a socialist nature....

The great lesson of the guerrillas' invincibility is taking hold among the masses of the dispossessed. The galvanization of the national spirit; the preparation for more difficult tasks, for resistance to more violent repression. Hate as a factor in the struggle, intransigent hatred for the enemy that takes one beyond the natural limitations of a human being and converts one into an effective, violent, selective, cold, killing machine. Our soldiers must be like that; a people without hate cannot triumph over a brutal enemy.

We must carry the war as far as the enemy carries it; into his home, into his places of recreation, make it total. He must be prevented from having a moment's peace, a moment's quiet outside the barracks and even inside them. Attack him wherever he may be; make him feel like a hunted animal wherever he goes. Then his morale will begin to de-

cline. He will become even more bestial; but signs of the coming decline will appear.

And let us develop genuine proletarian internationalism, with international proletarian armies. Let the flag under which we fight be the sacred cause of the liberation of humanity, so that to die under the colors of Vietnam, Venezuela, Guatemala, Laos, Guinea, Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil — to mention only the current scenes of armed struggle — will be equally glorious and desirable for a Latin American, an Asian, an African and even a European.

Every drop of blood spilled in a land under whose flag one was not born is an experience gathered by the survivor to be applied later in the struggle of one's own country. And every people that liberates itself is a step in the battle for the liberation of one's own people....

We cannot evade the call of the hour. Vietnam teaches us this with its permanent lesson in heroism, its tragic daily lesson of struggle and death in order to gain the final victory.

Over there, the soldiers of imperialism encounter the discomforts of those who, accustomed to the standard of living that the United States boasts, have to confront a hostile land; the insecurity of those who cannot move without feeling that they are stepping on enemy territory; death for those who go outside of fortified compounds; the permanent hostility of the entire population. All this is provoking repercussions inside the United States. It is leading to the

appearance of a factor that was attenuated by imperialism at full strength: the class struggle inside its own territory.

How close and bright would the future appear if two, three, many Vietnams flowered on the face of the globe, with their quota of death and their immense tragedies, with their daily heroism, with their repeated blows against imperialism, forcing it to disperse its forces under the lash of the growing hatred of the peoples of the world!

And if we were capable of uniting in order to give our blows greater solidity and certainty, so that the aid of all kinds to the peoples in struggle was even more effective — how great the future would be, and how near!...

We feel proud at having learned from the Cuban revolution and from its great main leader the great lesson to be drawn from its position in this part of the world: "Of what difference are the dangers to a man or a people, or the sacrifices they make, when what is at stake is the destiny of humanity?"

Our every action is a battle cry against imperialism and a call for the unity of the peoples against the great enemy of the human race: the United States of North America.

Wherever death may surprise us, let it be welcome if our battle cry has reached even one receptive ear, if another hand reaches out to take up our arms, and other men come forward to join in our funeral dirge with the rattling of machine guns and with new cries of battle and victory.

## BOOK OF THE WEEK

farmers government. Guevara held a number of posts, including president of the National Bank and minister of industry, and frequently represented Cuba internationally, including at the United Nations and in other world forums.

Guevara resigned his government posts and responsibilities in early 1965 and left Cuba in order to return to South America to help advance the anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist struggles that were sharpening in several countries. Along with a number of volunteers who would later join him in Bolivia, Guevara went first to the Congo (now Zaire) where he aided the anti-imperialist movement founded by Patrice Lumumba. From November 1966 to October 1967 he led a guerrilla movement in Bolivia against that country's military dictatorship. Wounded and captured by the Bolivian army on Oct. 8, 1967, he was murdered the following day.

Below are excerpts from Guevara's "Message to the Tricontinental," which he wrote in Cuba in 1966 before leaving for Bolivia. The message was addressed to the newly formed Organization of Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. It was published in April 1967 in the organization's magazine *Tricontinental*, under Guevara's title, "Create two, three...many Vietnams, that is the watch-

## —25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

**THE MILITANT**

Published in the Interest of the Working People

October 15, 1971

Price 10¢

OCT. 6 — President Nixon today invoked the antilabor Taft-Hartley law to force the striking longshoremen on the West Coast back to work. This is the first time since he entered the White House that Nixon has used this law.

On Oct. 1, all seaports on the East and West Coasts, and the port of Beaumont, Texas, on the Gulf were closed by dock workers, whose contract had expired.

When the 45,000 members of the International Longshoremen's Association (AFL-CIO) on the East Coast walked out, tightening the dock strike started three months earlier by the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (independent) on the West Coast, it was the closest to a complete tie-up of all U.S. coastal ports since the solid 17-day national seamen's strike of 1946.

In the face of this massive shutdown of a vitally important industry, Nixon appointed a five-member board of inquiry Oct. 4 to recommend when and under what conditions longshoremen should be ordered back to work. According to the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act, the president can force strikers back to work if he feels their strike imperils the national health and safety.

Mechanization has so increased productivity that 500,000 more tons of cargo are

handled in the port of New York now than in 1966, with nearly 3,500 fewer longshoremen, a reduction of 10 million man-hours according to industry statistics.

**THE MILITANT**

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

### October 12, 1946

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 27 — Widespread indignation against the Dutch government's suppression of the Indonesian struggle for independence led last week to organized protest movements of soldiers culminating in mass demonstrations last Saturday and a general strike in this city which began on Monday and lasted until Tuesday night.

During the second week in September, the soldiers at the Harderwijk camp near Amsterdam were informed that they were to embark for Indonesia. According to the Dutch constitution only volunteers may be shipped overseas for military duty. The soldiers, protesting the government order, which was issued under a wartime emergency decree, bluntly refused to go.

Street meetings were held throughout the city under the auspices of the soldiers' committee. Soldiers and workers responded with a mass sentiment of sympathy. In the course of demonstrations Saturday night, one soldier was killed in clashes with the military police.

The soldiers' committee grew constantly. Indignation spread with the brutal police attacks on the demonstrators. On Monday morning the tramwaymen of Amsterdam went on strike. Tuesday morning they were followed by the municipal workers, dockworkers and printing trades workers. By Tuesday afternoon the strike was general.

from Pathfinder

## The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara

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## Ernesto Che Guevara Bolivian diary



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# Why class-conscious workers don't talk to federal agents

The following is a resolution adopted by the Socialist Workers Party National Committee on May 27, 1986, and released that day by Jack Barnes, the party's national secretary. The document reaffirmed long-standing policy that has guided the SWP since its founding. We print it in our editorial space because of its importance for the working-class movement.

Voluntarily talking with federal agents is incompatible with membership in the party, as is any other conscious act of collaboration with the FBI, Treasury Department, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) or other federal police agencies.

There is never a time when anyone in this country is legally required to engage in conversation with the FBI or any other cop agency. When a worker or any political activist talks with federal agents — other than answering questions in court or other legal proceedings — it aids the rulers' efforts to give the FBI and other political police agencies an appearance of legitimacy in intruding into areas where they have no business and engaging in other violations of democratic rights.

The goal of the cops in these circumstances is not to get you to say something "damaging" — it's just a bonus when that happens — but to establish and gain acceptance for their claimed right to engage in such interrogations. Their aim is to reinforce the lie that they are neutral — above classes and the class struggle — rather than agents of the class enemy. In this way they thus seek to reinforce one of the most elementary forms of class collaboration: actions by individual workers based on the illusion that the cops are neutral in the struggle between workers and bosses.

## Defend political rights!

Workers, farmers, youth, and all defenders of civil liberties need to vigorously protest recent moves by Washington to undermine the democratic rights of opponents of U.S. policy toward Cuba and defend those threatened with fines, imprisonment, or firings for activities protected by the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

These moves by the government are part of a broader effort by the U.S. rulers to limit the space for political activity by unionists, immigrants, and other working people and activists in social protests in the United States.

These probes to narrow the space for political action coincide with the government's efforts to use its bomb scare hoax around the TWA flight 800 crash to try to push through new "anti-terrorist" measures that curtail the democratic rights of all.

These measures are part and parcel of using the so-called war on drugs by the White House to attempt to enlarge the powers of Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) cops and other federal agents to intrude in areas they have no business in.

The government's goal is to expand the use of political police agencies to curtail the constitutional rights of those who oppose Washington's policy toward Cuba, who fight measures denying immigrants access to health-care and education, and resist other anti-labor moves. The government aims to prevent these fighters from organizing to change these policies. These steps are part of the preparation by the capitalist class and its government for further assaults on the social wage, working conditions, and livelihood of working people. They are a deadly threat to the entire working-class movement.

Examples of these anti-democratic moves reported in this issue include harassing phone calls and visits by Treas-

ury Department agents or other federal cops. The government's policy is to have more FBI agents and other cops entering plants and singling out workers for interrogation, often on political or trade union grounds. This is an attack on democratic rights, as well as an attack on the union itself. It is part and parcel of the efforts of the rulers and their cops to get workers to accept as normal growing restrictions on "security" clearances, searches of individuals without cause and through such intrusive devices as "lie detector" examinations and chemical testing for drugs, and an atmosphere of suspicion aimed at working people who buy socialist publications or travel overseas to workers states or other countries whose governments come into conflict with U.S. imperialism.

The responsibility of all class-conscious workers, including those who are communists, is first of all to be clear in explaining what is occurring and to act along lines that will advance this understanding. For a member of the party to voluntarily submit to an interrogation by the FBI or any other cop agency is a political blow to the party's position in the labor movement and in the broader fight for democratic rights. This is true even when there is no security question directly posed. It is not enough for the party to take steps to protect itself against government stool-pigeons and collaborators; it must also protect itself against actions that undermine its integrity and discredit it in the eyes of thinking workers. Voluntarily talking to the FBI or other federal agents is one of those actions.

The party should be reeducated on this tradition and the appropriate party bodies directed to uphold the long-standing policy that such conversations with the FBI or any other cop agency are incompatible with membership in the party.

As the Socialist Workers Party resolution printed above succinctly points out, "The goal of the cops in these circumstances is not to get you to say something 'damaging' — it's just a bonus when that happens — but to establish and gain acceptance for their claimed right to engage in such interrogations. Their aim is to reinforce the lie that they are neutral — above all classes and the class struggle — rather than agents of the class enemy. In this way they thus seek to reinforce one of the most elementary forms of class collaboration: actions by individual workers based on the illusion that the cops are neutral in the struggle between workers and bosses."

Class-conscious workers need to understand and explain that working people and others are under no constitutional obligation to voluntarily collaborate with the FBI, Treasury Department, ATF or their finks. Knowing your rights and the reasons for exercising them is elementary for defending working-class fighters in the struggle against the bosses. That's why communists and other class-conscious workers need to take the time to educate and re-educate ourselves on these questions and discuss them with other workers, farmers, and young people.

Studying and selling books such as *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions, Workers Rights vs. the Secret Police*, and other titles advertised in the center-spread of this issue is an integral part of such an effort.

All supporters of democratic rights must also make a priority to help in defending Roxbury Community College professor Tom Reeves and others whose jobs or constitutional rights are in jeopardy for engaging in activity to oppose and change government policy.

## Support Palestinian patriots

The fierce Palestinian resistance to the Israeli government's recent attempts to consolidate greater control over Jerusalem highlights the fact that every step forward in the Palestinian struggle for national liberation is at the same time an internal social and political crisis for Tel Aviv. Any move by the Zionist regime to incorporate even one more inch of the occupied territories into a "Greater Israel" guarantees intensified resistance.

Netanyahu and his backers in Washington hope to lean on the cooperation of Arafat and the rest of the PLO leadership — who have increasingly turned their eyes to the bourgeoisie in recent years — to quell Palestinian resistance against the occupation force through endless negotiations. But more young fighters are stepping forward who will not be intimidated. Mahmoud Magid, 14, reflected the sentiments of many Palestinian youth when he told the *New York Times*, "We want to fight, not listen to empty talk."

One PLO fighter, speaking in Hebrew in an interview broadcast on Israel Radio, said, "We have the right to try by all means to get our rights, even an armed *intifada*."

Tel Aviv, burdened by economic troubles, is driven to press attacks against the Palestinian people and Israeli working class as well. The 500,000 workers who went on strike in Israel July 17 against cuts in their social wage reflect the explosive economic and social pressures con-

fronting the regime.

"Opening Guns of World War III," the feature article in issue no. 7 of the Marxist magazine *New International*, explains, "Palestinian self-determination is irreconcilable with the class interest of the Israeli ruling class."

That's why the only road to peace for toilers of all nationalities in the Middle East is a democratic secular state of Palestine. The Palestinian people will not stop struggling until they have won their battle for land and national self-determination. In the coming battles against the Zionist rulers, working people in Israel will be able to see more clearly the necessity of unity with Palestinian fighters. Revolutionary leadership will be forged in this struggle that will be able to chart a course that advances the interests of workers and farmers throughout the region.

Working people around the world should join in picket lines, forums, and other protests to condemn the assaults by Tel Aviv against the Palestinian people. We urge readers to study and get others to read titles like *New International* no. 7, a valuable political weapon that enables workers to better understand the conflicts in the Middle East. It explains why the Palestinian people will win solidarity and earn respect from the oppressed around the world whenever they press forward their fight against dispossession, and why we should demand Israeli troops get out of the occupied territories now!

## Immigrant rights march gains support

BY GREG ROSENBERG

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Activists building the October 12 march on Washington for Latino and immigrant rights report that knowledge of the demonstration is spreading among working people and student youth in cities around the country. As buses and vans begin to fill for the trip, a number of those making plans to attend are also hearing of the march independently of the efforts of local coalitions.

Interest in the demonstration is being fueled by the sharp curbs instituted by the Clinton administration and Congress violating the basic rights of those born outside U.S. borders. The bipartisan piece of anti-immigrant legislation signed by Congress on September 30 nearly doubles the number of INS border cops for the next five years; adds 600 new agents to crack down against "criminal" aliens and visitors who overstay their U.S. visas.

The bill also authorizes \$12 million for a border fence; raises the maximum penalty for document fraud from five years to 15 years; requires sponsors of immigrant relatives to earn at least 125 percent of the federal poverty level; and streamlines procedures for deporting those who arrive with inadequate documents, including asylum seekers.

These measures come in the context of expanded raids by INS cops across the country. In addition, new light is being shed on the contents of the welfare bill signed earlier this year by Clinton. The September 30 *Los Angeles Times* reported that provisions buried in the new law may require public employees to report suspected undocumented immigrants to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Workers without legal papers who are currently denied driving permits, for example, or public assistance, are not turned in to INS cops. But California governor Peter Wilson's office, offering its interpretation of the new legislation, says states will now be required to tell the INS about anyone known to be in the country without papers.

### Warm response from poultry workers

A team of activists from the Philadelphia coalition traveled to Georgetown, Delaware, September 29 to build the march on Washington. They got a warm response from workers in that town, one of a string of communities where thousands of workers from Mexico and Guatemala process poultry at heavily-speeded up rates. INS agents raided nearby towns in Maryland in August, arresting 124.

The team stopped by the Church of San Miguel, where they were invited by the priest to address the Spanish-speaking congregation after the noon mass. The activists supporting the demonstration were given an ovation by more than 200 people present. A nun then announced that the church would organize buses to Washington for the march.

"No human being is illegal," pointed out a high school student volunteering in the national march office here in Washington. Four Latino students and a teacher from Bell High School in Washington, D.C. attended the last coalition meeting held here to build the demonstration, as did students from George Washington University and Georgetown.

In the past week, 15,000 flyers in Spanish and English have been produced here to build the demonstration. Leafleting teams have met with a warm response, from a Latino festival in Langley Park, Maryland, to a picket line in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle outside the Israeli embassy.

### March builds in Midwest

Activists in Chicago report that the call for the protest has garnered significant interest in the Latino community and on college campuses. Students at De Paul University report that 100 people have signed up to go, and activists at Northern Illinois University say a similar number from that school are planning to make the trip, organizing travel in university vans. Some 20 students from Chicago's Whitney Young high school plan to attend the demonstration.

Seventy people gathered at St. Stephens school in Minneapolis September 28 to protest attacks on immigrants and build October 12. They heard from Maria Teresa Tula, who had been imprisoned for political activity in her native El Salvador. "I want to ask you that we unite in one voice," Tula said. "Many bills are being passed against immigrants. That's why it's important that we go to the march on October 12 and say presente. We know that we're fighting for our fights, just like we did in our countries."

Federal authorities, who had been stalling on issuing permits, have finally granted them for the assembly and rally points. Washington, D.C. police have still not issued a permit for the march route.

The demonstration will assemble at 9 a.m. at Meridian Hill Park (popularly known as Malcolm X park), located at 16th and Euclid Streets Northwest. The march will proceed to the Ellipse, immediately south of the White House, for a rally.

October 12-13 promises to be a busy weekend of protest and political activity in the capital. Latino students are planning a conference at Georgetown University on Sunday, October 13, which will be preceded by a cultural event on Saturday evening.

Mark Curtis in Chicago, Verónica Poses in Minneapolis-St. Paul, and Pete Seidman in Philadelphia contributed to this article.



# Gov't had no right to detain pregnant woman

BY JOANNE WALLADOR

TORONTO — In August, Justice Perry Schulman of the Manitoba Court committed a 22-year-old Native woman who was five months pregnant to a drug treatment program for the duration of her pregnancy. This action was sought by Winnipeg Child and Family Services, a government agency. This organization already has custody of the woman's three children, two of whom they claim were born brain-damaged due to the woman's addiction to inhaling solvents. In his written decision the judge said that Par-

## AS I SEE IT

liament should draft laws to delineate the role of the state in protecting the unborn. "This, of course, can mean some interference with the freedom of the mother," he wrote, "but, in my opinion, in appropriate circumstances that interference will be justified." The order by Justice Schulman was overturned in its entirety September 12 by Manitoba's Court of Appeal.

The big-business media welcomed Judge Schulman's decision. An editorial in the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, entitled "To protect the not-yet-born," argued that "It is reasonable to say, then, that the abuse of a future child can be considered child abuse."

Ovide Mercredi, head of the Assembly of First Nations, called the ruling racist.

Fiona Miller, a member of the Feminist Alliance on New Reproductive and Genetic Technologies, wrote, "These legal interventions are wrong. This woman is not a criminal. This woman is not a fetal container."

The intervention of the state into this situation has nothing to do with concern for children or women. How hypocritical for the state to pose as a protector of children when capitalist governments across Canada are slashing welfare and child care, throwing thousands of children into poverty. How cynical to use so-called "fetal rights" to at-

tack women's right to control their own bodies. Magazines and newspapers across Canada ran long articles in the wake of this decision, the general thrust of which was "rethinking abortion."

In 1988, after decades of struggle, all laws on abortion in Canada were struck down. Several attempts by Canada's capitalist rulers since that time to reestablish them have been defeated. This ruling is yet another attempt.

Women need the right to control their ability to have children in order to make gains toward equality. As long as women are vulnerable to unwanted pregnancies it will be difficult to break down economic and social barriers on the job, in education, and in the home.

The only rights involved in this case are those of the young Native woman to control her body, a right that all women are entitled to. While the fetus is a potential human life, until it is born it is part of the woman's body. There is no such thing as "fetal rights."

It is no accident that this probe by the ruling class, aimed at undermining support for women's right to control their own bodies, was tried on a Native woman. Since the forcible dispossession of their land by European colonizers, Native people in Canada have suffered racist oppression and exploitation.

Mercredi pointed out that in the past, children's aid societies had been quick to take Native children away from their families. "Are they going to start running after fetuses now?" he asked in a television interview. He was referring to the fact that from the mid 1960s to the early 1980s, an estimated 3,000 Native children from Manitoba were removed from their homes and adopted by families outside the province until protests by Native people forced the government to end the practice and repatriate those who wanted to come back.

With this judge's ruling, the government is proposing to increase its arbitrary powers to attack civil rights and use coercion against working people's behavior.

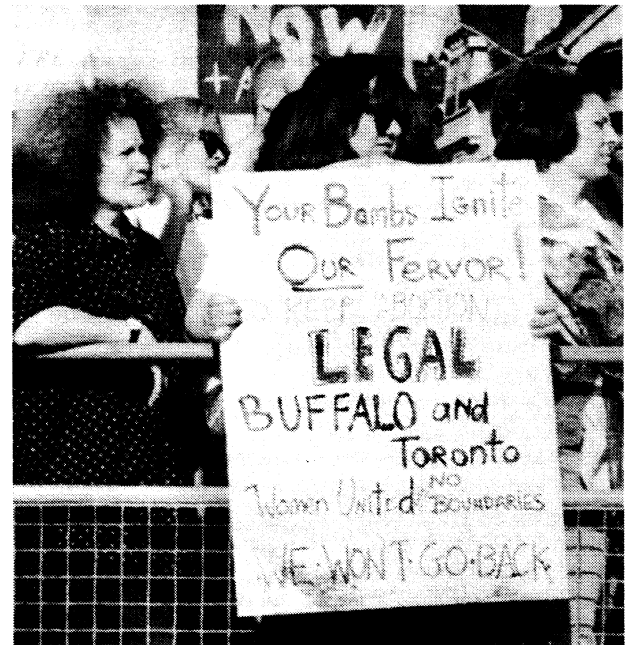
The labor movement should demand

"Hands off this woman!"

Workers need to continue fighting against the cutbacks in social services that we need, including *voluntary* drug treatment programs that respect the dignity of those who want to use them. The labor movement needs to fight for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay to create jobs for all. Unemployment among Native people stood at 24.6 percent as of the last census in 1991. We need to fight for affirmative action for victims of discrimination such as Native people and women. Labor should champion the demands of the oppressed, including the just settlement of Native land claims and women's right to control their bodies.

Working people are concerned about the situation of those who, driven by the alienation and hopelessness spawned by capitalist exploitation and oppression, are drawn to addictions and self-destructive behavior.

Only struggle around demands such as those above, that draw in hundreds of thou-



1992 protest against firebombing of abortion clinic in Toronto. The right of women to control their bodies is at stake in case of Native woman in Manitoba.

sands of working people and that will pose the need for a different kind of society than the dog-eat-dog capitalist system we presently know, can build the human solidarity that can begin to overcome this alienation.

## Puerto Rico independence fight

Continued from Page 3  
listen to their speeches."

Abismael Gonzalez, 31, works at a U.S.-owned pharmaceutical plant. "Every country has the right to be independent," he said, noting that where he works most people are for maintaining the status quo. "What happens is the government tries to make people afraid." Gonzalez is not worried about the suspension of Section 936. "What we need is to make our own economy."

Elsa Tirado, 20, a student at the University of Puerto Rico, disagrees with those who

say Puerto Rico couldn't survive if it were independent.

"If the people are united we can't be broken," she said. "But since we're divided they pass right over us."

"We have plenty of land to farm. The problem is that we've been raised under the colonial system."

Tirado lives in Vieques. "There are parts of Vieques that I've only seen once, from up on a hill, because the U.S. Navy occupies it. It was the most beautiful spot and the most destroyed. The U.S. must leave."

## LETTERS

### 'Disappeared' in Ecuador

Earlier this month the book *El Testigo* (The Witness) hit the streets, and along with it television interviews with its author, former national police agent Hugo España. The book details the disappearance, torture and assassination of two brothers, Pedro and Santiago Restrepo. España says he participated in the killings.

What is emerging in Ecuador, as happened in Argentina, was a governmental campaign during the 1980's to eliminate political, student, and union activists. In Ecuador, it was during the 1984-88 period of President León Febres-Cordero that scores of activists disappeared. The revelations by a police participant have opened up a wide ranging debate here. The names of many others presumably "disappeared" by the police during that time are being publicized by the families.

More than half a dozen human rights groups based in this country and throughout Latin America have called for full scale investigations by professional anthropological forensic experts. In his book and public statements, España points to torture and murder operations at police stations just north of Quito and in the city of Cuenca. He explains the existence of secret cemeteries where bodies of others "disappeared" will be found.

Mark Friedman  
Quito, Ecuador

### Interested in social issues

The purpose of my letter is to find out how I can get your magazine, the *Militant*.

I live in Thessaloniki where I'm a member of a radio station — Radio Utopia. It is a radio station that has been set up by its members without taking money from any governmental or non-governmental source, and it doesn't broadcast any com-

mercials. Also, the station keeps on broadcasting only with the financial support, the money of its members. Radio Utopia is dealing with social matters such as the rights of workers, antinationalistic activities, the rights of women, etc.

The subject matter of my program deals with the black people, the Indians and generally the oppressed people in America (white oppressed people as well).

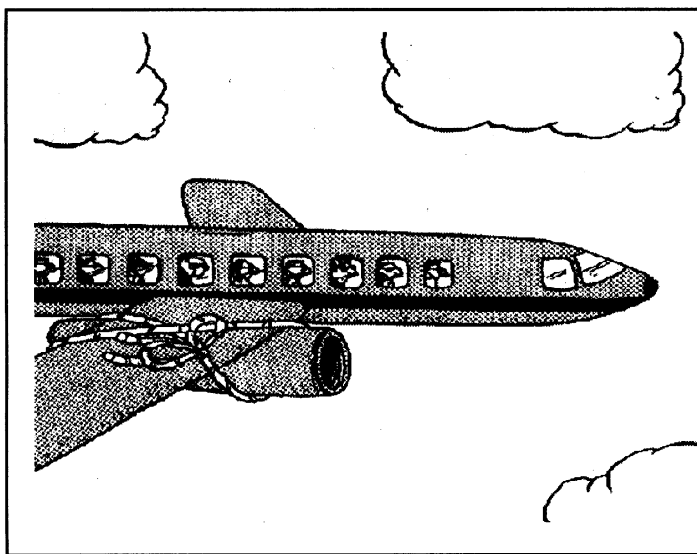
The problem is that we haven't any recent information about the social situations in America.

D. A.  
Thessaloniki, Greece

### The socialist alternative

One need not be a Socialist to be a reader of the *Militant*, open eyes and a similar frame of mind will suffice. In the same regard it does not take a Masters degree in Political Science to realize that our current two-party system of government has become a Smorgasbord of corruption, scandal and "Business as usual" wheeling and dealing.

This weeks column by Megan Arney in reply to the Socialist concerned with voting for William Clinton as the lesser of two Evils was well stated. The point of the matter as I see it being if one perceived someone or something to be Evil, the degree of same is of little consequence. Conscience dictates you take an alternate course. This being the case although a registered Republican I shall cast my vote for the Harris/Garza ticket in Novem-



ber. Having seen the long hours put in petitioning to get the candidates on the ballot here in the northeast and the setbacks encountered in a system determined to deny their voice to be heard as witnessed recently in Rhode Island. The choice to vote Socialist became the right thing to do.

Having read this week's campaign article on Ms. Garza's tour of Iceland and Sweden and one prior about Mr. Harris in Australia and New Zealand a question comes to mind. As I'm sure campaign funds are limited would not moneys spent on travel to these countries be better spent in securing speaking venues here in the States? A candidate for the American Presidency speaking in Melbourne or Sydney does little to rouse the conscience of the American worker. If the campaign is to be taken seriously its candidates must be seen and heard as often as possible so their views may be known and understood. Though the chance for success seems remote, the right to speak out for change is paramount. Speak plainly, speak the truth and the people may begin to make alternate choices as

I intend to.  
J.B. Payne  
Deer Park, New York

### Britain's abortion laws

In her article Britain: abortion foes make little headway in "twins" case (*Militant* #33), Julie Crawford makes the point that the ruling class in this country has not been able to roll back the gains made in the fight for abortion rights.

This was confirmed at the height of this summer's attacks on the 1967 Abortion Act. An opinion poll conducted for the right-wing *Mail on Sunday* newspaper reported that 81% of those questioned agreed that "It is important for women to have the right to choose whether or not to continue their pregnancy."

However, the article is wrong to say that the 1967 Act legalises a woman's right to choose. All abortions must be certified by two doctors (or by one in emergencies) and abortions are only legal if carried out on certain grounds. Basically, they are that the pregnancy has not exceeded its 24th week and that continuing the pregnancy would involve greater risk of injury to the mental and physical health of the woman or of any existing children of her family, than would terminating the pregnancy. Another clause allows abortion to prevent "grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the woman". In other words, a woman has to get two doctors to agree that she will crack up mentally or physically if she continues the pregnancy.

Furthermore, because a woman's

right to choose has not been gained in law, the 1967 Act is subject to interpretation and enactment by the medical profession.

The August High Court injunction preventing a woman from aborting one of twin fetuses was the first time any anti-abortion group, in this case the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, has been successful in directly preventing doctors from performing an abortion in the United Kingdom. As well as putting pressure on individual doctors to limit their interpretations of the 1967 Act, such court rulings provide encouragement for those anti-abortion forces, including Members of Parliament, who want to bring forward legislation to further limit the 1967 Act.

Pro-choice campaigners need to reach out to the millions of people who do believe that it is a woman's right to decide whether or not to continue with a pregnancy. A recent mailing from the National Abortion Campaign explains "we need to prepare to be able to mobilise effectively...the pro-choice movement has always beaten any attack on the 1967 Act". One indication that this successful defense can be repeated came at the annual conference of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) in early September. An emergency resolution reaffirming existing TUC policy in defence of the 1967 Abortion Act and for a woman's right to choose was carried unanimously.

Pamela Holmes  
London, England

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

## Instability marks New Zealand vote

BY MICHAEL TUCKER

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — The question dominating political discussion leading up to October 12 elections to Parliament here, is which parties will combine to form a government and whether this can produce a stable administration.

"What we are facing if various political parties carry out their threat to not be part of any government is total instability in New Zealand politics," warned National Party prime minister James Bolger September 9. "The enormous financial implications of that are too scary to contemplate."

A similar warning was issued September 20 by Peter Shirtcliffe, chairman of Telecom, one of the country's three largest corporations. "The new and untested political system in New Zealand is bringing its own uncertainties, not the least of which is the proliferation of political parties," he told a business audience in Sydney, Australia. "If the policies of the populist parties in New Zealand are implemented your investment values are at serious risk."

For the first time elections are taking place using a form of proportional representation. Electors get two votes — one for which party they want to dominate Parliament, the other for which candidate they want in their electorate.

Parties must garner 5 percent of the vote nationally or have a candidate win in an electorate to gain representation in Parliament. Only parties that can prove they have a minimum of 500 members are eligible to seek registration to be listed on the ballot. For this election, 27 parties have registered.

For six decades governments in New Zealand have been formed by either the National Party, the main capitalist party, or the Labour Party, a social-democratic party. Labour was forged early this century as the political voice of the union movement, but few unions today retain formal ties to the party.

### Bipartisan campaign against workers

Since 1984 with the election of the Labour Party government of David Lange, and continuing in 1990 under the present National Party government, these two parties have pursued a bipartisan course. They have sought to more aggressively promote the trading interests of New Zealand capitalism on the world market and to carry through a radical restructuring of the economy.

This has included widespread privatization of state enterprises, the lifting of tariffs and subsidies, removal of most protective labor laws, the increasing commercialization of health and education, and many other measures that have slashed jobs and eroded the social wage. Today, the government boasts an annual budget surplus and zero net public foreign debt. Financial commentators often point to this restructuring as an example for other capitalist governments to follow.

This course has been carried out without significant opposition from, and at times



Militant/ Janet Roth

Roofing workers protest last year in Auckland. Since 1990 Labour and National parties have carried out bipartisan offensive to cut social gains of working class.

with the support of, the top union officials.

As the capitalist crisis deepened with the onset of a world depression during the 1990s, capitalist politics moved further to the right and the previous stable forms of parliamentary rule have begun to fall apart, with splits from both National and Labour. Four parties will likely predominate in Parliament after election day, and at least three others stand to be represented. While National party has a clear lead in the polls, it is not expected to win a majority that would enable it to form a government on its own.

As debate and maneuvering between party leaders over potential post-election coalitions dominates the discussion, underlying policy differences center on the question of the extent and speed at which to pursue their anti-worker course — especially whether to cut more deeply into the social wage, including health, education, and retirement pensions. While prominent capitalist spokespeople increasingly demand this course, many also fear the consequences.

The resistance of working people to the effects of the social crisis and the course of the government has been reflected in the months leading up to the election. There have been a series of strikes by industrial workers and teachers over union contracts, occupations of campus administration build-

ings by university and polytechnic students to protest hikes in tuition fees, and ongoing public protests against cutbacks in health care.

National Party leader Bolger, while advocating a continuation of current policy, is promising to spend a little more on health and education. This is also the platform of Labour Party leader Helen Clark.

### Rise of New Zealand First party

The most significant factor in the election is the rise of New Zealand First, initiated as an electoral vehicle by rightist politician Winston Peters. While the party's platform differs little from National or Labour, it is Peters who puts his stamp on it with sharp nationalist rhetoric.

He presents himself as the champion of ordinary New Zealanders against the government's sell-off of land and assets to "foreign domination." He targets big-business corruption and conspiracies. He scapegoats immigrants for the social crisis. He is promising to boost police numbers and to increase jail sentences. And he promises to clear unemployed youth off the streets by putting them to work as auxiliaries to support the cops, on military training schemes, and in workfare programs.

Peters was a cabinet minister under

Bolger. He initiated New Zealand First after breaking with the National Party prior to the last election in 1993.

The other major party in the election is the Alliance, a coalition of five parties dominated by the New Labour Party of James Anderton. A former president of the Labour Party and member of Parliament, Anderton led a major split from Labour following the 1990 elections. The Alliance proposes a halt to privatization, a return to protectionist tariffs, and increased taxes to finance a restoration of traditional state-funded health and education.

The present minority National government has been in office since the last election with the commitment of the Alliance not to vote against it on motions of confidence.

For much of the year, New Zealand First has been in second place to National in opinion polls, ahead of Labour and the Alliance. In the lead up to the election, the three parties have been running neck and neck.

Two right-wing parties that are expected to gain representation in Parliament are ACT New Zealand and the Christian Coalition. ACT, whose candidates include former Labour and National cabinet ministers, proposes deepening the economic course of the past 12 years, including the privatization of health, education, and retirement pensions and an end to welfare benefits. Its leaders argue that social welfare is producing a growing criminal "underclass", largely Maori and Pacific Islander, that is responsible for the social crisis.

The Christian Coalition advocates similar policies to ACT while focusing on opposition to abortion and gay rights and on calls for tougher prison sentences and restoration of the death penalty.

Another party, led by members of Parliament who have split from Labour and National since the last election, is United. Currently in coalition with National, it is also expected to be represented in the new Parliament.

The Employers Federation has mounted a \$1 million advertising campaign urging voters, "Let's not go back," a call to uphold the bipartisan policies of the past 12 years.

A number of other parties, including the Communist League, not listed on the ballot for the party vote, are standing candidates in individual electorates.

Michael Tucker is a member of the United Food, Beverage & General Workers Union in Auckland.

## 100,000 protest German austerity moves

BY CARL-ERIK ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM — More than 100,000 metalworkers at Daimler-Benz and other companies held strikes and rallies across Germany October 1 to protest government austerity measures. German Chancellor Helmut Kohl won parliamentary approval September 13 for the austerity package, which he put forward this spring. The Bundesrat, the upper chamber of parliament, rejected the plan in July. But the Bundestag, the lower house, approved the package 341 to 324, a large enough margin to force its implementation.

Leaders of Kohl's coalition stated the measures were essential to meet goals of limiting budget deficits to 3 percent of the gross domestic product. This is required by countries who signed the Maastricht treaty for a European "common currency."

The main pillar in the package is a lowering of sick-leave payments mandated by law from 100 percent of wages to 80 percent, effective October 1, 1996. Many workers are covered by contracts that give 100 percent but employers threaten to lower the payments, claiming the contracts were based on existing legislation.

It's "a black Friday for the welfare state" the trade union DAG stated after the vote. The DGB union federation warned of "social conflicts never experienced in Ger-

many" if the employers try to enforce lower sick-leave payments. Thousands of workers at Daimler-Benz factories in Sindelfingen, Stuttgart, and Bremen refused to work overtime September 28 to protest the companies' decision to lower the payments following the Bundestag vote.

Included in the austerity package is raising the retirement age from 60 for women and 63 for men to 65 years in stages over the next few years, to take full effect in 2000. Seniority rights will be ended in companies with less than 10 employees.

Other parts of the plan, such as a proposed lowering of child allowances and abolishing taxes on wealth and business capital, must be approved by the Bundesrat and will be voted on in December. Minister of Health Horst Seehofer declared soon after the vote that what was decided was only a minimum program and announced further cuts in health and retirement insurance.

Wolfgang Weng, parliamentary budget spokesperson, said he soon expected a new austerity package. *Der Spiegel*, a German weekly, published a trial balloon of a package of 7 billion marks (1 mark = \$1.52) in cuts in unemployment benefits and public work programs in the eastern states. In September, German minister of finance Theo Waigel had to admit that the 1996 deficit in the federal budget will be at least 70 billion

marks — 10 billion more than expected.

Although growth increased 1.5 percent in the second quarter in 1996 after two quarters in a row of decline, the German central bank says much of this is due to a construction recovery after a cold winter and is not a sure sign of an upturn.

A September 21 article in *Die Welt* was headlined "Metal industry employers demand wage freeze." The paper says bosses are demanding there be "no talk about wages this time" and that Christmas and vacation payments be lowered. This spring the public employees unions went on strike when the government demanded similar concessions.

The rulers' offensive is particularly targeting immigrants in an attempt to divide the working class. Since last winter plans to deport thousands of refugees to Bosnia have been outlined by the federal and state governments. The states of Baden, Wurttemberg, Bayern, and Berlin have decided to begin the deportations in October. Christian Social Union representative Jörg Schönbohm explained that if necessary force will be used in Berlin to repatriate them.

On September 17, a chartered plane returned to Hanoi 239 Vietnamese residents in Germany termed illegal. According to an agreement with the Vietnamese government, 40,000 immigrants will be deported back to Vietnam the next few years.

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