

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

INSIDE**FBI raids union hall of striking water workers in Puerto Rico**

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VOL. 68/NO. 41

NOV. 9, 2004

It's not *who* you're against, but *what* you're for! Vote Socialist Workers in 2004!

- Organize! Use union power to resist bosses' attacks; for a labor party, based on the unions, that fights in the interests of workers and farmers
- U.S. troops out of Iraq! Back right of semicolonial countries to get sources of energy they need, including nuclear energy, for economic development

SWP presidential candidate in L.A., on last stretch of U.S. campaign tour

BY NAOMI CRAINE

LOS ANGELES—"I hope you do something good for us," a worker coming out of the Farmer John meatpacking plant said October 19 as he shook the hand of Róger Calero, Socialist Workers Party candidate

said. "But it's the bosses who threw out the contracts and are cutting wages, saying they need it for the company's survival. The court, whose job is to preserve the capital of the ruling families, went along. If we mobilize union power to focus our fire on the bosses it's not for sure they'll go ahead with the cuts. And if they say they'll carry out their threats to shut down, as some will, we should say that if a company can't provide decent wages, benefits, and safety then it doesn't deserve to stay in business."

If these companies move anywhere in the country, or anywhere in the world, Calero said, the union should collaborate with workers there to organize and fight the

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Militant/Nick Castle

Róger Calero (above, left), SWP candidate for president, campaigns October 19 outside Farmer John pork slaughterhouse near Los Angeles. Calero's running mate Arrin Hawkins (inset) campaigns October 15 at Sterlingwear garment plant in Boston.

for president, who was on the last stretch of his campaign tour across the country.

"The question is what we're going to do together," Calero replied. The SWP campaign, he said, champions the need of workers to organize unions and make the existing unions more effective so that workers can fight the bosses' attacks on wages and working conditions.

In discussions at the plant gate, Calero pointed to the tearing up of union contracts by US Airways four days earlier. The employers try to fool workers by pointing to a bankruptcy court ruling backing US Airways' request to void the contracts, Calero

SMITHERS, West Virginia—The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) called a strike at the Cannetton mine near here October 7. Picket lines went up beginning October 18.

Coal miners said they are fighting to win their jobs back and to keep their union when the mine reopens. Horizon Natural Resources owned this mine, along with the Starfire mine in Hazard, Kentucky. The company shut down the two mines September 27, after declaring bankruptcy. Massey Energy has since bought both of them as part of the bankruptcy settlement and says it plans to reopen them with a workforce of its choosing after January 1. All of Massey's mines

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U.S. forces, Iraqi gov't make progress in push to take control of Fallujah, as U.S. planes keep pounding militias

BY SAM MANUEL

U.S. troops and the Iraqi interim government headed by Prime Minister Iyad Allawi are making progress in their campaign to bring Fallujah under the control of the Al-Lawi administration. The military action there, which has included sustained pounding of militia positions by U.S. warplanes and tanks since October 15, is expected to be the toughest in the campaign to bring about 30 Iraqi cities—where militias opposed to the U.S.-backed regime have been operating openly—under Baghdad's authority before elections scheduled for

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Utah miners fight to reverse firing of UMWA militant

BY GUILLERMO ESQUIVEL

HUNTINGTON, Utah—"I had a two-hour meeting with the company, and the bosses insisted that I was fired because I refused orders from a foreman," said Celso Panduro, a coal miner at the Co-Op mine here, after an October 21 meeting with the employers. "I never refused orders and the company union is not defending me at these grievance meetings."

Panduro is one of the stalwarts of the effort at Co-Op to win representation by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), which, he says, is the real reason behind his firing. The company union he was referring to is the so-called International Association of United Workers Union (IAUWU), which miners say is run and controlled by the Kingston family, the mine's owners.

"The IAUWU president at the mine is

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Strikers at Atlantic City casinos and hotels hold solidarity rally of 10,000

BY ABBY TILSNER
AND HILDA CUZCO

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey—In a mass labor demonstration here, more than 10,000 striking casino workers and their supporters marched and rallied October 16 to voice their determination to stay on the picket lines to win their fight for a decent contract. Wearing T-shirts with union colors and waving signs, they marched down Pacific Avenue towards the boardwalk, slowing traffic.

Delegations from the Transportation Workers Union, Service Employees International Union, Laborers Union, Yale workers unions, and others participated in the event. Many arrived on buses from Boston, New York, Las Vegas, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Baltimore, and northern New Jersey.

The strikers are members of UNITE HERE Local 54. They are employed as food and beverage servers, cooks, cleaners, and housekeepers by Harrah's Showboat, Resorts Atlantic City, Bally's, Claridge, Caesars, Tropicana, and the Hilton casinos and hotels. They walked out October 1 and have been picketing around the clock since then.

The main issues in the strike are the length of the contract, which expired last September, and the subcontracting out of work. Representatives of the union and the casino owners met the day before the rally—the first time since the strike began—with no results. Local 54 president Robert McDevitt told the press that the casino bosses said, “We don’t want to talk about anything except a five-year deal.” The union is pressing for a three-year contract to set a similar expiration date as contracts of other hotel and casino workers, which run out in 2007. Workers said this would strengthen their hand against further employer attacks by making collective action possible on a nationwide scale.

September was a record-breaking month for the casino bosses here. All the casinos posted revenue gains, raking in nearly \$409 million, or almost 11 percent more than the same period last year. The strike

is having an effect on services, shutting down some restaurants and forcing others to use paper plates and plastic utensils. In order to prevent a strike, the casino owners at Trump Hotels and Casino Resorts agreed to a three-year contract in September. Sands Casino Hotel announced they would also sign a three-year deal. Borgata Casino & Spa already signed a similar deal last year.

At the rally, union leaders reported that the companies have been sending letters to union members begging them to quit the union and return to work. The union reports about 300 workers have crossed the picket line. The casino owners claim the number is closer to 1,000.

“Even though I would like to go back to work, I won’t do it. I support the union,” said Theresa McNair, a cleaner at the Hilton casino floor. “All of us are sticking together. Although some have crossed the line, the majority are still out.”

The strikers have begun to face attacks by the bosses’ “security” outfit. A unionist was surrounded by guards who were filming him while he was picketing, and when fellow picket Alberto Camilo Peña tried to reach a strike captain, the guards knocked



Militant/Michael Ortega

Union members on strike at casinos rally October 16 in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

him down, and handcuffed and detained him. Peña filed assault charges against the goons. The casino bosses filed a counter complaint alleging criminal mischief. Peña and one of his co-workers, Santos DeJesus, were fired for “strike-related misconduct.”

Three union officials, among them Local 54 president McDevitt, were arrested by New Jersey police after the rally and charged with contempt of court. A court order had restricted the unionists to the

use of only the sidewalks for the march, and this was enforced by police officers on foot and in patrol cars. Police chief Arthur Snellbaker claimed that union leaders were responsible for keeping the marchers strictly on the sidewalk, but had led some onto the streets. About a week earlier, on October 8, cops arrested about 80 strikers who blocked the main thoroughfare into Atlantic City at the beginning of the busy Columbus Day weekend to press their demands.

Meat packers in Toronto fight for a decent contract

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO—Workers at Quality Meat Packers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 175, took steps to strengthen their union in the countdown toward the end of their six-year contract, which expires October 31. The contract codified a 40 percent wage rollback and other concessions after a two-month strike in 1998-99 failed to push back the company’s concession drive. The employers’ cut and kill operation processes 5,000 to 6,000 hogs a day.

At the end of August, a number of workers who have seniority dating back before the 1998-99 strike drafted and distributed an appeal for unity between workers who went through that walkout and those hired

later, who today constitute two-thirds of the workforce. The leaflet was translated into Mandarin, enabling the many workers who come from China to read it. The workforce, historically Portuguese in its majority, now includes many workers from Asia, Africa, eastern Europe, and other parts of the world.

In early October workers learned that the only item of substance raised by the company during the initial contract negotiations was a demand to limit their use of washrooms to 20 minutes per week outside of the two 15-minute paid breaks per day. The next day, the vast majority of the more than 500 workers in all departments boycotted a lunchtime “employee appreciation” free barbecue organized by the bosses.

At an October 16 union meeting with a large turnout of the membership, 99 percent voted to give the negotiating committee a strike mandate.

On October 18, workers in the cutting room—the largest department in the plant—went home after the 9.5 hours of mandatory work. Normally shifts in the cutting room are scheduled at 10 or more hours. Up to now most workers have been working those hours.

In response to this show of unity the bosses reduced the shift schedules in both the cutting and boning rooms to 9.5 hours.

On October 26, the union’s negotiating committee announced it had reached

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THE MILITANT

Find out about Utah miners' fight for union

After a 10-month strike, Co-Op miners in Huntington, Utah, returned to work July 12 and have continued the battle for the union from inside. From day one of the strike the ‘Militant’ has given weekly coverage to this important labor struggle. New subscribers can get two back issues of their choice to find out more about it. Don’t miss a single issue!



Co-Op miners speak at January 15 meeting of longshore workers from ILWU Local 10 in San Francisco.

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SWP candidates: ‘Free locked-up Vieques protesters’

BY LAURA GARZA

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—“We won a victory in forcing the U.S. Navy out of our island,” said Francisco Medina, a 68-year-old fisherman on the island of Vieques. “But you must tell people that our struggle continues to demand that the U.S. government carry out a thorough clean-up and turn over the land to our people.”

Medina was speaking to Nicole Sarmiento and Martín Koppel, Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. Senate in Florida and New York, respectively. The two visited Vieques October 16 to find out about the current stage of the struggle after massive and sustained protests forced Washington last year to end the use of the island as a bombing practice range and withdraw the Navy.

“Many people in Vieques have cancer,” Medina said. “They [the U.S. Navy] don’t have the dignity to clean up after what they left: toxic water and unexploded shells. They killed turtles, whales, destroyed land and water, and they don’t say anything about it.... We are still finding out about things they have done.”

“The struggle in Vieques is important because it shows it is possible to fight U.S. imperialism,” Koppel said in the exchange with Medina. “At a time when Washington wants the world to think they are invincible, that you can’t resist their demands, the successful campaign to force the Navy out of Vieques shows that is not true.”

Medina is a Korean War veteran. Taking part in that war opened up his eyes to how U.S. imperialism uses its military to try to defeat working people and oppressed nations standing up to the Yankee colossus, he said, noting that he returned from that war and spent the last 50 years fighting the U.S. military.

Medina described the attempts to drive fishermen out during the years of Naval exercises. “We would go to occupied territory to get bait, to get sardines,” he said. “They would bomb and kill the sardines so we wouldn’t go to that beach to get bait any more.”

Carlos Ventura, another fisherman, said they suffered a lot because “shock waves in the water from detonations hurt the coral and other species in the water.” Today the fishermen and others are demanding a real—not cosmetic—cleanup of the island by the U.S. government. They are also facing the encroachment of capitalist developers with plans to build hotels and other tourist facilities, driving up the price of land. Most of the land occupied by the U.S. Navy was turned over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the fishermen noted. Local residents are demanding that it be turned over to the community.

Koppel and Sarmiento also met with Ismael Guadalupe and Bob Rabin, longtime leaders of the fight to get the Navy out of Vieques. They are members of the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques. The socialists were shown sites used by protesters who camped out for months at a time on Navy-occupied territory.

Koppel and Sarmiento also visited a museum showing the history of Vieques, and the experiences of generations of islanders in fighting to regain control of their land. Guadalupe said his organization plans protests against the attempts by capitalist hotel corporations, like Wyndham, to declare beaches for “private” use only.

The socialist candidates then returned to San Juan to join a picket held in front of the U.S. federal prison there to demand freedom for six prisoners being held in connection with the Vieques struggle. On May 1, 2003, the day the U.S. Navy officially pulled out of Vieques, a public celebration was held.

In a symbolic act, some of those at the celebration took apart a small guard post. Washington then arrested 12 people, charging them with conspiracy and destruction of government property. Six of them remain imprisoned, three at the Guaynabo prison. The other three were sent to far-flung prisons in the United States, making

it an even greater hardship for their families and legal representatives to see them. Two are scheduled to be released at the end of this year, two by mid-2005, and one by early 2006.

One of the prisoners, José Pérez González, who was sentenced on Sept. 11, 2003, received the maximum sentence of five years and a \$10,000 fine to be paid to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. Pérez González, who is from Mayagüez, has been transferred without explanation from prison to prison—from Florida to Alabama. He is now in a penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia. While in Alabama, he was held in solitary confinement and was denied the right to make any calls or have access to written material.

Among those joining the pickets, chanting and waving at prisoners who could be seen watching from windows, was Rafael Cancel Miranda, the pro-independence leader who spent over two decades in U.S. prisons for his actions in opposition to the colonial domination of Puerto Rico.

“We stand in solidarity with those who have fought for the withdrawal of the Navy from Vieques,” Koppel told the pickets. “We will use our campaign to get the word out about these brothers who remain behind bars. We wanted to be here today to join in this activity as an elementary act of solidarity with those who have stood



Militant/Laura Garza

Martín Koppel (foreground, with glasses), SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in New York, taking part in October 16 picket line demanding freedom for Puerto Rican political prisoners outside Guaynabo U.S. federal prison near San Juan, Puerto Rico. Three militants who helped lead the fight to force the U.S. Navy out of Vieques are held there. At left is Puerto Rican independence movement leader Rafael Cancel Miranda.

up against the imperialist government in Washington, which is an enemy we have in common.”

The socialist candidates later visited Cancel Miranda in Cabo Rojo, met with independence activists in Mayagüez, and also traveled to Aguadilla to speak with Luis Rosa, another leader of the independence movement who spent about 19 years in U.S. prisons. They both recounted the importance of the mass protest campaigns that led to their releases. Cancel Miranda, Rosa, and activists from Mayagüez urged ongoing activity in defense of the prison-

ers, citing the difference it makes not only for their eventual release, but also the importance of maintaining contact with those beyond the prison walls while they are incarcerated.

Upon their return to the United States, Koppel and Sarmiento began speaking at public forums and other campaign activities about their trip to Puerto Rico as part of explaining their support for independence for Puerto Rico from U.S. colonial rule.

Nicole Sarmiento contributed to this article.

SWP candidates get good response at N.Y. college

BY SAM MANUEL

BRONXVILLE, New York—“Don’t we have a responsibility after making such a mess of things in Iraq?” That was the first question by one of the students at Sarah Lawrence College here who took part in an October 21 meeting titled, “Learn about the working-class alternative! Meet Socialist Workers Party candidates on the ballot in NY in this election.”

The student noted that SWP vice-presidential candidate Arrin Hawkins had called in her presentation for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and other imperialist troops from Iraq.

“You have to start with a different framework,” responded Martín Koppel, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in New York. “Who is the ‘we’ that’s being talked about. The billionaire families that rule this country try to make us think that ‘we’ have common interests with them. We, the working people in this country and our brothers and sisters in Iraq have common interests and a common enemy—the billionaire families and their government in Washington that has invaded Iraq. As long as there are U.S. troops in Iraq there will be no solution to the conflict there.”

Koppel fielded questions from the students because Hawkins had to leave after her talk to catch a flight to Iceland, where she went to campaign on the invitation of the Communist League and the Young Socialists. In her remarks, Hawkins told the students that she would be meeting workers, students, and others in Iceland and talk to them about the class struggle in the United States and world politics. “The world is our battleground,” said Hawkins.

The meeting was moderated by Justine Davies, a student at Sarah Lawrence who helped organize the event. It was co-sponsored by the Political Union, a student group on campus. Davies first met Hawkins during an August 28 march across the Brooklyn Bridge in New York to defend women’s right to choose abortion. It was one of several protests in the city before the Republican National Convention.

Hawkins described to the students a lunch-time meeting with workers inside a sewing factory in Newark, New Jersey, earlier that day. She said it was a highlight of her campaign stop in the area. She also described the October 17 march by nearly 10,000 striking casino and hotel workers and their supporters in Atlantic City, New Jersey, she had taken part in (see article

on page 2).

“This is what the socialist campaign is like,” said Hawkins. She and SWP presidential candidate, Róger Calero, have been criss-crossing the country explaining their campaign platform to workers, farmers, students, and many other people. At the center of the socialist platform, she said, is championing workers’ struggles to organize unions and make the unions they already have more effective to resist the bosses’ attacks on wages and working conditions.

“Are you for nuclear proliferation?” asked another student. During her presentation, Hawkins had defended the right of semi-colonial countries such as north Korea and Iran to develop the energy sources they need, including nuclear energy, which

are a precondition for social and political advances for working people.

Koppel answered that when the capitalist politicians say they are against nuclear proliferation “They mean that they, the imperialists, should have the right to nuclear weapons and nuclear power but the oppressed countries should not. What gives Washington—the only government to ever use nuclear weapons against other human beings—the right to say who should and should not have access to nuclear technology?”

Six of the nine students present signed up on the mailing list of the SWP campaign and a couple volunteered to help get out the socialists’ message on campus more widely, including after the November 2 elections.

Despite bluster, ACLU and other liberals support USA Patriot Act

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Liberal critics of the White House have waved the flag of the USA Patriot Act in assailing President George Bush for undermining civil liberties. A number of them, however, like the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), are not demanding that the government dump this anti-working class law. They support it and simply call for tweaking some of its provisions.

“Indeed, none of us is calling for a repeal of a single provision in the USA Patriot Act,” declared ACLU president Nadine Strossen in a debate sponsored by the New York Bar Association earlier this year. “What we are calling for are amendments to particular provisions... which we maintain are completely consistent with the legitimate, indeed compelling security needs that the government has set forward and would also protect constitutional rights and civil liberties.”

The ACLU calls for urging members of Congress to “support corrections” to the Patriot Act. Last year, when some Democratic Party politicians asked the group to call for repealing the measure, Timothy Edgar, ACLU legislative counsel, responded, “That’s a crazy idea. There are some reasonable things in the Patriot Act.”

Many liberal opponents of Bush don’t mention how the bipartisan legislation passed in the Senate 99 to 1 and sailed

through the House of Representatives 357 to 66.

Senator John Kerry joined the majority in the Senate to approve the act. He has said in his presidential election campaign that he backs it and has called for slight modifications in the measure. The Democratic presidential nominee said provisions in the act that permit government spying on libraries, and secret “sneak and peek” searches of people’s homes, “must be made smarter to better protect the freedom of law-abiding patriotic Americans while allowing our government to do everything necessary to track down terrorists.”

The Patriot Act allows police to carry out arbitrary searches and seizures in private homes and businesses, expands police powers to wiretap phones and personal e-mail, allows domestic CIA spying, and authorizes police to jail immigrants without charges as “terrorist suspects,” among other provisions. This law builds on the 1996 Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act and other similar bills signed into law by William Clinton. All these measures that have passed with broad bipartisan sponsorship and backing lay the groundwork for future assaults on trade unions and the broader working-class movement, as well as other opponents of government policies, in the event of a widespread labor radicalization.

West Virginia strike

Continued from front page
are nonunion.

On October 21, nearly 1,500 miners, their families, and supporters packed the high school gym here in the town of Smithers, 30 miles southeast of Charleston, West Virginia. It was standing room only inside. The UMWA members and their supporters came to protest the tearing up of the contracts at six union mines by Horizon and to demand that the new owners of the properties recognize the union and negotiate contracts with the UMWA.

Some 5,000 coal miners and retirees lost their health-care benefits and pensions when Horizon voided the union contracts. The company took the action after getting the okay from a bankruptcy court.

Darrell Keyes, president of UMWA Local 5890 in Kentucky, said no strike action is planned at the moment at the Starfire mine. The strike at Cannelton makes UMWA members eligible for medical coverage for six months from the union's selective strike fund.

UMWA members have set up picket lines at four entrances to the Cannelton mine, which are being staffed around the clock in eight-hour shifts. When *Militant* reporters visited the picket line October 21, strikers were installing insulation in the walls of the well-constructed shacks, preparing for a long battle through the winter.

Picket lines, at this point, are union out-

posts for reaching out broadly for support. Many passersby show their support for the strike by honking horns.

Massey Energy guards could be seen videotaping pickets and visitors.

The International Coal Group (ICG) owned by financier Wilbur Ross bought most of Horizon's mines. Ross specializes in buying up bankrupt companies and ridding them of "contingent liabilities," like pension and health-care plans. His International Steel Group (ISG)—which bought up Bethlehem Steel, LTV, and Weirton Steel—is now the largest steel producer in the United States.

The ICG subsidiary Lexington Coal notified the UMWA that it would retain the current workforce at the union mines it took over as part of its deal with Horizon and may negotiate with the UMWA.

The October 21 meeting in Smithers was organized by the UMWA after a massive outreach campaign by members of Local 8843, which included visiting some 8,000 homes to win support for the UMWA campaign to keep the former Horizon mines unionized. Organizers set up a large television screen in the lobby for the overflow crowd to follow the meeting. Delegations were recognized from UMWA districts in northern West Virginia and Ohio.

Billed as a community impact hearing, the meeting was presided over by a "Community Impact Board" that took testimony



Militant/Tony Lane

UMWA picket at former Horizon coal mine October 21 in Cannelton, West Virginia. Miners demand Massey Energy, the new boss, rehire workers, negotiate with union.

on how the actions by Horizon and Massey, aided by a federal bankruptcy judge, are adversely affecting coal miners and communities surrounding the mines. It will issue a report with recommendations.

UMWA president Cecil Roberts was the first witness. "If Don Blankenship thinks he's going to scab these mines, we'll have coal miners in here from everywhere," he said, referring to Massey's chief executive officer. Roberts said he expects Massey will try to bring in replacement workers early next year. He pledged to be in the front lines

on the road in front of the mine.

Several speakers called for a congressional investigation into the bankruptcy proceedings.

Roberts also said the UMWA is launching a campaign for bankruptcy law reform. "This is not just about what happened in Cannelton, this is not about West Virginia or Kentucky or Ohio," he said. "This is about public policy in America. This is America's problem, and America has to fix it."

He also called for creating a national health care plan. "This bankruptcy didn't occur because coal miners didn't work hard enough. It didn't occur because of low coal prices. It didn't occur because of bad mining conditions," Roberts said. He blamed corruption and mismanagement by the Addington brothers, former owners of Addington Enterprises, Inc. (AEI), which was reconstituted in an earlier bankruptcy as Horizon Natural Resources.

This was echoed by other speakers who expressed anger at the coal barons, especially the owners of Horizon and Massey, whose relentless drive for profits has devastating consequences on coal miners, mining communities, and on the environment.

William "Bolts" Willis, UMWA Local 8843 president, charged this was a well-executed plan to circumvent the labor agreements.

"The Addingtons turned a profitable operation into a financial mess," said Jennifer Tanner, a college student and daughter of a Horizon coal miner. She explained she may no longer be able to afford the asthma medicine she needs or to finish school as a result of what the coal bosses did.

Roberts reminded the audience of the strike against Pittston Coal in 1989 over company plans to eliminate retiree health care. "Sixteen months later, Pittston did provide the health care," Roberts said. That fight led to the passage of the 1992 Coal Act, a federal law protecting some UMWA retirees' health-care benefits.

Jay Ressler is a member of UMWA Local 1248 in Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

Utah miners fight for reinstatement of UMWA militant

Continued from front page

not defending me," said Panduro, after three meetings with the company over the grievance against his dismissal. "He even refused to have one of my co-workers, Bill Estrada, as an interpreter at the last meeting because he also supports the UMWA." The next and last step is a grievance review board meeting, said Panduro, where the company and the IAUWU will have two representatives each and a fifth neutral person, mutually agreed to by both sides. According to the "contract" between the company and the IAUWU, the side that wins a majority vote of the five people, wins the final ruling. Since the IAUWU is taking the side of the bosses, as it has always done, Panduro said, he doesn't seem to have much of a chance through this sham grievance procedure. After this is exhausted, the UMWA has said it will file a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) demanding his reinstatement, Panduro said.

The NLRB has recognized the IAUWU since 1979. But the miners say this is a boss outfit that has never represented them and has worked on the side of the company against the workers. Proof of that is the fact that the IAUWU is a plaintiff along with C.W. Mining, also known as the Co-Op mine, in a federal lawsuit the Kingstons filed September 24 against the UMWA, 17 Co-Op miners, and over 100 of their supporters and several media—including *The Militant*—on charges of "unfair labor practices" and "defamation." The miners also provided affidavits to the NLRB showing that all three local IAUWU officers were bosses and relatives of the mine owners.

"My foreman before the strike, Dana Jenkins, was the local president of the IAUWU," said Bill Estrada. "Jenkins performed boss's duties, including disciplining workers, and attended management meetings every week." During the strike, the company replaced Jenkins with Chris Grundvig as president of the "local," the miners say. Prior to the strike, the IAUWU never held any meetings and had the company deduct \$8 in union dues from some miners against their wishes. When C.W. Mining and the company union signed a "contract" in 2001, several miners say bosses cornered workers one by one and coerced them into signing the document. In addition, two of the three local IAUWU officers, Dana Jenkins and Warren Pratt, live at Trail Canyon Road, two miles from the mine, where only Kingston relatives reside. The third officer, Chris Grundvig, lives on the road to the mine and is a next-door neighbor to the mine superintendent, the miners report. Several miners provided the NLRB with this information through a series of interviews a year ago, said Estrada. The IAUWU admits it only has one "local," at Co-Op, but claims it has three union international officers based in

Salt Lake City. According to Co-Op miners, these three are also tied to the Kingstons.

An October 23 front-page article in the *Salt Lake Tribune* reports that Ronald and Vicki Mattingly, who are listed as two of the IAUWU "international officers," attended a court hearing in support of John Daniel Kingston and his wife, Heidi Mattingly Foster, who face ongoing allegations of physical abuse and neglect of their 11 children.

"The action drew about 50 family and friends, including Heidi's parents Vicki and Ronald Mattingly, to the courthouse Friday in support of the couple," said the *Tribune*. "The Mattinglys declined to comment."

John Daniel Kingston is known for belt-whipping his daughter, Mary Ann Kingston, after she fled her forced marriage to John Daniel's brother, David Ortell Kingston. John Daniel Kingston pled guilty and served time in jail.

The Kingstons are a capitalist clan that has amassed an over \$150 million business empire in six western states, including the Co-Op mine here.

The miners have been asking their supporters to send letters on their behalf to the NLRB to set a date for a union representation election at Co-Op and to rule in favor of the UMWA's demand to exclude members of the owners' family and other supervisory personnel from being eligible to vote. The bosses are claiming that over 100 of their rel-

atives should have a right to vote as seasonal, temporary, or office workers. The UMWA refuted this claim at a July 20–21 hearing in Price, Utah, maintaining that all Kingstons working at the mine are related to the owners and their loyalty is with "The Order," as the Kingstons' empire is known.

The hearing took place after a good number of Co-Op miners who were on strike for nearly 10 months returned to the job in early July after a settlement between the UMWA and the company that the NLRB brokered. C.W. Mining fired all 75 miners Sept. 22, 2003, for defending coworkers victimized by the company for their efforts to bring in the UMWA. The miners also demanded better wages and safer working conditions. They were paid between \$5.25 and \$7 an hour, while hourly wages for underground miners in the U.S. average at least \$17. The NLRB ruled the miners had been fired illegally and ordered the company to take them back.

Letters to the NLRB should be sent to: NLRB Region 27, attention B. Allan Benson, director, 600 17th Street, 7th Floor—North Tower, Denver, CO 80202-5433. Tel: (303) 844-3551; Fax: (303) 844-6249. Copies of these letters and other messages of support and financial donations to the Co-Op miners' struggle can be sent to: UMWA District 22 at 525 East, 100 South, Price, UT 84501. Tel: (435) 637-2037 Fax: (435) 637-9456.

Puerto Rico: FBI raids union hall of striking water workers

BY LAURA GARZA

BOSTON—In the middle of a strike by 4,300 water workers in Puerto Rico, about 60 FBI and Internal Revenue Service agents raided the headquarters of the Independent Authentic Union (UIA) October 20. They cordoned off the union hall for 15 hours, barring access to anyone, and carted off hundreds of boxes of confiscated files. FBI agents also held union members for hours without allowing them to see lawyers, refusing to let them leave until they had been interrogated.

The U.S. government said the raid was part of an investigation of alleged fraud and corruption in the union-administered health-care fund. The management of the Puerto Rico government's Water and Sewer Authority (AAA) has leveled these charges against the striking union. AAA bosses claim that they ended health-care payments into the union fund, and unilaterally transferred health-care coverage into a private company, for the same reason. This action provoked the strike, which started October 4. The union is also fighting to hold back other concession demands.

The timing of the raid "is part of a plan by the government of Puerto Rico to break

the strike, but we have remained strong on the picket line," said Luis Andino, the president of the Humacao UIA chapter.

Andino reported that the day after the raid about 500 unionists marched to protest the assault and show their solidarity with the strikers. Demonstrators included members of the electrical workers union (UTIER), the union of university employees (HEEND), and other unions that belong to the Puerto Rican Workers' Federation (CPT). Andino also said electrical workers held protest pickets at their worksites throughout the island. A broader labor march was planned for October 27, he said. Julio Fontanet, president of the Bar Association in Puerto Rico, protested the detention of the unionists during the FBI raid. He noted that two union lawyers who arrived at the UIA hall were told that agents had instructions from federal prosecutor Humberto García not to allow them to see those being held inside.

The FBI had previously intervened against the union, showing up at the UIA headquarters on August 26 to interrogate union members and "investigate" alleged statements by union president Héctor Lugo that the UIA might take part in a protest

at the airport. During a general strike in 1998 unionists blocked the airport. The FBI warned that under the Patriot Act any such action would now be considered a "terrorist" act. On October 6, FBI officials made further threats, insinuating that UIA members were planning "sabotage" against Puerto Rico's water supply. These unsubstantiated charges have been widely repeated in the press.

In a column in the daily *San Juan Star*, the paper's managing editor, John Marino, described the goal of the assault on the union. The government, he said, needs "to scale back the AAA workforce, and straightjacket job classifications and out-of-control benefits. It must also raise water rates, among the cheapest in the nation, to pay for needed improvements at the utility." Marino also noted that the actions by the federal cops against various unions may have "people starting to suspect that the island's labor movement may be the target of federal prosecutors."

The FBI has a long history of disrupting the labor movement in Puerto Rico—from frame-ups of union leaders to the use of agent provocateurs during strikes, including in previous electrical workers strikes.

Stumping for socialism from Reykjavík to Seattle

BY PAUL PEDERSON

"Here in Iceland we only hear about Bush and Kerry and they are saying the same things," said Gunnhildur Ólafsdóttir, a striking schoolteacher in Reykjavík. Ólafsdóttir was talking to Arrin Hawkins, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice president, on October 25, during Hawkins's campaign visit there.

"Yes, they are both representatives of the war party," Hawkins replied. "Kerry's main point is that he would be better at carrying out the 'war on terror.' But we work to make it known that if you vote on November 2, you don't have to vote between these two parties, there is a working-class alternative—the SWP ticket."

As the 12-week drive to boost the readership of the *Militant* and its Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial* passes the two-thirds mark, partisans of the socialist publications around the world are getting out the word about that working-class alternative to the capitalist parties in the home stretch of the U.S. elections. The international drive is just ahead of pace on the *Militant* goal and 24 subscriptions behind target on the *PM*. Socialist

campaigners in Iceland maintained their lead in the effort by making maximum use of Hawkins's visit to get socialist books and newspapers into the hands of those who were attracted to what the candidate had to say.

At a pre-university in Reykjavík, 50 students filled a classroom during the lunch hour to hear Hawkins. Immediately after she spoke, hands were in the air for questions. One student asked: "If you get to power will your party not be corrupted like every other?"

"Working people need to overthrow the capitalist system to create a new society built on human solidarity, not the dog-eat-dog mentality we're taught under capitalism," said Hawkins. She pointed to the selfless internationalist course followed by the Cuban revolution as an example of how working people can start transforming social consciousness. Two students bought subscriptions to the *Militant* and a dozen signed up to get notices of the local Militant Labor Forums.

In the United States, meanwhile, socialist coal miners are leading the effort in the trade unions to win new readers to the socialist press. "We are now at 22 *Militant* subscriptions and 6 *PM* subscriptions," reports Anne Nixon, a coal miner who is organizing the effort. "We are very close to making our goals of 30 *Militant* and 12 *PM* subs."

In Seattle, SWP presidential candidate Róger Calero swung through the state October 24 to campaign alongside the SWP senatorial candidate from Washington, Connie Allen. On the picket line of striking cannery workers at the giant Snokist plant in Yakima Valley, Calero was well received by workers who've gotten to know the socialist campaign in the month they've been on strike. Since the



Militant/Gylfi Pall Hersh

Arrin Hawkins, second from left, SWP candidate for U.S. vice president, campaigning October 23 in Reykjavík, Iceland.

walkout began September 23, eight Snokist strikers or supporters of their struggle have purchased subscriptions to the two publications, along with a number of revolutionary books and pamphlets. Socialist campaigners have visited the picket line many times.

The subscription drive will continue through November 21. Partisans of the SWP campaign say they won't stop stumping for socialism after election day.

"For the Democrats and Republicans, the campaigning ends on November 2," said Martín Koppel, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in New York. "But not the socialist campaign. We will keep doing the same thing, standing with working people resisting the bosses' offensive against our unions and the drive by imperialism against our brothers and sisters in the oppressed nations. We continue getting out the platform and perspective of building the working-class alternative to the parties of capitalism 365 days a year."

Ólöf Andra Proppé in Reykjavík contributed to this article.

Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Fall Subscription Drive Aug. 28-Nov. 21: Week 8 of 12

Country	Militant		PM		
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold
ICELAND	30	27	90%	2	0
SWEDEN	30	26	87%	5	2
UNITED KINGDOM					
London	50	40	80%	12	4
Edinburgh	25	19	76%	2	0
UK total	75	59	79%	14	4
AUSTRALIA	55	36	65%	8	4
NEW ZEALAND					
Auckland	45	30	67%	1	1
Christchurch	35	20	57%	1	0
N.Z. total	80	50	63%	2	0
UNITED STATES					
Houston**	80	70	88%	20	10
Craig, CO**	65	52	80%	20	7
Detroit	40	32	80%	10	8
Des Moines	65	50	77%	25	20
New York	180	134	74%	70	37
Price, UT	50	37	74%	20	13
Birmingham	40	29	73%	8	3
Newark	90	64	71%	25	15
Seattle	55	39	71%	12	9
Omaha	55	36	65%	45	17
Cleveland	40	25	63%	10	4
Atlanta	80	48	60%	20	10
Twin Cities	105	62	59%	40	21
Boston	100	58	58%	40	16
Tampa	40	23	58%	10	6
Washington	115	62	54%	21	9
Los Angeles	150	80	53%	50	35
Pittsburgh	65	34	52%	4	2
Philadelphia	95	49	52%	10	0
Chicago	100	47	47%	40	22
Miami	100	40	40%	50	6
San Francisco	125	49	39%	35	15
NE Pennsylvania	55	19	35%	15	10
U.S. total	1890	1139	60%	600	298
CANADA					
Montreal	32	19	59%	12	3
Toronto	85	37	44%	18	4
CANADA total	117	56	48%	30	7
14-day campaign*	-	179	-	-	31
Int'l totals	2245	1571	68%	668	343
Goal/Should be	2300	1533	67%	550	367
*14 days of campaigning in New York Aug. 21–Sept. 3 at protests and events leading up to and during the Republican convention					
**raised goal					

IN THE UNIONS					
Militant		PM			
Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	
UNITED STATES					
UMWA	30	22	73%	15	6
UNITE HERE	50	28	56%	40	15
UFCW	135	67	50%	150	65
Total	215	117	54%	205	86
AUSTRALIA					
AMIEU	8	4	50%		
NEW ZEALAND					
MWU	2	1	50%		
NDU	2	1	50%		
Total	4	2	50%		
SWEDEN					
Livs	2	1	50%	1	0
CANADA					
UFCW	6	3	50%	3	2
UNITE HERE	2	0	0%	1	0
Total	8	3	38%	4	2
ICELAND					
Hlíf	2	1	50%		
Efling	2	0	0%		

AMIEU—Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union; Livs—Food Workers Union; MWU—Meat Workers Union; NDU—National Distribution Union; UFCW—United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA—United Mine Workers of America; Hlíf—Union of Unskilled Workers in Hafnarfjörður; Efling—Union of Unskilled Workers in Reykjavík.

Campaigners in Houston and Washington, D.C., went over their goals in September—each selling more than 100 books as part of campaigning for the working-class alternative in the November elections. Three weeks into October socialists in Houston already have surpassed their September sales having sold more than \$800 worth of books, which is \$200 above their goal for the month.

As part of the *Militant* subscription drive, socialist campaigners have also been pressing to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets to workers in meatpacking plants, garment shops, and coal mines where they work. At the end of the sixth week of the subscription drive, 17 books and pamphlets have been sold to garment workers and 72 in meatpacking plants around the United States.

Although socialist campaigners in nine cities and towns across the United States sold at least 10 percent over their January–June monthly average in September, the combined total was still about \$1,200 short of the \$9,560 combined goals for that month.

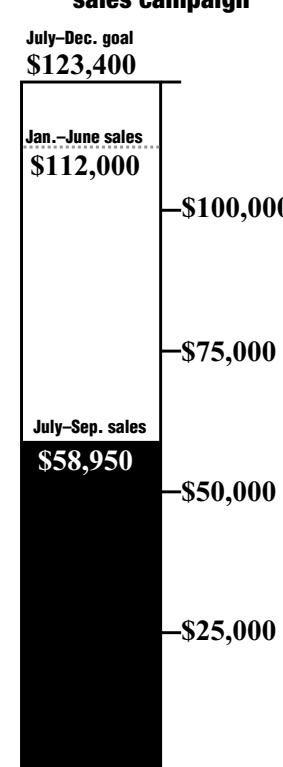
At the same time, socialists in the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Canada, and Sweden all made their goals in September.

"A number of things have combined to make September the best month for Pathfinder sales in the United Kingdom this year, and we're also doing very well in October so far," said Jonathan Silberman, who works at the London Pathfinder Books. "Last month we sold over 600 books and pamphlets at three events in Europe: Fête de l'Humanité in Paris, PCE Fiesta in Madrid, and the Gothenburg Book Fair."

"We've been setting up meetings with local librarians and city-wide purchasing directors," said Willie Mae Reed, who is part of a "library task force" that works with other supporters around the United States to get library placements. "Getting these books into local libraries is important because of the working-class and young milieu they reach," she said.

Also in September, supporters of the communist movement broke a new record in book production. They delivered 20 Pathfinder titles that month, which had to be reprinted largely because of the success of the Super Saver Sale. They did so as they continued to streamline production to meet the expanding demand, Cheney said.

Pathfinder 10 percent sales campaign



Calero meets farmers in Tchula, Mississippi

BY SUSAN LAMONT

TCHULA, Mississippi—"The cotton crop is good this year—about one to two bales per acre—but prices are down," said David Howard, "so it's still hard for the small farmer." Howard, president of the Mileston Co-operative in the small Mississippi Delta town, was explaining the economics of cotton farming to Róger Calero, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, at a meeting for Calero held at the Co-op, October 17. "The price for cotton right now is around 54 cents a pound. We need at least 80 cents," Howard said. "So we're putting the crop in storage and hoping the prices will go up."

"It costs about \$485 to plant an acre of cotton," added Roy Brown, another Co-op member, who is in the midst of bringing in his crop. "With the price so low, we only get \$248 per acre. Sometimes we can't wait for the price to go up, because the small farmers have to pay their loans. What would you do if you were elected to help this situation?"

"The capitalists let the small farmers bear the risks and costs of production, but can't guarantee working farmers a decent living," replied Calero. "That's why our program calls for an immediate moratorium on farm foreclosures and for government-funded cheap credit for working farmers and price supports to cover production costs, so working farmers won't lose out, even when there's a good crop, as is happening to you and other small cotton farmers. These demands are not just for farmers. They deserve the support of the whole labor movement and are part of building a movement of workers and farmers so they can fight together for their common interests."

Brown told Calero that the local cotton gin, which used to hire local small farmers on a seasonal basis to help with the cotton crop, is now hiring immigrant workers from Mexico.

"Many of these workers are farmers themselves," Calero told Brown, who was surprised to learn this. "They're working here to send money home to be able to keep their land. You can approach them as brothers, since they've experienced just what you're going through, and more."

Several veterans of the 1998–99 strike at Freshwater Farms catfish processing plant in nearby Belzoni also attended the meeting.

"We wanted to come and thank you personally for helping get the socialist candidates on the ballot in Mississippi," Calero told the group, which included several of the SWP campaign's electors in the state, six of whom are from Tchula.

SWP candidates in New York campaign among meat packers at Hunts Point Meat Market in Bronx

BY WILLIE COTTON

NEW YORK—Martin Koppel, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in New York, campaigned among workers at the Hunts Point Meat Market October 12 at two different coffee shops frequented by meat packers on their lunch breaks. Dorothy Kolis and Willie Cotton, SWP candidates for Congress in New York's 16th and 15th congressional districts, respectively, accompanied Koppel.

Kolis and Cotton introduced Koppel to a



Militant/Jeanne FitzMaurice

Róger Calero (center), SWP candidate for president, at Mileston Co-op in Mileston, Mississippi, October 17, with farmers Roy Brown (left) and David Howard (right).

After the meeting, Joann Hogan, a former striker, opened her home to Calero and his supporters for a delicious home-cooked meal before the socialist presidential candidate and his entourage returned to Birmingham, Alabama.

The day before the visit to Tchula, Calero and his supporters campaigned at the evening shift change at the big Avondale textile mill in Sylacauga, Alabama. Earlier that day, he visited the Fiesta 2004 Latino festival in downtown Birmingham.

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he would return to give a report back. "Let me tell you one thing," said a Puerto Rican worker, hurrying to grab a bite to eat. "I'm for independence." After hearing that Koppel would be meeting Puerto Rican independence fighter Rafael Cancel Miranda, the worker left his phone number and asked for a report from the trip.

While campaigning there, a butcher from Schuster's who had just been fired joined the team, asking socialist campaigners how the union can be made stronger.

Koppel pointed to struggles such as the union-organizing fight by Co-Op coal miners in Utah and a similar one by meat packers that won the union at Dakota Premium Foods in Minnesota two years ago as examples from which workers can learn lessons on how to make their unions more effective.

Only by organizing unions and strengthening those we have can we resist the attacks by the bosses on our wages and working conditions, Koppel noted. He also said that out of such struggles a labor party based on the unions that fights in the interests of workers and farmers worldwide needs to be formed, "so that we can fight on the political level, independent of the capitalist class and its parties, not only for economic demands." A part of that, he said, is not being afraid when bosses threaten to shut down and move to Mexico, or elsewhere, but try to organize any place the bosses go. And we need to support the struggle for sovereignty and economic development in the semicolonial countries, he said, where imperialist domination forces working people to emigrate.

Koppel also met with workers from Garden Manor Farms who recently won a strike and representation by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and a contract earlier this year. A leader in that fight and a current shop steward, Papo, ate lunch with Koppel and the other socialist candidates. Papo said that Garden Manor workers are in a better position now to press for their interests than before the walkout. Using union power, he said, they recently won a lunchroom inside the plant.

Papo pointed to several workers in the pizza shop and said, "I am proud of these guys. Through many difficulties, they went out on strike, where others didn't." Papo renewed his subscription to the *Militant* and said he looked forward to staying in touch.

Another worker from Garden Manor, John, took down the information on how to send a message of solidarity from his union to the Co-Op miners in Utah and a letter to the National Labor Relations Board asking that the NLRB set a date for a union election in that mine. John and another worker later bought copies of *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs (see ad on this page). "I like books like this," John said.

Workers from other shops got SWP campaign brochures as well. A shop steward from another packing plant bought a subscription to the *Militant* and took Militant Labor Forum flyers to distribute.

ORDER ONLINE AT: WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

Also available in bookstores, including those listed on page 8. Offer good until Nov. 30, 2004.

Calero visits L.A.

Continued from front page
bosses at their new location.

"We need our own political voice, independent of the capitalist parties," Calero continued. That's why the SWP campaign is for a labor party, based on the unions, that fights in the interests of workers and farmers 365 days a year, not only in the United States but around the world. Prospects for such a party grow out of the struggle to organize and strengthen the unions, Calero stated.

The SWP candidate pointed to the recent pressure by Washington and other imperialist powers on the government of Brazil to let United Nations "inspectors" into its nuclear plants. The socialists have been exposing this hypocritical campaign by U.S. imperialism and its allies to prevent governments they target from developing the energy sources they need, including nuclear energy, he said. Electrification is needed for economic development, which is a precondition for social and political advances by working people in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, he stated.

Calero and other socialist campaigners got a warm response among hundreds of workers going in and out of Farmer John, a large pork slaughterhouse. United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770 organizes the plant, which employs more than 1,300 workers. A good number of workers, however, are not members of the union.

"One problem is that the company hires temporary workers," a worker from the pork cuts department told Calero. "They work for three months and then they're out the door. They never get into the union."

"We need to look at how we can fight for better conditions for all of us, including temporary workers," Calero said. "We have to show that the union can count. When they

try to fire someone, do we go to the office together? Do we fight on the shop floor to keep the worker's job? We have to focus not on what we can lose if we fight, but what we can win if we stick together." He pointed to the example of Co-Op miners in Utah fighting to win representation by the United Mine Workers of America. These workers are organizing collectively against every attack by the company, including insisting on their own translators when the bosses try to fire union militants, he said.

Another worker said he had been at the company six years and conditions were really bad. He wanted to find another job.

"A lot of people say they will go somewhere else, but many of those other jobs are bad too. We can't avoid the struggle, either at this plant or anywhere else we go," said Calero.

SWP candidates for U.S. Congress Seth Dellinger and Wendy Lyons, who are running in California's 33rd and 34th Districts, respectively, joined Calero for campaigning at the Farmer John plant gate when they got off work. Lyons works at Farmer John and Dellinger works at a subsidiary plant across the street.

The next day, Calero spoke to about 100 students in two classes at Los Angeles Trade Technical College. After a brief presentation, students peppered Calero with questions about his campaign, his party, and the SWP platform.

Cecilia, a young woman with two children, described how she had been denied unemployment benefits and did not know what to do.

"That goes to the heart of our campaign," Calero responded. "Working people pro-

SWP campaign in Florida: 'Vote No on parental notification act, Yes to increase in minimum wage'

BY RACHELE FRUIT

TAMPA, Florida—Socialist Workers candidates in Florida are calling for a "No" vote on an initiative that would require parental notification for teenagers to get an abortion. They are also calling for a "Yes" vote on a measure that would increase the minimum hourly wage in the state by \$1. Both will appear as amendments to the state constitution on the November 2 ballot.

"We are taking a strong position against Amendment 1, which is a blatantly reactionary attack on a woman's right to choose and on the privacy rights of young women in particular," said Nicole Sarmiento, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, in an interview.

Amendment 1, initiated by the state legislature, says, "The Legislature is authorized to require by general law for notification to a parent or guardian of a minor before the termination of the minor's pregnancy." This initiative follows another reactionary move by Gov. John Ellis Bush last spring who appointed a separate guardian over the five-month fetus of a severely retarded woman who was raped in a state-licensed group home. Bush did this challenging a 1989 Florida Supreme Court ruling that fetuses can't have guardians because, it said, they aren't legally people.

The *Tampa Tribune* favors Amendment 1. An October 18 editorial stated that the "obligation—if not the express right—of parents to protect and guide their children" supersedes the right to privacy, which is currently guaranteed in the state constitution.

Twice before, in 1989 and 2003, the state supreme court has ruled that parental notification laws violated the state constitution's privacy provision. Therefore, lawmakers who want to pass such a law have to change the constitution first.

On August 2, the American

Civil Liberties Union and Planned Parenthood went to court to block the amendment, arguing that the ballot summary leads voters to believe they are preserving rights, when in fact the measure takes them away. The first sentence of Amendment 1 reads: "The legislature shall not limit or deny the privacy right guaranteed to a minor under the United States Constitution as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court."

The October 9 *Tampa Tribune* cited a survey saying that 57 percent of those polled favor the parental notification amendment.

Amendment 5 would set a state minimum wage at \$6.15 an hour to begin six months after approval and to be indexed for inflation thereafter. The Floridians for All Political Action Committee sponsored this measure.

Rico De Shades, a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1625 in Plant City, told this reporter that he felt so strongly about raising the minimum wage that he would have signed the peti-

SWP candidate speaks to striking Iceland teachers



Militant/Gylfi Pál Hersir

REYKJAVÍK, Iceland—"It may look strange to you for a vice-presidential candidate from the United States to be campaigning in Iceland, while the Democrats and the Republicans are focusing on those states where the race is the closest," Arrin Hawkins, the SWP candidate for vice president, told more than 100 striking teachers gathered October 25 at their strike headquarters here (pictured above). "That's because our campaign starts with the world and with the fact that working people share the same interests. That's why I'm interested in hearing about the teachers strike as it enters its sixth week."

The day had begun with a sale at HB-Grandi, a fish processing plant in Reykjavík. Workers stopped to talk to Hawkins. One bought a subscription to the *Militant* and another picked up a copy of the paper.

Hawkins spoke to 50 students at Menntaskólinn vid Hamrahlíð pre-university school, campaigned in working-class neighborhoods, and soapboxed in downtown Reykjavík. She also spoke at public meetings in Reykjavík and the University of Iceland. *Fréttablaðid*, one of the two main dailies in the country, held an interview with the socialist candidate, featuring it prominently in the paper.

—ÓLÖF ANDRA PROPPÉ

duce all the wealth in society, along with nature. The working class struggled to win unemployment benefits and the bosses try to whittle away at them." Jobless benefits are part of a safety net workers fought for, which is necessary to keep them together, to maintain working-class solidarity, that is,

human solidarity, he said. They help workers undercut the dog-eat-dog competition fostered by capitalism between those who have jobs and those who don't. "The rulers teach the opposite, that this a 'handout,'" he said.

The SWP campaign calls for a massive federally funded public works program that would put millions to work and meet pressing social needs—like building schools and hospitals, and repairing roads and bridges. "We need to combine the fight for this kind of jobs program with the defense of measures that affect all workers—unemployment, workers' compensation, and Social Security," Calero said. In fact, the labor movement needs to mount a fight for the extension of Social Security so that it includes cradle-to-grave medical coverage for all.

"You said 2 billion people are living without electricity. What kind of countries is that happening in?" another student asked.

Calero pointed to a photo that appeared in the *Militant* earlier this year of the border area between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The hills on the Haitian side are almost completely bare of trees. Most Haitians do not have electricity or any other modern energy, and have to use firewood or charcoal to cook that they can only get from cutting down the trees. The resulting deforestation has meant devastating floods and thousands of unnecessary deaths. "These conditions are imposed by imperialism," he pointed out.

In Brazil, he said, one of the most industrialized "Third World" countries, nearly 40 percent of the rural population is without electricity and 10 percent overall. The problem is more acute in Asia and Africa.

"We also need to look at the question of electrification in this country," Calero added. "There are millions of people in the United States who have to decide monthly between food and the electric bill. There are parts of Mississippi and the Navajo Nation that still have no electricity. In big cities like Miami, there is ample electricity in most neighborhoods; but areas like Little Haiti have few street lights."

"What can you do when they try to deport you?" another student asked, referring to the successful fight that prevented the U.S. government from deporting Calero last year. "That's my question too," another student said. "How do you fight?"

"We reached out and Continued on Page 10

Socialist Workers Party candidates across the United States

The SWP presidential ticket is on the ballot in: Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Utah, Washington State, Wisconsin, and Vermont

Alabama

Janine Dukes, U.S. Senate
Clay Dennison, U.S. Congress, 7th C.D.

California

Dennis Richter, U.S. Senate
Mark Gildorf, U.S. Congress 8th C.D.
Chessie Molano, U.S. Congress 12th C.D.
Seth Dellinger, U.S. Congress, 33rd C.D.
Wendy Lyons, U.S. Congress, 34th C.D.
Naomi Craine, U.S. Congress, 35th C.D.

Florida

Nicole Sarmiento, U.S. Senate
Karl Butts, U.S. Congress, 11th C.D.
Omari Musa, U.S. Congress, 17th C.D.
Lawrence Mikesh, U.S. Congress, 21st C.D.

Georgia

William Arth, U.S. Senate
Eleanor Garcia, U.S. Congress, 5th C.D.

Illinois

Maurice Williams, U.S. Senate
Rebecca Williamson, U.S. Congress, 4th C.D.

Iowa

*Edwin Fruit, U.S. Senate

Massachusetts

Andrea Morrell, U.S. Congress 1st C.D.
*Laura Garza, Massachusetts state representative, Suffolk County District 1

Michigan

Osborne Hart, U.S. Congress, 13th C.D.

Minnesota

Bill Schmitt, U.S. Congress in 4th C.D.

Nebraska

Lisa Rottach, U.S. Congress, 2nd C.D.

New Jersey

*Ved Doohun, U.S. Congress, 10th C.D.

New York

*Angel Lariscy, U.S. Congress, 13th C.D.

Ohio

*Martín Koppel, U.S. Senate

Willie Cotton, U.S. Congress, 15th C.D.

Millie Sánchez, U.S. Congress, 8th C.D.

Dorothy Kolis, U.S. Congress, 16th C.D.

Pennsylvania

Romina Green, U.S. Senate

*Carole Lesnick, Board of Education

Pennsylvania

Brian Taylor, U.S. Senate

John Staggs, U.S. Congress, 1st C.D.

George Chalmers, U.S. Congress, 2nd C.D.

Tim Mailhot, U.S. Congress, 11th C.D.

Martha Ressler, U.S. Congress 14th C.D.

John Crysdale, Pennsylvania State Senate, District 7

*Kristopher Barkanic, Pennsylvania General Assembly, 116th District

Texas

Anthony Dutrow, U.S. Congress 7th C.D.

Jacquie Henderson, U.S. Congress 18th C.D.

Washington

Connie Allen, U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C.

John Hawkins, D.C. City Council—At Large

Lea Sherman, Delegate to the House of Representatives

*on the ballot

German imperialism's march to World War I

Below is an excerpt from the "Junius Pamphlet," which can be found in *Rosa Luxemburg Speaks*, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November. Luxemburg, a leader of Germany's revolutionary movement, wrote the pamphlet as a scientific explanation of the growing conflicts among the imperialist powers and the historical forces that led to the outbreak of World War I in 1914. Copyright © 1970 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY ROSA LUXEMBURG

The growth of capitalism, spreading out

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

rapidly over a reconstituted Europe after the war period of the sixties and seventies, particularly after the long period of depression that followed the inflation and the panic of the year 1873, reaching an unnatural zenith in the prosperity of the nineties opened up a new period of storm and danger among the nations of Europe. They were competing in their expansion toward the noncapitalist countries and zones of the world. As early as the eighties a strong tendency toward colonial expansion became apparent. England



Rosa Luxemburg speaking at mass meeting of German Social Democratic Party in 1907. Imperialist Germany "became a rival of the world's great naval force—England," Luxemburg said, and waged a "fight for supremacy on the ocean."

secured control of Egypt and created for itself, in South Africa, a powerful colonial empire. France took possession of Tunis in North Africa and Tonkin in East Asia; Italy gained a foothold in Abyssinia; Russia accomplished its conquests in Central Asia and pushed forward into Manchuria; Germany won its first colonies in Africa and in the South Sea, and the United States joined the circle when it procured the Philippines with "interests" in Eastern Asia. This period of feverish conquests has brought on, beginning with the Chinese-Japanese War in 1895, a practically uninterrupted chain of bloody wars, reaching its height in the Great Chinese Invasion, and closing with the Russo-Japanese War of 1904.

All these occurrences, coming blow upon blow, created new, extra-European antagonisms on all sides: between Italy and France in Northern Africa, between France and England in Egypt, between England and Russia in Central Asia, between Russia and Japan in Eastern Asia, between Japan and England in China, between the United States and Japan in the Pacific Ocean—a very restless ocean, full of sharp conflicts and temporary alliances, of tension and relaxation, threatening every few years to break out into a war between European powers. It was clear to everybody, therefore, (1) that the secret underhand war of

each capitalist nation against every other, on the backs of Asiatic and African peoples must sooner or later lead to a general reckoning, that the wind that was sown in Africa and Asia would return to Europe as a terrific storm, the more certainly since increased armament of the European states was the constant associate of these Asiatic and African occurrences; (2) that the European world war would have to come to an outbreak as soon as the partial and changing conflicts between the imperialist states found a centralized axis, a conflict of sufficient magnitude to group them, for the time being, into large, opposing factions. This situation was created by the appearance of German imperialism.

In Germany one may study the development of imperialism, crowded as it was into the shortest possible space of time, in concrete form. The unprecedented rapidity of German industrial and commercial development since the foundation of the empire brought out during the eighties two characteristically peculiar forms of capitalist accumulation: the most pronounced growth of monopoly in Europe and the best developed and most concentrated banking system in the whole world. The monopolies have organized the steel and iron industry, i.e., the branch of capitalist endeavor most interested in government orders, in milita-

ristic equipment and in imperialistic undertakings (railroad building, the exploitation of mines, etc.) into the most influential factor in the nation. The latter has cemented the money interests into a firmly organized whole, with the greatest, most virile energy, creating a power that autocratically rules the industry, commerce and credit of the nation, dominant in private as well as public affairs, boundless in its powers of expansion, ever hungry for profit and activity, impersonal, and therefore, liberal-minded, reckless and unscrupulous, international by its very nature, ordained by its capacities to use the world as its stage.

Germany is under a personal regime, with strong initiative and spasmodic activity, with the weakest kind of parliamentarism, incapable of opposition, uniting all capitalist strata in the sharpest opposition to the working class. It is obvious that this live, unhampered imperialism, coming upon the world stage at a time when the world was practically divided up, with gigantic appetites, soon became an irresponsible factor of general unrest.

This was already foreshadowed by the radical upheaval that took place in the military policies of the empire at the end of the nineties. At that time two naval budgets were introduced which doubled the naval power of Germany and provided for a naval program covering almost two decades. This meant a sweeping change in the financial and trade policy of the nation. In the first place, it involved a striking change in the foreign policy of the empire.....

Germany was to become the rival of the world's great naval force—England. And England did not fail to understand. The naval reform bills, and the speeches that ushered them in, created a lively unrest in England, an unrest that has never again subsided. In March 1910, Lord Robert Cecil said in the House of Commons during a naval debate: I challenge any man to give me a plausible reason for the tremendous navy that Germany is building up, other than to take up the fight against England." The fight for supremacy on the ocean that lasted for one and a half decades on both sides and culminated in the feverish building of dreadnaughts and superdreadnaughts, was, in effect, the war between Germany and England. The naval bill of December 11, 1899, was a declaration of war by Germany, which England answered on August 4, 1914.

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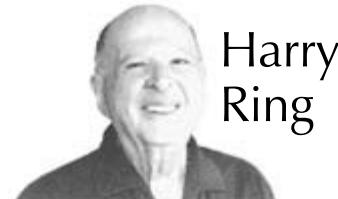
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Buck stops with God—With its vast country and huge population, India has the world's largest train network. The system is run



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down and accidents not infrequent. Most recently, a train wreck killed 20 and injured 100. India's rail minister, Laloo Prasad Yadav, declared that Vishwakarma, Hindu god of machines, is responsible for the rail system. The rail minister added: "So is the safety of passengers, it's his duty, not mine."

Essence of capitalism—Several transportation companies in the United Kingdom decided to scrap the old system of using toilets that flush on to the tracks. A new fleet of passenger cars are equipped with retention tanks. But passengers are confronted by the harrowing experience that all the toilets are "out of order." Manufacturers failed to provide disposal means.

Dow Chemical, killer corp.—"MIDLAND, Michigan—State health officials warned against eating wild turkey, deer, and squirrel. They say dioxin levels downstream from the city's Dow Chemical complex are dangerous. Dow is [allegedly] negotiating about the cleanup of

dioxin."—News item.

How generous—"Wilmington, Delaware—Some cancer patients will be eligible for free treatment up to a year [And then?] under a state initiative. Funding for the Delaware Cancer Treatment Program targets patients who don't have insurance and aren't eligible for Medicaid."—News report.

P.S.—Delaware is the home base of DuPont, whose notorious record of pollution has created unknown numbers of cancers.

Big-time petty larceny—Eighty two ranking corporations skipped paying income taxes at least once in the past three years. Each racked up \$100 billion plus

in profits during the periods they forgot to pay taxes. The thieves' honor role includes AT&T, Boeing, Prudential, Caterpillar, Disney, and Pfizer, the top dog in the medical blood-sucker racket.

Hot new gadget—The Pentagon is considering a "benign" new weapon for use in Iraq. It looks like a satellite dish and will be mounted on an armored Humvee. It gives a burning sensation that they say stops when turned off. The Red Cross worries that it could blind people, or be used to torture prisoners.

Faithful dogs—The Food and Drug Administration guesstimates that each year some 1,000 teenagers—many suffering depression—

commit suicide. The agency has disclosed that some of the widely used anti-depressant pills can promote suicidal tendencies among children and teenagers.

The FDA knew, and suppressed, information on this for at least eight years. Fumed a member of Congress: "There is something rotten in the FDA. No agency charged with public health should have behaved with such indifference." Not to quibble, but was it indifference or loyalty?

Welcome aboard—New readers are invited to contribute items for this column. Send clippings by e-mail to: thegreatsociety@sbcg1.org. For postal mail send to Pathfinder Books, 4229 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90011.

Firebombed SWP campaign hall in Pennsylvania reopened

BY JANET POST

HAZLETON, Pennsylvania—"Holding this meeting tonight is a big victory for political rights. It would not have been possible without the support and generous contributions of people around the world like yourselves," said Kristofer Barkanic October 16, at the grand reopening of the Socialist Workers Party campaign hall here.

Barkanic is the SWP candidate for Pennsylvania State Assembly in the 116th District, which includes Hazleton.

The campaign hall, now reconstructed, had been firebombed in the early morning hours of Sept. 11, 2004. In the arson attack a brick with incendiary material attached to it was thrown through the front window, igniting a slow-burning fire and badly damaging the front of the hall and burning campaign literature. The smoke that filled the room rendered the center's book stock unusable.

Walking into the headquarters for the reopening event and reception, participants were struck by the hundreds of brand-new, brightly colored Pathfinder books. "These new books are just beautiful!" exclaimed one contributor to the Rebuilding Fund, which raised more than \$4,000. More than 20 people attended the meeting, including a student from Penn State at State College and a young worker from the Lancaster area.

The books and campaign material can be seen through the newly rebuilt storefront window, glass door, and display area facing Wyoming Street in the middle of a working-class shopping area.

Outside, above the window is an eight-foot-wide sign reading "Socialist Workers 2004 Campaign." Inside, the headquarters is now brightly lit with a new ceiling replacing the old soot-blackened panels.

Since the firebombing, more than 100 people have come by to inquire about the arson and wish socialist campaigners well. Residents from throughout the region have bought more than 200 books that were the

least smoke-damaged.

Copies of some of the 70 messages of support were on display too, including letters sent to Hazleton mayor Louis Barletta urging the apprehension and prosecution of those responsible for the firebombing.

As the letters began pouring into the mayor's office, Barletta was asked about the arson attack on Hazleton Channel 13 TV. "There was a firebomb thrown into the headquarters of a campaign on Wyoming Street and we're investigating that right now as we speak," the Republican mayor said. "And we plan to take swift action. It's a crime that we will not condone, and again, we're going to do everything and anything to bring these people to justice and take swift action against them."

At the reopening meeting, Barkanic read some of the protest messages. "These letters have made it clear to the city administration that acts of intimidation against those who express political ideas at odds with the governing parties should not be tolerated."

Messages read included those from Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of the Archdiocese of Detroit; René Villasboa of the Revolutionary Socialist Nucleus of Paraguay; Gillian Barker, philosophy professor at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania; Carmen Febo San Miguel, executive director of Taller Puertorriqueño in Philadelphia; and Normand Faubert, vice-president of the Labatt Brewery Workers Union in Montreal, Quebec.

"The history of Birmingham, where bombings were carried out frequently against participants in the civil rights movement, clearly shows the grave danger in allowing such an attack to pass without a serious response," said Shirley Hyche of United Mine Workers Local 2368 in Birmingham, Alabama, in a letter to the Hazleton mayor. "If left unanswered, this assault will have a chilling effect on the right to civil discourse and to engage in political activity free from



Militant

The SWP campaign hall in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, reopened October 16, after rightist firebombing September 11 destroyed books and parts of the building.

harassment."

The main speaker at the program was Tim Mailhot, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in Pennsylvania's 11th District. Mailhot is a meat packer at Cargill Meat Solutions and a member of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1776. Several of his co-workers have visited the campaign headquarters during the reconstruction to express their support.

Mailhot underlined the importance of the new books arriving in time for the meeting. "Unlike the candidates of the capitalist parties, we put great importance on workers

being able to read, think about, and discuss ideas. This is opposed to the very low level and coarseness of the political discourse we heard in the debates between Bush and Kerry and the rest of their campaigning.

"Here we have the lessons of 150 years of revolutionary struggle analyzing the political roots of imperialism, the exploitation of workers, and the lines of resistance of workers around the world." He said these books are tools that workers can and do use today in their struggles to organize unions and to make them more effective in resisting the bosses' attacks.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

November 9, 1979

NEWARK—The United Auto Workers union has begun to put some muscle behind the Labor for Equal Rights Now campaign to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in Virginia. LERN has called for an education/action campaign for the ERA, including a January 13 march and rally in Richmond, Virginia.

The first move was made by the Region 9 New Jersey CAP Council Women's Committee, which set up an ERA subcommittee to educate the union's 35,000 members and organize buses for the January 13 march.

Hundreds of LERN pamphlets called *Labor's Stake in the ERA* have already been distributed in auto assembly and parts plants in New Jersey. One thousand more are on order.

A UAW brochure on the ERA—put out by the International—is also being distributed in large quantities.

The women's committee is also putting out a green-and-white UAW ERA button and T-shirts with the UAW symbol advertising the Richmond march. These will certainly start a lot of discussions on the assembly lines.

To coincide with the LERN week of local activities December 2–9, the UAW will host an educational meeting December 3

on why working people need the ERA. The Coalition of Labor Union Women, and the Women's Affirmative Action Committee at the UAW Regional office in Cranford are also participating. Gloria Johnson, national treasurer of CLUW, will be the keynote speaker.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y.

FIVE (5) CENTS

November 8, 1954

The Department of Justice has been staging a series of arrests of Puerto Rican Nationalists and at the same time members of the Puerto Rican Communist Party.

Following the conviction for "seditious conspiracy" of 13 Nationalists, who received maximum sentences, the FBI arrested 11 alleged leaders of the Puerto Rican C.P. Nine were arrested in Puerto Rico, one in New York, and one entered the U.S. from Mexico to face trial. All were charged with violating the thought-control Smith Act.

These arrests were followed on Oct. 30 by the roundup of nine Puerto Rican Nationalists in Chicago and two in Puerto Rico.

The timing of these arrests, the "dramatic" early dawn invasion of homes, the careful alternation between arrests of Nationalists and arrests of Stalinists, the wide circle of arrested, all indicates that the FBI is engaged in an elaborate multiple frame-up.

SWP candidate for Senate campaigns among cannery workers in Washington

BY JOHN NAUBERT

YAKIMA, Washington—On October 2, Connie Allen, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Washington, and campaign supporters joined the picket line of cannery workers striking Snokist Growers. The workers—who can apples and pears at this plant—are organized by the Western Council of Industrial Workers. They are fighting for their first contract after winning union recognition 18 months ago. October is the height of the canning season.

Rogelio Montes, a union organizer, used a bullhorn to introduce the socialist campaigners. "The Socialist Workers Party has supported many struggles here in Yakima, Toppenish, and Sunnyside," Montes told a group of 60 strikers.

"What you are doing by standing up to Snokist is important," Allen told the workers, as a campaign supporter translated her remarks into Spanish. "Like the Co-Op miners in Huntington, Utah, who are fighting for a union, your struggle shows the way forward for the labor movement. At the heart of the SWP campaign platform is joining workers like you fighting to organize unions and to make our unions more effective. Only

through a stronger labor movement can we fight for a jobs program, for health care, for affordable housing, for solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the 'Third World' who are resisting imperialist domination and demanding economic development, and for making our gains long lasting by taking state power out of the hands of the capitalists."

Allen pledged to use her campaign to build support for the strike. "I will encourage everyone I meet to extend their solidarity with you and join your picket lines," she said.

During a lull in picketing, workers gathered around Allen to discuss more what she had talked about. After reading through the SWP campaign platform, Maria, a packing worker, commented, "That's what we need, 30 hours work with no cut in pay."

Two strikers subscribed to *Perspectiva Mundial*, the *Militant*'s sister publication in Spanish. A third renewed his *PM* sub he had first purchased while he was on strike several years ago at Washington Beef, a nearby cut-and-kill plant. During a visit to the picket line a week earlier, another three strikers had subscribed to the *Militant*.

Protest FBI raid in Puerto Rico

We devote part of our editorial space this week to publishing the following statement, released October 22 by Martín Koppel and Nicole Sarmiento, Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. Senator in New York and Florida, respectively. Both just returned from a trip in Puerto Rico (see article on page 3).

The Socialist Workers campaign condemns the blatant strikebreaking raid by FBI and IRS agents on the hall of the water workers union in Puerto Rico.

We call on the labor movement and all working people in the United States to join with our Puerto Rican sisters and brothers in telling the U.S. government: hands off the unions!

In the midst of a hard-fought strike for a contract by the Independent Authentic Union (UIA) against the Puerto Rican government's Water and Sewer Authority (AAA), 60 FBI cops and IRS agents raided the union headquarters October 20 under the cover of investigating accusations of "health-care fraud" and corruption by UIA union officials. It is under this same pretext that the water authority has demanded that the union turn over control of the workers' medical insurance program to a private outfit. The cops occupied the union headquarters for 15 hours, detained and interrogated union members while denying them access to attorneys, and carted off hundreds of boxes of union files. They are now floating the idea of a grand jury investigation, whose purpose would be to frame up UIA members and smear the union.

In a previous antilabor attack, FBI agents showed up at the UIA headquarters August 26 to "investigate" alleged statements by union president Héctor Lugo that the UIA might take part in a protest at the airport, and to warn that blocking the airport, as the Puerto Rican labor movement did during the 1998 general strike, would be considered a "terrorist" act and a violation of the reactionary Patriot Act. On October 6 FBI officials made further threats, insinuating that UIA members were planning "sabotage" against Puerto Rico's water supply.

These actions reveal the fact that the FBI and other U.S. political police agencies are enemies of the working class and act to serve and protect the bosses. The FBI raids

against the union show that the real purpose of the Patriot Act and other "homeland security" measures is to lay the groundwork for using government police agencies and U.S. armed forces to target unions resisting the employer offensive and others who oppose Washington's policies.

If the U.S. government and its political police get away with this attack, they will be emboldened to go after other unions in Puerto Rico. If unanswered, this attack can have similar repercussions in the United States. The Puerto Rican labor and pro-independence movements are very familiar with FBI spying and disruption operations, which were widely exposed after the 1978 Cerro Maravilla affair, in which the police entrapment and murder of two pro-independence youth implicated U.S. police agencies. It was later revealed that the local police, in collaboration with the FBI, had secret files on more than 100,000 Puerto Rican unionists, independence advocates, antiwar protesters, and others.

The U.S. labor movement has plenty of experience with the use of racketeering and "fraud" charges as a cover for government intervention in union affairs. Such moves are an attack on the right of the union ranks to choose their own leadership and control their union, and should be unconditionally protested by labor and other supporters of workers' rights.

The FBI's war on the Puerto Rican unions, independence movement, and other social struggles underscores the reality that Puerto Rico is a U.S. colony. A successful struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico is in the interests not only of the Puerto Rican people but of the vast majority of the people of the United States. We have common interests and a common enemy: the wealthy U.S. rulers and their government in Washington. Every struggle against U.S. colonial rule in Puerto Rico, such as the fight to free all Puerto Rican political prisoners and the successful movement to get the U.S. Navy out of the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, reinforces the struggles of working people in the United States.

FBI, IRS hands off the Independent Authentic Union! Solidarity with the water workers strike! Free all Puerto Rican political prisoners! Independence for Puerto Rico!

1962: Cuba said no to UN 'inspections'

"All this talk about inspection is one more attempt to humiliate our country. We do not accept it."

"This demand for inspection aims to validate the U.S. presumption that it can violate our right to freely act within our own borders, that it can dictate what we can or cannot do within our own borders. And our line on this is not only a line for today; it is a view that we have always maintained, without exception."

"In the revolutionary government's reply to the joint resolution of the U.S. government, we said the following: 'Equally absurd is its threat to launch a direct armed attack should Cuba strengthen itself militarily to a degree the United States takes the liberty to determine.... We have not surrendered nor do we intend to surrender any of our sovereign prerogatives to the Congress of the United States.'

This is the firm reply Fidel Castro, prime minister of Cuba at the time, gave on Oct. 30, 1962, to U Thant, secretary-general of the United Nations. U Thant had come to Cuba to convey a demand by Washington and the UN Security Council that Havana allow two teams of UN snoops: one on the ground and one from the air, to verify that Soviet nuclear missiles that had been installed in Cuba were being removed, as Moscow had already announced to the world it was doing. The Cuban government also rejected the request that Soviet ships carrying the missiles and launch pads be inspected at Cuban ports by the Red Cross.

It is salutary to remember this determined stance in defense of national sovereignty on the 42nd anniversary of what is known as the "Cuban Missile Crisis" of October 1962. Especially at a time when demands for UN "inspections" under the banner of nuclear "nonproliferation" by Washington and its imperialist allies have become the order of the day, all directed against semicolonial countries. And when governments that have succumbed to such imperial pressure—like that of Brazil most recently—face nothing approaching the U.S. naval blockade and threats of war by

Washington that Cuba confronted four decades ago.

In October 1962, when U.S. spy planes photographed Soviet missile launch sites under construction in Cuba, the U.S. rulers set on a course that pushed the world to the edge of nuclear war.

Most U.S. commentators treat the events of October 1962 as a Cold War showdown between the two superpowers, in which Cuba was at best a pawn, at worst a raging mute offstage. In that scenario, the people of Cuba do not exist, nor in fact do the tens of thousands of Americans across the country who acted to oppose U.S. imperialism's preparations for a military assault.

As Tomás Diez Acosta demonstrates in his book *October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis As Seen from Cuba*, the roots of that crisis lay not in Washington's Cold War with the Soviet Union, but in the drive by the U.S. government to overthrow the "first free territory of the Americas." This is what Cuba became after workers and peasants overthrew a U.S.-backed dictatorship in 1959 and opened the road to socialism in the Americas. The acceptance by U.S. president John F. Kennedy of the offer by Soviet premier Nikita Kruschev to withdraw the missiles—an offer broadcast worldwide over Radio Moscow without even informing the Cuban government—was how the stand-down of the two strategic nuclear powers was announced. But it was the armed mobilization and political clarity of the Cuban people, and the capacities of their revolutionary leadership, that stayed Washington's hand, saving humanity from the consequences of a nuclear holocaust.

Havana's unequivocal rejection of UN "inspections" at the end of the October 1962 crisis was consistent with this course. For those interested in delving into the lessons of this experience for today, we highly recommend Diez Acosta's book—including the transcript of the exchange between Castro and U Thant (see www.pathfinderpress.com or book centers listed on page 8).

Attack in Fallujah

Continued from front page

early next year. UK defense secretary Geoffrey Hoon announced October 21 that 850 British troops would be sent to Baghdad to take up positions previously held by U.S. troops being redeployed to Fallujah. London took this step at Washington's request.

Two days later the U.S. military said it had captured a top leader of Tawhid and Jihad along with five other suspected militia members, according to Reuters. On October 26 the military also claimed to have killed a top leader of the group in an air strike that destroyed four homes. Another 17 individuals accused of leading or being members of such militias were reportedly captured in outlying areas of the city in predawn raids.

Tawhid and Jihad has taken responsibility for several kidnappings and beheadings of hostages, and bombings against civilian and other targets in Iraq. Many of those killed in such bombings have been Iraqis attempting to join the National Guard and police at recruiting stations, along with civilian bystanders. The group also took credit for the recent execution-style killing of 50 newly trained unarmed Iraqi soldiers on their way home on leave after completing training, said CBS News. The group is led by Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

U.S. warplanes and tanks have kept up a bombardment of Fallujah as the Allawi government prepares for a major ground offensive. According to Reuters, smoke could be seen rising from the Shuhada area of the city, an alleged stronghold of militias. In one bombing attack, a family of six, among them four children, were reportedly killed when their home was hit. The U.S. military denied killing the family, saying that its warplanes struck "safe houses" used by Tawhid and Jihad.

U.S. military vehicles cut off a northwestern entrance to the city and used loudspeakers to warn residents to turn over militia members "or the night is near." The Allawi regime has demanded that al-Zarqawi be handed over to its forces. The lead negotiator between the interim government and the militias in meetings aimed to avoid a full-scale assault on the city said October 26 that the Allawi administration has broken off the talks. But the Iraqi defense ministry denied that negotiations had ended, according to al-Jazeera TV.

Fallujah lies in the heart of the "Sunni Triangle," an area of central Iraq where the Baathist regime of Saddam Hussein has had a strong base. It is now a center of the militias opposing the U.S.-led occupation and the interim regime installed by Washington. Fierce battles took place in Fallujah in March and April when U.S. forces laid siege to the city following the deaths of four military "contractors." Their burned and charred remains were strung from a bridge over the Euphrates river as many residents cheered. U.S. Marines were ordered to prepare an assault on the city ostensibly to capture those responsible.

The siege ended on April 30 with the announcement that the occupation authority had negotiated an agreement to replace the Marines by establishing a Fallujah Brigade headed by former Iraqi army officers. The brigade never engaged the militias and was dissolved in September.

Washington continues to draw lessons and make tactical adjustments from that experience as with its efforts to wipe out the Mahdi militia of Muqtada al-Sadr based in Najaf and Sadr City, a suburb of Baghdad. Newly U.S.-trained Iraqi National Guard and Special Forces troops joined U.S. Marines in routing the Mahdi militia from Najaf at the end of August. After suffering heavy losses in Najaf, and a month-long daily bombardment of his group's positions in Sadr City in September, al-Sadr agreed the first week in October to turn over large caches of heavy arms in exchange for money and amnesty for Mahdi militiamen deemed by the government not to have committed any crimes.

Some 2,000 Iraqi soldiers fought alongside 3,000 U.S. troops in sweeping anti-government militias from Samarra the first week in October. The U.S. commander in charge of the attack on Samarra praised the performance of Iraqi troops, crediting them for driving a militia force from an important mosque in the city.

That success, said *USA Today*, has left some Iraqi soldiers itching to get to Fallujah. "The insurgents there will run like the rats did at Samarra," said Maj. Walid Shaker, a member of a new U.S.-trained Iraqi police commando unit, the paper said.

"If there is an offensive in Fallujah, it will have to involve Iraqi security forces," said British Brig. Nigel Aylwin-Foster, deputy commander in charge of training and organizing the new Iraqi force. There are 108,000 trained and equipped Iraqi personnel with a goal of deploying 270,000 by the middle of 2006, said British Army Lt. Gen. John McColl.

U.S. commanders told *USA Today* that a ground offensive in Fallujah will look very different from the debacle in March and April and that Iraqi forces will take a larger role. "These people mean business," said McColl.

In another development on October 21, a U.S. military court in Iraq sentenced Staff Sgt. Ivan Frederick to eight years in prison for his role in the abuse and torture of Iraqis jailed at the Abu Ghraib prison. Frederick, the highest ranking of eight soldiers charged in the case, had his sentence reduced from 10 years to 8 in a plea bargain in which he agreed to cooperate with the prosecution in pending cases. Frederick's attorney, however, said he plans to appeal the sentence, calling it "excessive."

The Army also announced it will court-martial Spc. Charles Graner and Sgt. Javal Davis early next year. Graner faces up to 28 years in prison if convicted. Graner, Davis, and Frederick are all enlisted reservists and have said they were following officers' orders. No officers have been charged.

Calero in Los Angeles

Continued from Page 7

won broad solidarity in the fight against the government's attempt to deport me," said Calero. "To wage a fight we need two things: political clarity and to mobilize all the forces that will respond. I had the help of my party, the SWP, in organizing this kind of defense. Always remember that working people are the majority," Calero continued. "Mobilizing solidarity is possible because of that. It's the opposite of what we are taught from day one: 'Look out for number one.'"

During his visit here, Calero also campaigned outside American Apparel, a sewing factory with 2,000 workers, and in the downtown garment district. He was interviewed by *La Opinión*, AP, and EFE.

Seth Dellinger and Nan Bailey contributed to this article.

Correction

The article "Workers strike 'Green' Soapworks in Scotland," which appeared in the October 26 issue, incorrectly identified Anita Roddick as a "Green Party campaigner." The error was introduced in the editing process. Roddick is the founder of the Body Shop, the company that owns the Scotland plant. She is a liberal figure in the United Kingdom who presents herself and her company as "socially and environmentally friendly." She is not currently a member of the Green Party. On her website Roddick says she backed the Green Party campaign of Ralph Nader for U.S. president in the 2000 elections. She is currently supporting Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry.

Louisiana paper covers tour of SWP nominee for VP

The following article appeared in the October 11–17 issue of the *Louisiana Weekly*, a newspaper published in New Orleans, which is oriented toward the Black community. The article is based on an October 2 visit by Socialist Workers Party vice-presidential candidate Arrin Hawkins to Tulane University in New Orleans. It is reprinted by permission.

BY JAN CLIFFORD

"What makes you think you have a chance of being elected Vice President?"

Socialist Workers Party candidate Arrin Hawkins must hear that question in every interview she gives. Indeed, the white-hot U.S. presidential race seemed to be taking place in another world far from the coffee shop on Tulane University's campus last Saturday. Students filed lazily through, or sat outside in the gauzy sunlit heat as Hawkins explained why her party still matters in America.

"We're on more ballots than ever before and we are able to respond to being on the ballots," Hawkins said. Hawkins, 29, is the only African-American woman running in the 2004 race. Her presidential running mate is Róger Calero, associate editor of the Spanish-language magazine *Perspectiva Mundial*. She immediately thanked the voters who were responsible for the SWP making it to the Louisiana ballot.

Hawkins was in New Orleans for a talk and reception sponsored by the Tulane Politics Club. Poised and trim in a blue pinstriped suit and short cropped hair, she flashed an easy smile, behind which were some not-so-easy ideas.

"We start with the working classes," she said. "We meet with students, workers, and begin to talk about politics."

That, said Hawkins, is the primary strategy of the Socialist Workers Party—trusting that bringing together the nation's constituency will produce workable systems that benefit that same constituency. It was, after all, the strategy of the founding fathers when they won a new nation from England and founded it on democratic principles. "We have a tradition to draw on—the war against



Militant/Brian Williams
The photo above of Arrin Hawkins (right) campaigning October 1 at Houston street fair appeared along with this article in the *Louisiana Weekly*.

the British when people demanded a bill of rights," Hawkins said.

The cornerstone of Hawkins' position as a candidate is that resources such as tax breaks, health care, and fair representation should care, and fair representation should be cycled back to the people who produce goods and services in the American economy: the working class. She spoke repeatedly of the "attack" on the working class, citing trends such as cutbacks on benefits, longer work hours, the Bush administration's proposed legislation to eliminate overtime pay, and cutting safety corners to protect profits. She offered an alternative to "a small minority of the capitalist ruling class."

"That's where the attack on the working class begins, and now it's on increasing layers of the middle class," Hawkins said. She said that corporations' and business owners' profits are dropping and driving the movement to outsource American jobs. "Our enemies are not workers in Mexico and China—they are our allies," Hawkins said. "The tax money is there. Why not tax the billionaire families who own the corporations? The national sales tax is a regressive tax. If you can't make it work with this system, we need a new system," Hawkins said. "We think the working class is capable of running the country in their own interests. What do the billionaire parties do?"

Hawkins referred to the Democrat and Republican parties as billionaire parties serving corporate interests, with a monopoly on the election system. She said that the exclusion of alternative parties from national debates and media coverage illustrates that monopoly, and that major parties are moving more and more to the political right. She contended that the assault on the working class will continue and escalate, whether Bush or Kerry wins the election. As for the

Green Party and Ralph Nader, they are still capitalism-based and would work within the same systems as the Democrats and Republicans.

So, how would the SWP implement governance of the nation without the machinery of the major political parties? Hawkins repeated her position of organizing people to produce programs and systems that would radically reorganize the U.S. economy. She said that in her campaigns she repeatedly met people disenchanted with the current parties and systems.

The SWP does not employ polls, but Hawkins does pay attention to the national debates and other polls. She's interested in what people are saying. "It's important to know what they're saying and respond to it."

Building and supporting strong trade unions and empowering "semicolonial countries" such as Cuba and Venezuela to acquire and develop stabilizing resources are bedrock goals of the SWP. Hawkins has been on the front line of some important issues, paying her dues and winning her candidacy. She helped build the April 25, 2004 March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C., in which thousands of pro-choice women participated. She has worked as a baggage handler, garment worker, and was involved in a union fight at the American meat packing plant in Chicago, where she mobilized a community to win severance pay and health care after the plant closed without notifying workers in advance.

When asked if she was perceived as an agitator in the workplace, Hawkins corrected the language. "I'm political, not an agitator. I'm conscious of class and people's rights, but I'm also a good worker. I come in on time and do a good job." She also encouraged people to read and make decisions

for themselves. Reluctant to reveal much about herself or her family, Hawkins did say that her age and race were not a handicap. She rather said that taxing conditions in the U.S. affected workers everywhere, drawing a comparison with the fight for women's rights, which was won in small steps. "Wages are being lowered. It does have a different impact on different nationalities," she said. "People need to organize independently the way Malcolm X said."

One of the major programs the SWP would put into place if elected is a massive public works program, much like the WPA in the 1930s. They would organize workers, artists, and planners; putting people to work in the national interests instead of corporate interests. "Social security was won through struggles on the streets in the 1930s," she added. "We deserve health care and we deserve benefits."

If elected, the SWP would also immediately withdraw U.S. troops from around the world. "Troops do not serve an altruistic purpose. They protect U.S. (financial) interests and our young men to die to protect those interests. France had 800 contractors before the war and now have none," she said.

She denied being an isolationist and contended that the war on terror was a label manufactured to allow the U.S. to act as an aggressor. "The U.S. was the first and only country to use a nuclear bomb," Hawkins said.

According to the U.S. Constitution, prerequisites for being elected to office in the U.S. require one to be at least 35 years of age and U.S.-born. Since Hawkins is 29, and Calero was born in Nicaragua (although a permanent U.S. resident), their race is clearly for something beyond the White House. Hawkins said, "People will continue to vote for the individual, not the party. As things develop in this country people will begin to break from the big parties. As the resistance deepens, more people will look for alternatives."

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

NEW YORK

Manhattan

The meaning of the Nov. 2 U.S. elections Fri., Nov. 5, Dinner 7 p.m., Program 8 p.m., 307 W. 36 St., 10th fl. (north elevators) Suggested donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. Tel: (212) 629-6649.

CANADA

Toronto

It's not who you're against but what you're for. Speaker: Arrin Hawkins, SWP vice-presidential candidate, Sat., Nov. 6, 4 p.m. 2238 Dundas St. West. Tel. (416) 535-9140.

—CALENDAR—

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Memorial meeting for Palestinian Human Rights Activist. Celebration of the life of Farouk Abdel-Muhti, who died July 21, 100 days after his release from a 718-day federal detention. Speakers: Shane Kadidal of the Center for Constitutional Rights, attorney Lynne Stewart, and radio commentator Amy Goodman. Sat., Nov. 13, 6 p.m., SEIU Local 1199 Auditorium, 310 W. 43 St. betw. 8th and 9th Aves. Tel: (212) 674-9499.

—LETTERS—

CPUSA and fascism

In the October 19 *Militant*, Maurice Williams wrote an article on the Communist Party's support for John Kerry in the upcoming U.S. presidential elections.

The CPUSA's position is that George W. Bush is the gravest danger to humanity and borders on fascism. However, Bush is not a borderline fascist, he is a main stream Republican capitalist politician.

But even if Bush were a fascist, the working-class vanguard would never urge a vote for Kerry, or Nader, or any other capitalist candidate or party, as a way to stop fascism.

Support to democratic imperialism is no way to stop fascist imperialism, but this was exactly the CPUSA's line in the late 1930s (and remains so today) under the banner of the "Popular Front." This led to the defeat of the Spanish Revolution and the victory of fascism in Spain followed by the second world imperialist slaughter.

Only a revolutionary struggle by the workers against the capitalism system can stop fascism.

Dan Fein
New York, New York

Red-baiting in Mississippi

The 66-year-old Black-owned

and -operated *Jackson Advocate* newspaper has enjoyed a historic connection with the struggle for Black rights in Mississippi. Firebombs and acts of vandalism have failed to close it down. The red baiting of SWP presidential candidate Róger Calero and vice-presidential candidate Arrin Hawkins point to its vote for dead-end, bankrupt capitalist politics to deal with Black oppression. Speaking to leaders of black newspapers last March, Terry McAuliffe, head of the Democratic National Committee, pledged to use the Black newspapers to get Kerry elected. A vote for Roger and Arrin and support of their program puts conscious-minded working-class Black people on the proper path to battle against national Black oppression.

Ken Morgan
Baltimore, Maryland

Free Speech Movement

The second week of October a series of events took place in Berkeley around the 40th anniversary of the Free Speech Movement.

Unfortunately, most of the program made a mockery of that struggle. For those who aren't familiar with the Free Speech Movement, it was a response to

an edict by the administration of the University of California banning "all political activity on campus." The administrators primarily imposed their ban to attempt to shut down student support for and participation in the civil rights movement. But it conveniently also covered such student activities as support for the Cuban Revolution and the early opposition to the Vietnam War.

Campus political groups, including the Young Socialist Alliance (of which I was a representative), formed an organization to seek student support for a reversal of the ban. Early in the fight the university bosses brought a cop car on campus and arrested a non-student sitting at a table for the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE). Thousands of students sat down around the police car and refused to allow it to move. After three days, the university officials agreed to negotiate the issue, and the crowd dispersed.

The negotiations, which went on for two months, gave the activists a chance to win the overwhelming majority of the student body (of 25,000 or so) to their cause. When the administration finally showed that it had

no intention of revising the ban, students occupied the administration building and 763 were arrested. The crises provoked by the arrests led to a repudiation of the ban by the University faculty, and, within a matter of weeks, to a capitulation by the administration. Students took advantage of the opportunities created by the Free Speech Movement to build support for the movement in opposition to the Vietnam War, and to continue and broaden support for the civil rights movement.

Last week's events largely consisted of an attempt to rally support for the "Kerry for President" campaign. The low point came when, speaking from a platform erected over a police car, Howard Dean called on the crowd to support "getting tough" with Iran and North Korea.

Speaking as a participant in one of the panels on the history of the FSM, I pointed out that 1964 had also been an election year, pitting a conservative Republican, Barry Goldwater, against a "mainstream" Democrat—Lyndon Baines Johnson. If students in Berkeley in 1964 had abandoned their struggle to ring doorbells for a Democrat, I said, the history of the 1960s might have been much

worse than it was.

The leadership of the "commemorative" event clearly wanted students to subordinate every humanitarian demand to the "Defeat Bush" drumbeat. There were no speeches about the war in Iraq, or the imperialist role of the U.S. around the world, or the bipartisan attacks on workers, African-Americans, women, or immigrants. There was some talk about the threat posed to civil liberties by the Patriot Act, promptly undercut by Kerry when he confirmed during his second debate with Bush that he supported the Patriot Act.

The planners of the anniversary events reflected a narrow section of the former leadership of the FSM, and did a serious disservice to that movement.

Syd Stapleton
Bow, Washington

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people.

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.

Brazil yields to demand by Washington, OKs nuclear ‘inspections’

BY MICHAEL ITALIE

Washington succeeded in encroaching on the sovereignty of Brazil with Brasilia’s decision to open up the Resende uranium enrichment plant to United Nations inspections. Brazilian science and technology minister Eduardo Campos said October 16 that “inspectors” from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would be permitted to observe “certain areas” of the plant but would “protect the technological and trade secrets.” Days later the IAEA agents were in the plant.

The Workers Party government of Brazil had denied the IAEA entry to the plant earlier this year. The new agreement grants the UN agency access to the pipes and valves of the machinery at the plant, but not parts of the centrifuge system that Brasilia says are based on original and proprietary technology, the *New York Times* reported October 20.

Under the banner of “nonproliferation” of nuclear weapons, the IAEA has been Washington’s tool in the U.S. rulers’ efforts to pressure Brasilia to curtail its production of nuclear fuel to expand the country’s

electrification. Neither the U.S. government nor the UN agency accused the government of Brazil of intending to produce weapons-grade uranium. But they warned Brasilia that blocking IAEA agents would set a precedent that the governments of Iran, north Korea, or others could follow.

Washington’s line of attack was provided “scientific” backing with the publication of “Brazil’s Nuclear Puzzle” in the October 22 edition of *Science* magazine, a journal published by the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control. “The rest of the world should help the United States convince Brazil... to be a good nuclear citizen,” states the article. The Wisconsin Project operates under the auspices of the University of Wisconsin, and is funded by Washington and private foundations.

The authors of the *Science* article, Liz Palmer and Gary Milhollin, write that with its current capacity the Resende plant, near Rio de Janeiro, has the potential “to make five to six implosion-type warheads per year.” This figure could grow to as high as 60 within a decade, they claim. They warn that the Resende plant’s capacity to produce enriched uranium “confers what is known as ‘breakout capability’—the power to make nuclear weapons before the world can react.”

Most worrying to the *Science* authors is that any UN concession to Brasilia “will set a precedent for Iran and for any other country that decides to build an enrichment plant” while a signer of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

Poultry workers in Canada strike for better wages, sufficient hours

BY SÉBASTIEN DESAUTELS

MONTRÉAL-NORD, Quebec—“We’ve accepted small raises for 10 years, now the company owe us that,” said Carlo Désir, president of the Union of Volailles Marvid workers, affiliated with the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN). “There are 10 foremen working 40 hours a week guaranteed, while we’re being sent home.”

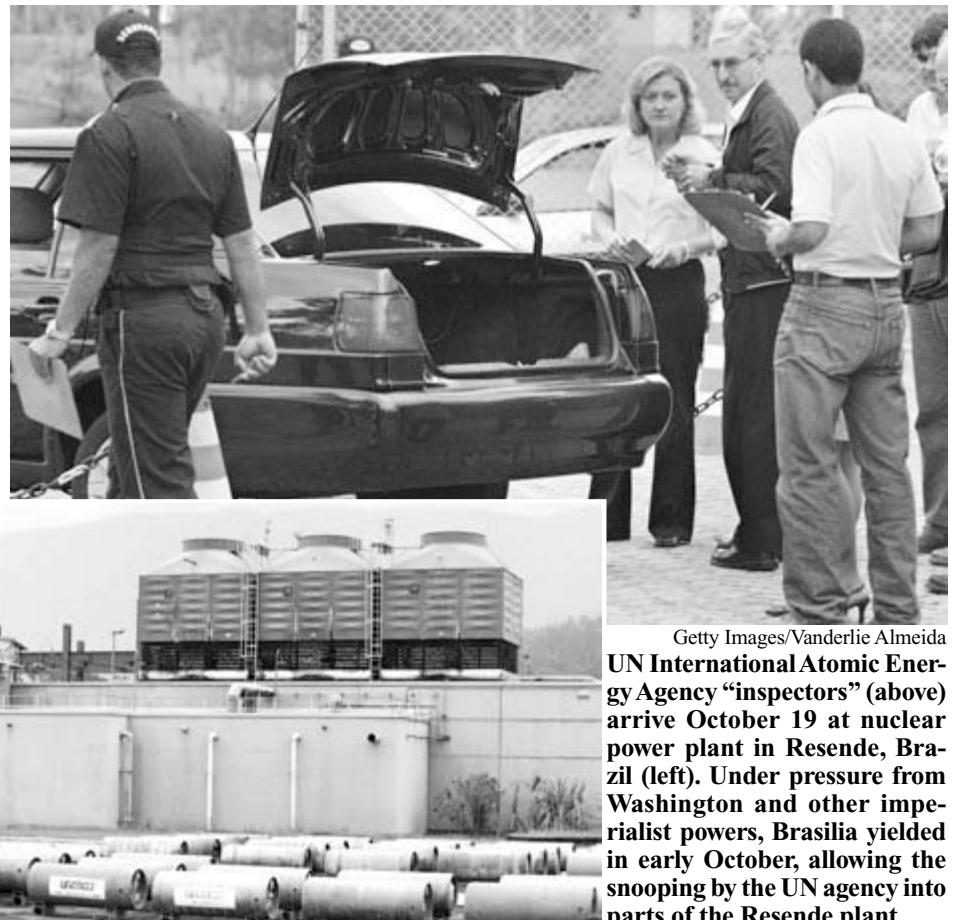
Between 80 and 90 workers at Volailles Marvid, producing kosher chicken, have been on strike since September 13 to demand sufficient hours of work and higher wages. They are earning on average Can\$11.44 an hour and are demanding Can\$18 (U.S.\$1=Can\$1.25). This is to compensate for the few hours of work they get and to earn closer to parity with other workers in the poultry industry, according to Désir. Since the company opened a new production line a few months ago, the workweek has been reduced to an average of 20 hours, which is not even guaranteed, workers on the picket line said.

“Why would I go back in without a good contract when I’m getting more money picketing,” said Glorieuse Dorvil, who has worked for 26 years in the company as a packer and in the cut line. She pointed out that picketers get Can\$200 a week from the union’s strike fund. “We don’t know how many hours we’ll work any given week,” she added. “We can’t continue like that.”

Samy Israel has been working for four months there. Even though he is still on probation, he joined the picket line. He stayed at work with a back injury to avoid being fired. His job is to hold the chickens while rabbis cut their throats. “When I get home, it’s like my hands don’t belong to me anymore. Inside there,” he said, pointing to the plant, “human beings have no importance.”

Workers are picketing the company six days a week, since bosses don’t work on Saturdays. Strikers organize a very lively barbecue every Sunday in front of the plant, dancing and singing to the music out of speakers placed on a van.

Militant reporters witnessed an attempt by workers to delay the entry of a van carrying chickens inside the plant on October 24. The stand off lasted nearly 45 minutes.



Getty Images/Vanderlie Almeida

UN International Atomic Energy Agency “inspectors” (above) arrive October 19 at nuclear power plant in Resende, Brazil (left). Under pressure from Washington and other imperialist powers, Brasilia yielded in early October, allowing the snooping by the UN agency into parts of the Resende plant.

president of the Brazilian Association of Nuclear Energy, according to Reuters. He said the space needed to produce weapons-grade uranium would be much larger than exists at Resende.

There are two nuclear power plants in Brazil now, and the government is considering building a third. Resende will supply centrifuges for the other nuclear facilities. In November 2003 the Brazilian government launched “Electricity for All,” a program to provide power to 2 million rural households without access to electrical power.

Tehran tests new missile, resists imperialist pressure to curtail nuclear energy program

BY SAM MANUEL

Iran has successfully tested a new long-range ballistic missile, according to an October 20 announcement by Iran’s defense minister Ali Shamkhani. The missile, an improved version of the Shahab-3, has an estimated range of 1,250 miles. That distance places Israel and parts of Europe well within its range. The new Shahab, which means meteor in Farsi, is reportedly based on the design of the north Korean Nodong-1 with modified Russian technology.

The same day, Israeli president Moshe Katsav responded by asking, “Why does Iran need rockets with the range of 3,000 kilometers?”

The announcement about the long-range missile came one day before Paris, Berlin, and London offered what they called a “last chance” for Tehran to avoid being referred to the United Nations Security Council for possible sanctions because its nuclear energy program does not meet the approval of Washington and its imperialist allies. On October 24, Tehran rejected the proposal.

The UN’s International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been “investigating” Iran’s nuclear program for more than two years. Washington charges that under the guise of building nuclear power plants, Tehran is secretly trying to develop nuclear weapons. Tehran has countered that it needs to develop nuclear power to meet the country’s growing energy needs.

At its September 18 meeting the IAEA approved a resolution demanding that Iran “immediately” suspend all activities related to enrichment of uranium, including the manufacture or import of centrifuge components, the assembly and testing of centrifuges, and the production of feed material. Enrichment of uranium is necessary in the production of nuclear energy. The resolution said the IAEA would decide at its November 25 meeting what actions to take against Iran should Tehran fail to comply with the UN

agency’s demand.

London, Paris, and Berlin have offered Iran access to civilian nuclear technology and trade deals in exchange for Tehran halting all uranium enrichment activities. The proposal also includes providing Iran with a light-water reactor and contracts to purchase nuclear fuel.

A number of government officials immediately called the offer unacceptable. “Any proposal which deprives Iran of its legitimate right to a fuel cycle is not acceptable,” said Hossein Mousavian, foreign policy chief of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, according to Reuters.

According to Reuters, Iranian president Mohammad Khatami said if Iran’s right to develop peaceful use of nuclear technology were guaranteed, Tehran would “present everything necessary to prove that Iran will not produce an atomic bomb. But we will not give up our rights.”

On October 24 Iran formally rejected the offer from the three European governments. It asked the three to come up with a “more balanced” proposal.

The Iranian government has explained a number of times that it has mines that produce uranium and is developing plants with the capacity to enrich it. The proposal to forego this step and import enriched uranium from abroad will make its nuclear power plants dependable on foreign governments and would be more costly. “We cannot rely on other countries to supply our nuclear fuel, as they can stop it any time due to political pressure,” said Khatami.

The U.S. government has expressed its displeasure with Paris, Berlin and London’s proposal, according to the *Financial Times*. “We haven’t bought on, signed on, or endorsed it,” said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher. He also made clear Washington’s opposition to Iran having access to nuclear technology, peaceful or otherwise. “We fundamentally have con-

cerns about Iran acquiring more nuclear technology and capability,” he said.

In October 2003, under intense pressure from Paris, Berlin, London, and Moscow, the Iranian government announced it would agree to demands of the IAEA to allow surprise inspections of its nuclear facilities and sign on to the “additional protocol” to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The NPT provides cover for the imperialist powers to have nuclear weapons but bars other nations from acquiring them. It subjects other governments, in semicolonial countries, in particular, to a range of requirements, including regular reports and inspections of their nuclear research and energy facilities. While the treaty supposedly guarantees the right of any nation that signs on to it to develop nuclear power for energy generation, the IAEA, the agency formed to oversee adherence to the NPT, has been increasingly used by imperialist powers since the 1991 war on Iraq to slow down or stop any states from developing nuclear energy altogether.

As a gesture of good will, the Iranian government voluntarily halted enrichment of uranium last year. In exchange, London, Paris, and Berlin promised to ease Tehran’s access to modern technology and to bloc Washington’s efforts to refer Iran’s case to the UN Security Council. Tehran restarted uranium enrichment this summer after the three European governments reneged on their promises.

In pressuring Tehran to agree to surprise inspections, European governments—particularly Paris and Berlin, which did not follow the U.S. lead in the war on Iraq—hoped to keep the U.S. rulers at bay. They differ with Washington on how best to advance their imperialist interests in the region vis-à-vis Iran. France, in particular, has substantial trade with and investments in Iran, including selling components to Tehran for its nuclear plants.