

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Seattle: SWP wins campaign disclosure exemption

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 69/NO. 29 AUGUST 1, 2005

## Pittsburgh: Socialists score victory for political rights

### County accepts petition for ballot status with 'anti-subversive' pledge crossed out

BY TONY LANE

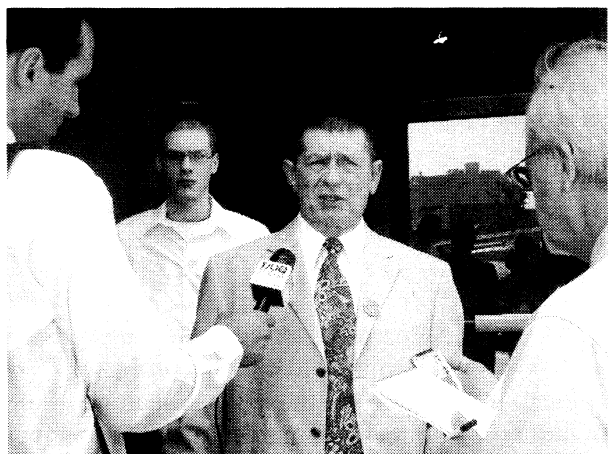
PITTSBURGH, July 20—Declaring his refusal to sign a "loyalty oath," the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh, Jay Ressler, submitted 2,784 signatures on petitions for ballot status today at the Allegheny County Board of Elections. Ressler

filed an affidavit affirming his eligibility to run but crossed out a section that required him to "swear...that I am not a subversive person as defined in the 'Pennsylvania Loyalty Act.'" The board of elections accepted the paperwork.

Mark Wolosik, division manager with the county board of elections, confirmed this in a phone interview with the *Militant*. "We have accepted [Ressler's] paperwork for filing," he said. Asked if this meant other candidates for office in the county could also attain ballot status without signing the loyalty oath, Wolosik said, "I'd have to double-check that with my law department, but I would think they could, if we did it in this case."

"This is a major victory over an attempt to bring back legislation that's a

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Militant/Marty Ressler

Jay Ressler (center), Socialist Workers Party candidate for Pittsburgh mayor, at July 20 press conference after filing petitions for ballot status with board of elections.

## 13,000 sign in 9 days to put socialists on New York ballot

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK, July 20—"If this campaign is for making unions stronger, I'll sign," said a member of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) District 37, after talking with Socialist Workers campaigners in Jamaica, Queens.

Both she and her daughter signed petitions to place the Socialist Workers Party slate on the ballot in the New

York City elections. They were drawn to the SWP platform's support to workers' struggles to organize unions and to use and extend union power to defend themselves and other working people from the bosses' assaults.

As this issue goes to press today, SWP campaign supporters have collected more than 13,000 signatures after nine days of petitioning. Campaigners plan

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## Arizona copper strikers stand up to mining giant



Militant/Naomi Craine

Steelworkers Local 915 members picket outside Asarco's Ray Mine in Kearny, Arizona, on July 17. Some 1,500 copper workers are on strike in Arizona and Texas.

BY NAOMI CRAINE

KEARNY, Arizona—As the strike against Asarco here enters its fourth week, copper miners are bracing for a long fight. The walkout by 750 workers at the company's Ray Mine and Hayden mill began July 1 when their contract expired. The action quickly spread to the other Asarco opera-

tions in Arizona and one in Amarillo, Texas, where workers had been working without a contract for one year. Most strikers are members of the United Steelworkers (USW). The 1,500 strikers also include members of the Operating Engineers, Teamsters, International Brotherhood of Electrical

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## UK gov't presses curbs on rights, readies more troops to Afghanistan

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON—Since the July 7 bombings in this city, the British government has pursued its campaign of "national unity against terrorism" to try to win support for new curbs on political rights at home and to justify its imperialist course abroad.

The Blair government has announced its intention of bringing forward plans

for new "antiterrorist" legislation that would give freer rein for police spying and other restrictions on rights in this country. It has won backing for the new law from the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats.

The bill would outlaw "preparing, training for and inciting" terrorist acts. According to the London *Independent*, "intent to acquire chemicals" to make a bomb, receiving "terrorist training," and accessing "terrorist websites" would be subject to prosecution under the law.

The new legislation would create a new offense called "indirect incitement to terrorism" that would "make it a crime to glorify or condone terrorism," the *Independent* reported. Home Office minister Hazel Blears

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## SWP announces slate in Seattle city elections

BY CHRIS HOEPPNER

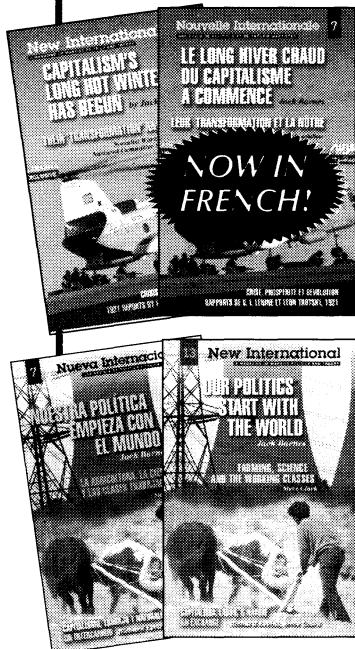
SEATTLE, July 20—The Socialist Workers Party announced today it is running a slate of candidates in the November election here. These include Cecelia Moriarity for King County executive and David Rosenfeld for city council. The party had earlier nominated Chris Hoepner as its candidate for mayor. Moriarity is a garment worker and Rosenfeld is a meat packer.

"I'm very glad you're running and will let union members know that the Socialist Workers Party is running a slate of candidates," said Rogelio Montes, upon hearing the news. "I would like to join you at the next event." Montes is an organizer for the

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### TWO NEW ISSUES OF 'NEW INTERNATIONAL'

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From 'New International' no. 12

"One of capitalism's infrequent long winters has begun. Accompanied by imperialism's accelerating drive toward war, it's going to be a long, hot winter." —Jack Barnes

Today's sharpening interimperialist conflicts are fueled both by the opening stages of a world depression—what will be decades of economic, financial, and social convulsions and class battles—and by the most far-reaching shift in Washington's military policy and organization since the late 1930s, when the U.S. rulers prepared to join the expanding Asian and European wars, transforming them into World War II.

Class-struggle-minded working people must face this historic turning point for imperialism, this cataclysmic crisis for "the West" and for "Christendom." And draw satisfaction and enjoyment from being "in their face" as we chart a revolutionary course to confront it.

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### Also Inside:

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# Unionists in Australia rally against laws targeting labor rights

BY LINDA HARRIS  
AND RON POULSEN

SYDNEY, Australia—Hundreds of thousands of workers joined union-sponsored street protests and meetings across Australia June 30 and July 1 against the federal government's proposed antiunion laws.

The Liberal Party coalition government, reelected in October for a fourth term, plans to use its new Senate majority after July 1 to introduce legislation that employers will use to step up their assault on workers' wages and working conditions.

In the biggest action, some 120,000 workers rallied and marched June 30 in a demonstration that brought central Melbourne to a standstill. The same day, tens of thousands also rallied in Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide and other cities.

The next day 100,000 workers attended meetings at 200 venues across the state of New South Wales to watch a televised broadcast of union officials explaining the government attacks and union response at the main Sydney meeting. Then more than 20,000 unionists marched through the city in protest.

In the lead-up to the main rallies, 630 truckers belonging to the Transport Workers' Union staged a protest convoy across Sydney Harbour Bridge June 19. On June 27, some 3,000 mining, construction, and dock workers in the remote Pilbara iron ore region of northwestern Australia walked off the

job for 24 hours and rallied to oppose the laws.

Addressing the Melbourne rally, federal Labor Party opposition leader Kim Beazley promised to "undo" some of the anti-union laws if elected. He said that the "underlying culture of the Australian nation" of "workers and employers who respected each other" was "under threat from one man's old and tired dream."

Across the country union speakers and placards voiced similar views, saying the anti-working-class attacks arose from "Howard's agenda," referring to Prime Minister John Howard.

The proposed laws aim to strip legal protection for most union conditions and pay scales under current awards (lawful industry-wide conditions). They will give the green light for employers to cut back penalty rates (premium pay) on overtime and shift work, long service and redundancy (layoff) entitlements, and extra pay for annual leave and casual workers.

The government plans to end unfair dismissal laws for workplaces with less than 100 employees. The Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) says this will abolish legal protection against arbitrary sackings for some 3.6 million workers.

An ACTU brochure says the government also plans to restrict the right to strike and workplace access by union officials. The new laws undermine workers' ability to bargain collectively by making it easier for employers to impose



Militant/Bob Aiken

Some 120,000 workers march June 30 in Melbourne, Australia, to protest federal government's proposed anti-union laws targeting wages and working conditions.

"individual contracts" on workers.

The turnout at the rallies indicated how widely unpopular the new laws are among working people. A recent *Herald* poll showed 60 percent were opposed to the proposed measures.

The mass union response has caused some concern in big-business circles.

The July 6 issue of the *Australian*, titled "Selling change necessary," urged Howard to step up the campaign promoting the antiunion legislation.

As part of ongoing activities, the unions are promoting an August 7 protest rally and community concert in Sydney.

## U.S. Senate apologizes for failure to ever pass anti-lynching laws

BY SUSAN LAMONT

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama—On June 13, the U.S. Senate approved a resolution apologizing for its failure to ever pass federal anti-lynching legislation. Eighty-seven senators have signed on as sponsors. Among the 13 who declined were the two senators from Mississippi, Thad Cochran and Trent Lott.

The first anti-lynching bill was proposed by a Black congressman 105 years ago. In 1922, the House of Representatives passed the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill, and two other times the House passed similar legislation. However, all three bills were blocked from passage by filibusters in the Senate led by powerful Democratic senators from the South. Democratic president Franklin Roosevelt, who was in office from 1933 to 1945, refused to press for passage of anti-lynching legislation.

"We're actually calling this 'Freedom

Summer,'" Doria Johnson of Evanston, Illinois, told the *Washington Post*. "We've got the FBI's reopening of the Emmett Till murder case in Mississippi, the trial for the murders of civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner starting, and the apology for lynching on the same day. We're finally feeling that our families' suffering is being acknowledged." Johnson was one of some 200 descendants and family members of lynching victims in Washington to witness the Senate vote.

More than 4,700 people were lynched from 1882 to 1968, most of them Black and in the South, according to a Tuskegee University study. Lynching and the threat of lynching was key to the system of legal and extralegal terror that enforced Jim Crow segregation, until it was smashed by the mass civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s.

## THE MILITANT

*Defend workers' rights against bosses' assaults*

*In the name of 'national unity' and 'fighting terrorism,' the British rulers are stepping up efforts to curb political rights of working people. They seek to widen police powers for spying and disruption operations. The 'Militant' presents a working-class response. Don't miss a single issue!*



Transit cop patrols Boston subways during July 2004 Democratic convention.

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# UK gov't attacks rights

Continued from front page

said individuals who made statements like "Isn't it marvelous this has happened?" or "these people are martyrs" could be prosecuted under such a provision. "Direct incitement" is already outlawed, she said.

Asked on BBC Radio's "Any Questions" if he would support the proposed new "antiterrorist" legislation, George Galloway, a member of Parliament for the Respect party, a formation that includes the British Socialist Workers Party, said he would have to wait and see. He called for hiring "10, 20, or 30 thousand more customs officers" along with more police, and said that every person entering Britain should be stopped and searched.

Meanwhile, police have continued to occupy the working-class area of Beeston in the city of Leeds, where four men accused of carrying out the bombings lived. Some 600 people have been evacuated as the police searched homes in the area.

Cops used a battering ram to break into the local Iqra Learning Centre and Bookshop. According to signs outside the shop, the center provides Islamic literature, media services, youth activities, orphan sponsorship, seminars, and presentations. A number of local residents were quoted in the media objecting to the raid. "The bookshop has absolutely nothing to do with terrorism. It is just a place where people go to meet, have a chat and read books," one resident, Arif, told *Leeds Today*.

Police announced they arrested one person from the area July 14 in connection with the bombings.

An Egyptian scientist who taught chemistry at Leeds University has also been arrested in Cairo at the demand of British authorities.

Police have also pressured Muslim leaders to step up collaboration in targeting "extremists." The Muslim Council of Britain is discussing whether to declare a fatwa (order) against suicide bombers, according to its secretary general, Iqbal Sacranie, but rejected the suggestion of Metropolitan Police commissioner Ian Blair that they establish a hotline for Muslims to report "extremist activities."

On July 14 the government organized a two-minute silence, which was heavily promoted by the media. In central London, the authorities stopped traffic. In many but not all workplaces bosses organized for workers to observe the silence.

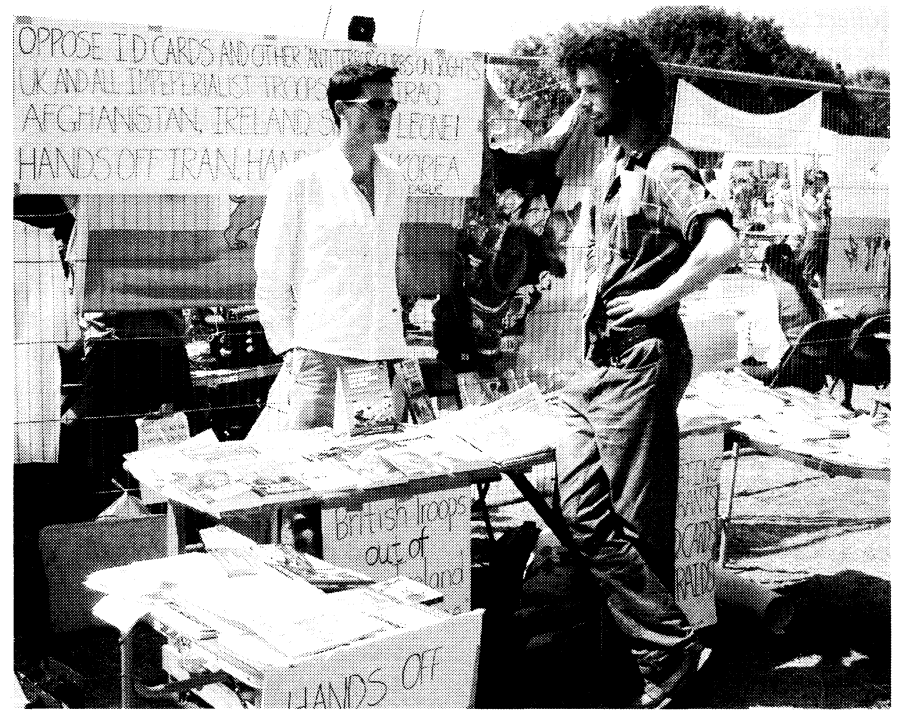
Observance of the two-minute silence on the job, however, did not necessarily translate into workers subordinating disputes with their employers.

At the large Halls meat plant in Broxburn, near Edinburgh, the silence was well-prepared by the bosses and observed by the bulk of the workforce, according to Peter Clifford, a member of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers who works there. "But that afternoon many workers were miffed when the company announced, in response to the union's wage demands, a paltry wage offer of 2.9 percent, with strings," he reported.

Clifford, who stood as a parliamentary candidate for the Communist League in the recent general elections, did not join the two-minute silence and explained to co-workers that he opposed the government's "national unity" campaign. "The political discussions at work go on, and I continue to be part of them," he said.

The Blair government has also used its "antiterrorist" campaign to justify ongoing moves to send thou-

## In face of increased antilabor assault, communists in UK campaign for working-class course



Militant/Jim Spaul

**Selling *Militant*, *New International*, and other revolutionary literature at July 16 Rise festival in London, co-sponsored by Trades Union Congress. Communist League and Young Socialists in United Kingdom are campaigning on the job, at plant gates, in workers districts, and elsewhere to explain a working-class perspective in face of UK rulers' "national unity" drive since recent bombings. They say "Oppose ID cards and other 'antiterror' curbs on rights" and call for "UK and all imperialist troops out of Iraq, Afghanistan, Ireland, and Sierra Leone."**

sands of troops to Afghanistan. Two squadrons of British special forces are scheduled to leave within weeks, according to government officials. They will provide reconnaissance for an expected deployment of more than 5,000 troops, which will conduct operations along the Afghan-Pakistan border. About 1,000 British troops are currently in Afghanistan as part of the NATO force there, and British Harrier jets have joined U.S. aircraft in recent combat missions.

On July 19 Pakistani police announced they had arrested seven men "with possible links to the London sui-

cide bombers," the Associated Press reported. British government officials have called on the Pakistani government to crack down on the activities of Islamic religious "madrasah" schools in Pakistan as a source of "terrorist training."

Some "Labour Party left" and right-wing Tory members of Parliament have seized on the July 7 events to criticize the Blair government's foreign policy from a nationalist standpoint. They have argued that the London bombings are a consequence of the British government supporting an "American" war in Iraq.

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### CALIFORNIA

#### San Francisco

**Building and Strengthening the Unions Today: Lessons from Recent Experiences.** Panel discussion. Fri., July 29. Reception 7:00 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. 3926 Mission St. (415) 584-2135.

### IOWA

#### Des Moines

**Using Unions to Resist Bosses' Attacks.** Speaker: Edwin Fruit, SWP candidate for Des Moines City Council, At-Large. Sat., July 30, 7:30 p.m. 3707 Douglas Ave. (515) 255-1707

### MINNESOTA

#### St. Paul

**Venezuelan Peasants and Workers Struggle for Land; Cuban Volunteers Lead Expansion of Clinics.** Panel discussion. Fri., July 29, 7:30 p.m. 113 Bernard St. (651) 644-6325.

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**Hear the Socialist Workers Party Candidates. The Working-Class Alternative to the Capitalist Parties.** Speakers: Socialist Workers slate. Sat., July 23. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Program at 7:30 p.m. 307 W. 36th St., 10th floor (north elevators) Tel: (212) 629-6649.

### NEW ZEALAND

#### Christchurch

**The Historical Trend towards Secularisation.** Fri., July 29, 7:00 p.m. Donation \$3. Gloucester Arcade, 129-131 Gloucester St. 365-6055.

## Need to turn around 'New International' drive

BY PAUL PEDERSON

With five weeks to go in the effort to sell the two newest issues of *New International* magazine, the campaign has fallen behind by almost two weeks. Steps need to be organized now to turn this around and to wage a concerted effort to sell the more than 1,100 copies remaining to reach the goal of 3,350.

In London, campaigners decided to raise their quota by 30 after several weeks of increased sales. Sales picked up as they hit the streets in response to the moves by the British rulers to deepen their assault on working people following the July 7 London bombings.

"We've sold 12 copies of the two new issues on street tables in working-class districts or from our book center," said Jonathan Silberman from London. "Within hours of the bombings we were on the streets campaigning. Each day we have been setting up a table in the district where our bookshop is, selling a two-pack every day.

"We've started to lead with the magazines, often times hawking them near the table," Silberman said. "Regular classes on the two issues have made a big difference in our ability to explain them and point to page references that take up questions in politics today, from the imperialist 'war on terrorism' to the decline of Islamism. We underestimated how quickly they would sell

so we've raised our quota twice during the campaign."

The previous week campaigners in London and Edinburgh sold 11 copies during the march and other activities organized to coincide with the G-8 summit of the leaders of the wealthiest imperialist nations.

"Many stopped by the tables to discuss the character of the so-called antipoverty initiatives presented at the G-8 summit. We discussed how government leaders were taking advantage of it to bolster the image of British imperialism," said Caroline Bellamy, a campaigner from Scotland. "One set of the two new issues was sold after a discussion with a young participant in the march on the section of the article 'Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun' describing how the May 2002 tour through several African countries by U.S. treasury secretary Paul O'Neill and pop singer Bono was part of strengthening the image of the imperialist architects of the devastation of the economies of those nations."

Five two-packs of *New International* numbers 12 and 13 were sold at the NAACP convention in Milwaukee, along with dozens of books on revolutionary politics.

*Note: please send the weekly reports on local sales results by Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. so they can be reported in the Militant.*

<b>New International sales campaign</b>			
<b>March 26 – August 22</b>			
Country	Quota	Sold	%
<b>CANADA</b>	150	143	95%
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>			
London	200	180	90%
Edinburgh	50	38	76%
<b>UK total</b>	250	218	87%
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>			
Auckland	55	47	85%
Christchurch	20	15	75%
<b>N.Z. total</b>	75	62	83%
<b>SWEDEN</b>	40	28	70%
<b>UNITED STATES</b>			
Chicago	115	98	85%
Washington	100	80	80%
Miami	110	88	80%
Houston	105	79	75%
Philadelphia	100	75	75%
Atlanta	115	85	74%
Twin Cities	140	103	74%
Seattle	130	94	72%
New York	325	229	70%
Los Angeles	225	154	68%
San Francisco	205	136	66%
Newark	125	76	61%
Des Moines	105	62	59%
Birmingham	112	66	59%
Boston	120	70	58%
Price, UT	61	40	54%
Pittsburgh	100	54	54%
Salt Lake City	15	5	33%
<b>U.S. total</b>	2308	1594	69%
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	60	38	63%
<b>ICELAND</b>	32	18	56%
World Youth Festival	250	0	0%
pathfinderpress.com	200	135	68%
<b>Int'l totals</b>	3365	2236	67%
<b>Goals/Should be</b>	<b>3350</b>	<b>2552</b>	<b>76%</b>

# N.Y. socialist campaign

Continued from front page

to collect 20,000 signatures by the end of the July 23–24 weekend—well more than double the 7,500 required for ballot status.

The remark by the AFSCME member was typical to the response Socialist Workers campaigners received as dozens fanned out across the city, distributing campaign literature and collecting signatures on petitions.

“Democratic and Republican politicians propose ‘American’ solutions to deal with the crisis caused by the capitalist system,” Koppel told a college student who stopped by a campaign table in Washington Heights to find out more about what the socialists stand for. “But there are no ‘American’ solutions that will benefit working people. Our class has no common interests with the capitalists who rule this country—and everything in common with fellow workers around the world. That is why our campaign platform begins with the needs of working people in the world.”

The student replied, “That’s all I need to hear to sign your petition.” She offered to help out on the campaign.

Koppel also condemned the current efforts by authorities in Farmingville,

Long Island, to evict immigrant day laborers from their homes on the pretext of cracking down on overcrowded housing. The government is carrying out a demand that ultraright, anti-immigrant groups have pushed for as part of their scapegoating of foreign-born workers for crime, unemployment, and other social problems.

“This too is a union question,” Koppel said. “It points to the pressing need to organize these workers into unions to fight for improved wages and conditions. And it underscores the need to mobilize the whole labor movement to fight for jobs and decent housing for millions through a massive, federally funded public works program, and to oppose the physical assaults on immigrants in Farmingville by fascist-minded groups.”

Later, the Washington Heights campaign team was approached by Rafael de Castro, a parking garage attendant, who offered to sign up some people he knew. He passed around the petition boards to four friends who all signed, as he said, “It’s for a workers party.”

Campaigning in the mid-Manhattan Garment District, Maura DeLuca, 26, reported, “I got quite a positive response from garment workers going



Militant/Arrin Hawkins

Campaigning to put the Socialist Workers 2005 slate on the ballot in New York City

in and coming out of work. Many of them were glad to hear about the socialist campaign and a high percentage signed the petitions.”

Randy Gopaul, 30, from South Ozone Park in Queens, first learned about the Socialist Workers campaign after receiving a copy of the party’s platform from a team of campaigners at Union Square.

“After reading the section of the brochure that said, ‘we need to build a revolutionary movement that will lead a fight by working people and their al-

lies to take power out of the hands of the ruling billionaire class, establish a workers and farmers government, and join the worldwide struggle for socialism,’ I knew this was a movement I wanted to be part of,” he said.

Gopaul, originally from Guyana, was one of the nearly 100 people who attended a July 16 Militant Labor Forum featuring a talk by veteran SWP leader Tom Leonard on “Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialism.” He joined in one of the petitioning teams the following day.

## Workers in Canada back Militant Fighting Fund

*C.W. Mining, owners of the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah, has filed a harassment lawsuit targeting individuals and union organizations involved in or supporting the fight of the workers there to organize into the United Mine Workers union. The charges include unfair labor practices, defamation, and civil conspiracy. Among those being sued for defaming C.W. Mining are three newspapers—the Militant and Salt Lake City’s main dailies, the Tribune and Deseret Morning News—that have covered the union struggle at the mine.*

*The Militant Fighting Fund was launched to help defend the Militant, a prominent target in this labor defense case. Below are reports on how support is building. Endorsements and contributions to the Militant Fighting Fund \$60,000 campaign can be sent to P.O. Box 520994, Salt Lake City, UT 84152.*

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

TORONTO—“The *Militant* must be commended for its unrelenting support of the Co-Op Miners,” said Gordon Flett, a shop steward for the Communications, Energy and Paper-

workers Union in Vancouver, British Columbia, explaining why he has endorsed the Militant Fighting Fund and is urging other workers to do so.

Support for the defense campaign has also been won among unionists at the Quality Meat Packers (QMP) plant here. John Steele, who works at the plant, reports that many other workers there are familiar with the *Militant*. The paper carried regular coverage about last year’s strike against QMP by United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 175.

Sammy Caetano, UFCW Local 175 plant chairperson and a recent endorser of the Militant Fighting Fund, said the miners and their supporters must be defended because “it’s important to have safe unions in the workforce to have safe working conditions and...for the employees to have power at the bargaining table to get a better standard of life.”

Kolar Zeljko, a boning-room butcher at the plant, lent his support because, he said, “papers should be able to report the facts about our struggles.” So far Can\$140 has been raised from Local 175 members (Can\$1=US 82 cents).

## Lava rock miners strike in New Mexico

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

PRICE, Utah, July 20—After rejecting a contract offer that included an hourly wage increase of only 45 cents, members of Operating Engineers Local 953 struck Twin Mountain Rock Company July 15. This is a lava rock mining operation near Capulin, New Mexico.

The union’s three-year contract expired June 30. The union is demanding a raise of about \$5 an hour to bring the pay of the Twin Mountain workers up to the national average. Workers at the top of the wage scale—mechanics and heavy equipment operators—currently average about \$11.75 an hour. The rock mined at the pits is used in a variety of construction materials and other products.

The 17 workers—from equipment operators in the rock pits, to plant work-

ers handling the crushing and bagging of the rock, to mechanics—are picketing Monday through Friday at various places near the Twin Mountain site in northeast New Mexico.

“We try to set up most of the pickets on the main highway to be visible,” Tim Shaw, a union steward and a mechanic, told the *Militant* in a phone interview today. “We have tagged out the railroad line. We posted a sign at the switch-off of the main line, ‘Local 953 On Strike.’ The railroad workers are not crossing.” Truckers, some of whom are members of the Teamsters union, are also honoring the picket lines, he said.

Twin Mountain is owned by Rinker Materials Corporation, which operates in 31 states. It is one of the largest producers of concrete block in the United States.

Lenora Jones, president of UNITE HERE Local 437 and a former *Militant* subscriber, signed on after discussions with supporters of the *Militant* who sell the paper weekly at AK Knitting, where she works.



BY FRANK FORRESTAL

LOS ANGELES—Donald Bray, emeritus professor of political science from California State University in Los Angeles (CSULA), and Marjorie Bray, director of Latin American Studies (LAS) at CSULA, endorsed the Militant Fighting Fund and gave a financial donation this week. Both are well-known academic figures here. Last year, LAS helped organize a shipment of food for the Co-Op miners.

Walter Flores, a port truck driver in Los Angeles, also endorsed the campaign. He has closely followed the fight for a union at the Co-Op mine. “This is what we are trying to do at the ports,” he said. The port drivers, almost all born in Mexico or Central America, are in a see-saw battle to organize more than 10,000 drivers who carry shipments to and from the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports. Flores took a pile of brochures and said he would talk to other drivers about supporting the case.



The following is an excerpt of a message to the *Militant* from Moisés Mory, president of United Steelworkers Local 13742 at Foamex International in New Jersey. He has been in jail fighting deportation since May 2004.

“You have to continue to fight tirelessly until the victory is complete, and then continue supporting the coal miners so they are able to organize their union defending the rights of workers. I give my complete moral support to the *Militant*, *Salt Lake Tribune*, *Deseret Morning News*, Socialist Workers Party, and United Mine Workers of America. I hope you reach the projected fund-raising goal of \$60,000 to continue this fight.”

SAVE THE DATE!

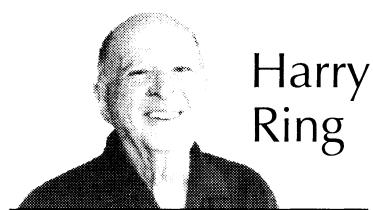
**Coal miners who have been fighting to win representation by the United Mine Workers of America at the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah, have set August 27 as the date for a solidarity picnic. The picnic will take place in Huntington. The union-organizing struggle started Sept. 22, 2003. For further information call UMW District 22 at (435) 637-2037.**

### Help raise \$60,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund!

Country/City	Quota	Collected	%
UNITED STATES			
Houston	3,000	1,795	60%
San Francisco	6,000	3,405	57%
Boston	3,000	1,650	55%
Los Angeles	4,000	1,750	44%
Philadelphia	3,400	1,455	43%
Des Moines	1,200	425	35%
Miami	3,000	1,000	33%
Pittsburgh	3,500	1,155	33%
New York	8,500	2,515	30%
Chicago	4,700	1,142	24%
Price, UT	1,000	235	24%
Washington, D.C.	2,000	290	15%
Twin Cities	2,000	262	13%
Salt Lake City	1,000	128	13%
Birmingham	750	0	0%
Seattle	4,400	0	0%
Atlanta		1,137	
Newark		105	
U.S. Other		275	
U.S. total	51,450	18,724	38%
AUSTRALIA		60	
CANADA		455	
ICELAND		40	
NEW ZEALAND			
Auckland	1,100	0	0%
Christchurch	400	0	0%
N.Z. total	1,500	0	0%
SWEDEN		160	
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh		40	
London		105	
UK total		145	
Int'l total	52,950	19,584	33%
Goal/Should be	60,000	26,667	44%



**Next, if you're not dead—** Under a new policy at the Los Angeles County jails, sick inmates must get the OK from a nurse to see a doctor. If the nurse rules there's no need for a doctor, the rejects have to



**Harry Ring**

cough up \$3. And, if the prisoner is still ill and comes back, the nurse-gatekeeper charges another \$3.

**Out on the street—**Philip Purcell lost his job as top dog at Morgan Stanley, the global banking service. However, he will receive \$250,000 a year for life, plus medical insurance and \$43.9 million bonus money.

**Mom! I got a job!**—James McNerney, the new top dog at

Boeing aircraft, will "earn" a pay package totaling \$53 million a year. Annual wages are a modest \$1.75 million annually. The rest is business and stock options.

**Note to inmates—**Kirk Shelton, former assistant top dog at the Cendant Corp., faces up to 15 years. He was convicted of inflating company earnings by \$286 million. He asked the judge to grant him probation and community services. He says he's devoted to

his family, works in the community, and has a reputation for integrity.

**A nation of home owners?**—Utah Habitat for Humanity is facing major difficulty in its effort to build some low-cost housing. Hit by the run-away cost of building materials, the organization was able to build but two homes last year. This year it will be one.

**Deep pockets—**Vice President Cheney must be purr-

ing. The Pentagon reports that Halliburton, the top war contractor, has passed the \$9 billion mark. The latest deal is nearly \$5 billion. Prior to his election, Cheney was top dog at Halliburton. Currently, he receives paid leave. The new contract was signed in May and disclosed in July. An Army spokesperson offers a lucid explanation: "We did not announce this task order as this is really not something we ever really thought about doing."

## Miners' deaths on job show bosses' disregard for safety

BY CLAY DENNISON  
AND SUSAN LAMONT

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama—Two miners have been killed and a third has been seriously injured in Alabama coal mines so far this year. The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) has blamed one of the deaths on the company's failure to ensure safe conditions, and miners attributed the near-fatality to company negligence.

In Pennsylvania, a 26-year-old mine roof bolter, Boyd Beer Jr., was killed June 10 at the Tracy Lynne Mine. Rosebud Mining owns the mine, located 30 miles northeast of Pittsburgh.

According to MSHA, nine workers have been killed in U.S. coal mines in 2005, five of them between May 11 and June 10.

Prince "Peanut" Hagler, a motorman at Jim Walter No. 4 coal mine in Brookwood, Alabama, was the victim of a near-fatal accident at the bottom of the shaft. "Everyone was devastated when he lost both his arms," said Mike Foster, a fellow member of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 2245 who was a co-worker and long-time friend of Hagler.

Foster reported in an interview that Hagler's arms were crushed by a piece of mine equipment that Hagler was helping to unload from the cage. The equipment moved forward unexpectedly, pinning Hagler's arms. The cage is an elevator that brings men and equipment from the surface down the shaft into the working part of the mine.

Hagler had a heart attack on the way to the hospital. Foster reported that Jim Walter's head of "human resources" at the mine went to the hospital the next day and tried to blame Hagler for the accident, upsetting his family and angering his coworkers. Both Hagler's arms had to be amputated. "This was negligence by the company," Foster said. He said procedures in place for years for how to move the equipment involved had not been followed.

"Co-workers have taken up more

than \$4,000 for Peanut's family," Foster added. "We take up money every week for them." Hagler, 56, has worked as a miner for nearly 30 years.

This incident follows two fatalities in other Alabama mines this year. On June 1, Robert Patilla, 42, an electrician, was fatally injured working underground at the Pittsburg & Midway Coal Mining Company's North River No. 1 mine in the west Alabama town of Berry. MSHA reported. The miner was working night shift in the section feeder, a machine that feeds coal onto a conveyor belt, when the rotary breaker started. The machine has rotating crusher teeth designed to break up large pieces of rock and coal. The mine was closed for a day.

On February 16, Joshua Spivey, a 28-year-old contract worker employed by BOSS Industries, was killed at the Kellerman Preparation Plant, near Brookwood in Tuscaloosa County. The worker fell from the second floor of the preparation plant construction site onto a concrete slab. According to a MSHA report, "The accident occurred because management failed to ensure that openings, through which men or materials



Coal miners and relatives at Jim Walter No. 5 mine at Sept. 27, 2001, memorial for 13 killed in mine explosion. Nine miners have been killed in U.S. mines this year.

could fall, were protected by railings, barriers, covers or other protective devices." Spivey died from his injuries February 24.

Meanwhile, the Jim Walter No. 5 mine has been closed since late May due to flooding in the mine.

Thirteen miners were killed at that mine on Sept. 23, 2001, when two explosions rocked the mine. Before the

disaster, union members had warned the company of explosive methane gas and other dangerous conditions in the mine. A federal safety investigation held the company responsible for the disaster.

*Clay Dennison is a member of UMWA Local 2133 in Oak Grove, Alabama. Ryan Scott from Pittsburgh contributed to this article.*

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 1, 1980

The National Black Lung Association has called a protest rally for July 27 in Morgantown [West Virginia] to fight recent attacks on the right of disabled coal miners to receive compensation.

"It's time to hit the streets again," says Bill Worthington, a disabled miner and president of the Black Lung Association.

The rally proposal was unanimously adopted by a July 19 planning meeting attended by more than eighty working miners, black lung victims, and other activists. They came from Kentucky, Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Illinois as well as West Virginia.

The right of retired miners—their lungs scarred or destroyed by coal dust—to receive compensation has come under new attack in recent months.

The coal companies, which are responsible for paying the compensation, routinely contest whether a miner has black lung. Their stalling means it can take years to qualify.



August 1, 1955

The U.S. government is no neutral in the struggle between the Algerian nationalist movement and French imperialism. U.S. aid is going to the French.

The July-August issue of Toward Freedom, a newsletter on colonial affairs, published in Chicago gives the following information: The Air Force press desk in Washington on Feb. 21 confirmed that an American plane and pilot dropped French paratroopers over Algeria on Feb. 4 in an operation against revolutionary forces.

On June 23, the French government announced that Washington granted priorities for helicopters to be used by the French army in Algeria. The "whirlybirds" are of crucial importance in guerilla warfare.

"On precisely the same day," says Toward Freedom, "the House of Representatives without opposition called for a foreign policy 'to support other peoples to achieve self-government or independence.'"

That resolution was aimed solely against the Kremlin and conveniently overlooked Eisenhower's aid to French imperialism.



August 15, 1930

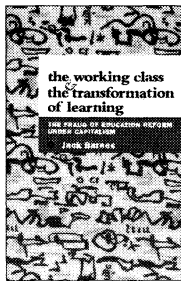
Hardly had the stock market collapse and the mass unemployment that followed right on its heels had time to sink into the minds of the working class than that ever faithful footman of the American capitalist class William Green rushed to the Hoover employers' conference to pledge that he would do all in his power to prevent any strikes in the coming period.

America's industrialists winkingly assured Green, without smiling, that on their part they would not undertake to cut labor's wages.

The costs of the crisis must be shifted to the shoulders of those who profited by the prosperity, the capitalists, and who now want the workers to suffer from the decline. The demand must be raised everywhere for recognition of the Soviet Union and long-term credits to it so that it can commence the purchase of machinery here on a large scale. The demand for social insurance to be paid by the state and the boss, must be developed until the force behind it cannot be resisted.

### For Further Reading

**The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning:**  
The Fraud of Education Reform under Capitalism  
by Jack Barnes



\$3.00

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# How miners defied 'no-strike' pledge in WW II

Reprinted below are excerpts from an account of the 1943 strikes that the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) waged during World War II, successfully defying the strikebreaking moves by the administration of President Franklin Roosevelt. Washington had imposed a wartime wage freeze and compulsory arbitration of all labor disputes through a War Labor Board (WLB). It had won a no-strike pledge from class-collaborationist labor officials, who backed the imperialist war effort. In defiance of these antilabor measures, coal miners went on strike over the coal operators' efforts to increase hours and freeze pay.

When Roosevelt threatened to send in troops to break the strike, the miners stood their ground and faced down the government. Their victory opened the road to the strike wave that exploded in 1945-46.

These excerpts are taken from Labor's Giant Step: The First Twenty Years of the CIO: 1936-55, by Art Preis. Copyright © 1972 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission. Subheadings are by the Militant.

## BY ART PREIS

There were many signs of the growing restiveness of the industrial workers as 1942 drew to a close and during the opening months of 1943.

The coal miners, for the most part isolated in small towns, were squeezed worst of all. When Pennsylvania anthracite miners started an unauthorized walkout on January 2, 1943, it was clear that they had reached a point of open revolt against economic conditions.

On March 10, the UMW opened negotiations with the Appalachian soft coal operators. Among the seven demands [union president John L.] Lewis and the UMW committee presented to the mine owners were: (1) retention of the existing 35-hour, five-day week in the coal mining industry; (2) inclusion of all time traveled from the pit entrance to the point of work and back to the surface as part of the paid work time; (3) a \$2-per-day raise in base pay.

The UMW president cited the terrific accident rate in the mines due to lack of safety equipment: 64,000 men killed and injured in 1941; 75,000 in 1942; an estimated 100,000 in 1943, with the



Some of the 520,000 coal miners in 1943 who went on strike and said, "You can't dig coal with bayonets," in response to Franklin Roosevelt's threat to send in troops.

intensification of war production.

The mine owners brushed aside the UMW's demands and the Roosevelt administration intensified pressure on the union to capitulate.

Roosevelt himself intervened as the April 1 mine strike deadline approached. He asked the operators on March 27 to agree to extend the existing contract beyond April 1 and make any subsequent wage adjustment retroactive to that date. At the same time he said that the dispute must be settled "under the national no-strike agreement of December 26, 1941" with "final determination, if necessary, by the National War Labor Board."

The moral position of the miners was becoming stronger every day. The CIO [Congress of Industrial Organizations] and AFL [American Federation of Labor] leaders backed the miners' demands and, for the time being, refrained from open attacks on the UMW's threat to strike. Local bodies of the United Auto Workers and other CIO unions passed resolutions of unconditional support for the miners.

On April 22, the WLB announced it was assuming jurisdiction of the case. The UMW refused to appear before this "court packed against labor." On April 24, WLB Chairman Davis announced that the board would consider the case only within the framework of the Little Steel Formula, which automatically ruled out any raises for the miners.

Miners in Western Pennsylvania and Alabama left the pits that same day, a week in advance of the truce deadline.

The United Press reported that 41,000 bituminous miners were already out.

## FDR as strikebreaker

The spreading coal strike forced Roosevelt to step forward personally to take public responsibility for leading the opposition to the miners. He telegraphed Lewis on April 29 that he would use "all the powers vested in me as President and Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy" if the strikes were not ended by the morning of May 1. Roosevelt's threat brought an immediate defiant reply from the mine workers. Nearly 10,000 Ohio miners left the pits. By the morning of Saturday, May 1, every union soft coal mine in the country was closed.

The national strike of the miners was not only the largest coal strike the country had seen up to this time. It was the largest single strike of any kind the land had ever known. It was carried out with a dispatch, discipline and single-minded determination that had never been surpassed in the American labor movement.

The press did surpass itself in the volume of vituperation, slanders and threats hurled at the miners and Lewis. Lewis was linked with Hitler in newsreels, on the radio, in countless newspaper cartoons. Union leaders joined the chorus of anti-labor forces who were screaming for nothing less than the destruction of the miners union under the guise of aiding the war for "democracy."

On May 1 Roosevelt himself ordered government seizure of the struck coal mines under Solid Fuels Administrator Harold L. Ickes. Ickes "seized" the mines by promptly ordering the American flag to be flown over all mine properties and directing all mine owners and managers to run the mines as government agents in the name of the government—all profits to continue as usual. Ickes then declared the miners were working "for the Government" and ordered them back to work.

The miners didn't budge.

It was during the first of the series of wartime coal mine strikes that the Communist Party revealed to what depths of treachery it could really sink

in order to demonstrate to the United States capitalists how useful the CP could be to them if American capitalism would make some kind of permanent deal with the Kremlin.

The May 1-4 national coal strike brought the anti-labor, strikebreaking activities of the Communist Party to a peak of ferocity that the vilest capitalist enemies of the unions did not surpass. On April 29 the *Daily Worker* carried a front-page appeal by CP National Chairman William Z. Foster, urging the miners not to respond to their union's strike call.

On the morning of June 1, some 530,000 miners refrained from entering the pits "without any special strike call being issued and with casual matter-of-factness," as George Breitman, the *Militant's* correspondent, wrote from the mining area around Pittsburgh.

## 'Can't dig coal with bayonets'

Roosevelt, on June 3, threatened to call out the troops unless the miners returned to work by June 7.... The miners merely shrugged and repeated their classic phrase: "You can't dig coal with bayonets."

By the time the official strike deadline, November 1, had arrived, all 530,000 coal miners were out, for their fourth official national wartime strike within one year.

Roosevelt was at the end of his rope. He could not arrest 530,000 miners. He could not force them to go down into the pits at bayonet point, and even if he could, they need not mine an ounce of coal. He could not jail Lewis and the UMW leaders, for the miners swore they would strike "till Hell freezes over" if Lewis were victimized in any way. The President again seized the struck mines and authorized Ickes to negotiate a contract.

The WLB on November 20 finally agreed to a contract acceptable to the union and contractors. This fixed the mine wage at \$57.07 a week and provided \$40 to each miner for retroactive payment for travel time.

The UMW Policy Committee ratified the new contract on November 3 and instructed the miners to return to work. They had cracked the wage freeze.

If the miners had not fought and won, if they had been defeated, it would have meant not only the crippling and possibly the crushing of one of the most powerful industrial unions—the UMW—but a demoralizing blow of shattering proportions for the auto, rubber, steel, electrical equipment, and other CIO workers. The government would have introduced new "formulas" to slash wages, increase hours of work and intensify the exploitation of labor in the name of patriotism and the "needs of the war."

Instead, the miners' victory opened a whole new wave of labor struggle, mounting steadily through 1943, 1944 and 1945, reaching a titanic climax in the winter of 1945-46.

The miners themselves were able to go on from victory to victory in the war and immediate postwar period, winning many new gains, such as health and welfare funds, retirement pensions and other conditions, which then became objectives of the CIO unions as well.

## FOR FURTHER READING

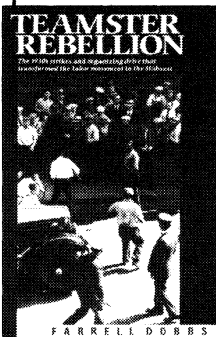
### Labor's Giant Step

by Art Preis

The story of the explosive labor struggles and political battles in the 1930s that built the industrial unions. And how those unions became the vanguard of a mass social movement that began transforming U.S. society. \$30.00

### The Socialist Workers Party in World War II

by James P. Cannon \$24.95



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# Socialist Workers Party wins exemption in Seattle from disclosing campaign donors

BY STEVE CLARK

SEATTLE, July 14—Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party mayoral ticket converged on the campaign headquarters here today to celebrate victory in the party's eight-year fight for exemption from city election code requirements to publicly disclose names, addresses, and jobs of contributors.

At a hearing earlier that day, the Seattle Ethics and Election Commission (SEEC) approved the exemption, which it has denied the SWP since 1997. The campaign was represented at the hearing by Seattle political rights attorney James Lobsenz.

In his talk to the evening celebration, Chris Hoepfner, the Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate, noted the significance of the victory. Hoepfner is a meat packer and longtime trade unionist and socialist campaigner. Identifying contributors in Seattle or elsewhere, he said, would provide an "enemies list" to bosses, cops, government agencies, and others seeking to victimize supporters of socialist candidates.

Among the most recent evidence submitted to the SEEC were affidavits reporting two incidents targeting the party's campaign headquarters in Los Angeles.

The day before the hearing, the storefront of the Los Angeles office was vandalized, scattering glass some 30 feet. In May a U.S. postal inspector there reported intercepting hate mail sent to the office. A U.S. attorney said in June that envelopes sent by the same person to others in the area contained a hypodermic needle and syringe.

## State sets August 11 hearing

With the Seattle victory in hand, the Socialist Workers campaign is now seeking an exemption from the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission (PDC), which has set a special hearing for August 11.

Unlike in most parts of the country, the SWP and other smaller parties in Seattle and Washington State must apply for local and state exemptions each time they run candidates. Without both releases the campaign committee can accept donations of no more than \$25, limiting the socialists' ability to print brochures and fund other activities to present a working-class alternative to candidates of the employers' parties.

Since the 1970s "campaign finance reform" has been vigorously pushed on federal, state, and local levels by liberal Democrats such as those dominating Seattle city politics, including the SEEC. Liberal backers of such laws, who claim to speak for "clean government," in fact strengthen the capitalists' monopoly over sizeable electoral campaigns.

Speaking along with the SWP mayoral candidate at the July 14 celebration was this reporter, who had attended the SEEC hearing, as well as campaign supporter Betsy Farley, who chaired. Participants expressed determination to keep organizing the most active socialist campaign the SWP has run in Seattle in years. Hoepfner and backers of the

party's effort had been on the streets campaigning that very afternoon as the commission hearing was taking place.

The *Seattle Times*, one of two main dailies, ran an article the day of the hearing reporting the SWP exemption request, along with a follow-up the next day explaining the outcome.

## Bolsters federal exemption fight

The Seattle victory bolsters the SWP's fight to maintain its 26-year-long exemption from turning over names to the U.S. government. It helps all socialists, independent working-class candidates, union militants, and every participant in social protest activity to defend their ability to organize and act.

In 2003 the Federal Election Commission was convinced to extend the SWP exemption through 2008. The party has been represented before the FEC by its general counsel Michael Krinsky, a well-known constitutional rights attorney and senior partner in the law firm Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman. The New York firm has fought and won landmark civil liberties cases going back to the McCarthyite witch-hunt in the late 1940s, arguing several before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Socialist Workers Party's 2002 FEC request, prepared by Krinsky, took note of the SEEC's 1997 rejection of an SWP exemption, the sole denial in many years. The letter pointed out that the dozens of incidents of harassment since 1997, attested in sworn affidavits to the FEC, "only reinforce the continuing need" for exemption and show that "the Commissioners in Seattle had too sanguine a view in denying" the SWP request.

"Now, even the Seattle board has had to recognize the need for protection in face of compelling evidence of continuing harassment and threats," Krinsky told the *Militant*. "It would be nice to think that respect for free speech is so universal there is no longer need to preserve the confidentiality of contributors' identities, but, regrettably, the facts are otherwise."

"We will cite the Seattle decision in seeking exemptions from other disclosure requirements," Krinsky said.

## SWP letter to SEEC

The June letter to the SEEC from attorney James Lobsenz on behalf of the SWP pointed out that disclosure exemptions have been upheld by several U.S. Supreme Court decisions, including *Buckley v. Valeo* in 1976, and *Brown v. Socialist Workers 1974 Campaign Committee (Ohio)* in 1982.

The SWP petition also cited federal court rulings in 2003 and 2004 by U.S. District Judge Robert Lasnik reversing the SEEC's denial of an exemption to a Freedom Socialist Party candidate. Lasnik ruled the city's disclosure statute unconstitutional as applied by the Seattle commission.

The SWP submitted affidavits to the SEEC recounting some 85 incidents of violence and harassment since 1996, including the Los Angeles attacks and six

others from the past two years. Other affidavits recounted cop harassment, break-ins, vandalism, death threats, physical assaults, and firings or refusals to hire SWP candidates or campaigners.

The petition called attention to the Sept. 11, 2004, firebombing of the SWP campaign office in Hazelton, Pennsylvania.

## Government harassment

Drawing on earlier submissions to the FEC, the letter to the SEEC reported findings from the 15-year battle won by the SWP in 1986 in the lawsuit, *Socialist Workers Party v. Attorney General*. That fight put a spotlight on a sustained program of spying and disruption by the FBI and other cop agencies going back to Washington's preparations to drag working people into the slaughter of World War II in the late 1930s.

Over those decades the FBI used some 1,300 informers against the SWP, organized wiretaps, and carried out more than 200 burglaries of party offices. This record can be found in *FBI on Trial: The Victory in the Socialist Workers Party Suit against Government Spying*, published by Pathfinder.

Pointing to extensive evidence from recent years, the letter to the SEEC concluded that "officials at all levels of government continue to harass and threaten" SWP members and supporters.

Ten incidents submitted to the SEEC took place in Seattle. These include two 1998 threats to shoot supporters of the SWP campaign for U.S. Congress.

While calling attention to these local incidents, Lobsenz told the SEEC that the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that harassment in one city or state constitutes grounds to grant an exemption in others. Internet access to public records today, he said, makes this standard all the more compelling.

The SWP petition also pointed out that incidents submitted to the SEEC by the Freedom Socialist Party earlier



Militant/David Rosenfeld

Chris Hoepfner (center), Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Seattle, joins June 30 rally of workers fighting for union recognition at Ash Grove Cement.

this year "are relevant to the issue of whether there is a reasonable probability that SWP candidates and supporters will be harassed." In the wake of the recent federal court rulings, the SEEC granted the SWP an exemption in April.

## Contentious hearing

The seven SEEC members voted unanimously to grant the SWP exemption. During the more than hour-long hearing, however, rancorous comments and questions by most commission members seemed to make clear they had done so grudgingly—not from belief an exemption was needed in liberal Seattle, but to avoid another federal court reversal.

Wayne Barnett, SEEC executive director, who is not a voting member, recommended granting the exemption. The SWP, Barnett said, clearly meets the test established by the federal courts. Others begged to differ.

"Transparency" in elections is "a value worth defending," insisted commissioner Paul Dayton. What if "a candidate's voice" is "influenced by money from a foreign state?" He disputed the SWP's contention that harassment of other socialist groups bore on its petition for exemption.

SEEC member Robert Mahon complained that federal courts had "set the bar so low" that granting the exemption seemed almost "automatic."

Gregg Hirakawa asked in apparent frustration: "Could anyone ever run as a socialist and not meet the courts' current test? How long must we grant these exemptions?"

Michelle Radosevich sympathized

Continued on page 9

## Vandals attack SWP office in L.A.

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

LOS ANGELES—Vandals broke one of the storefront windows of Pathfinder Books here in a July 13 attack. The address is known in the city as the headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party election campaign and the location where socialist literature is distributed.

No one was in the book center when the attack took place. The impact from the attack sent shattered glass flying 30 feet. A preliminary report was filed with the Los Angeles Police Department that day.

In May the Socialist Workers

campaign was told by the U.S. postal inspector here that "hate mail" had been sent to its address.

In response to the attack, Wendy Lyons, who was the Socialist Workers Party 2005 candidate for mayor of Los Angeles in the recently concluded elections, said, "fortunately no one was seriously injured in the attack. We condemn this assault and call for a full investigation and to arrest those responsible. We will not be intimidated, and will continue to join struggles by workers and farmers and campaign for a revolutionary working-class perspective."

# Pittsburgh campaign

Continued from front page

danger to the political rights of every working person, unionist, and defender of free speech," said Ressler. "We've struck a blow today in defense of workers fighting to defend union rights as well as those advocating changes in government."

Ressler, 57, is a coal miner at the Madison Mine in Cambria County, east of Pittsburgh. The socialist candidate gave the board of elections a letter from constitutional rights attorney Eric Lieberman, of the New York law firm Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman, who is representing the SWP in this case. The loyalty oath requirement "is clearly unconstitutional under the [1974] decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Communist Party of Indiana v. Whitcomb*," the letter said. "In 1975, the State Attorney General issued a formal opinion stating that, on the basis of the *Whitcomb* case, the loyalty oath for State employees, which is identical to the Candidate's Affidavit, is unconstitutional and should not be enforced." Lieberman explained that Larry Boyle, counsel for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Elections Commissions had acknowledged these facts and advised that Ressler should cross out the "loyalty provision" in his affidavit.

Brian McDonald, a spokesperson for the Pennsylvania Department of State in Harrisburg, told the *Militant* that

after being contacted by the SWP's attorney, state officials discussed the loyalty oath matter with Allegheny County officials. Because the seat Ressler is running for is a local one, and not statewide, McDonald said, "Ultimately, it's the county's call, not ours. It would be our call if he was running for a state office." McDonald declined to say whether a candidate for state office who refused to sign the loyalty oath would be eligible for ballot status. "The code states what it states," he said. "We'll cross that bridge when we come to it."

At a press conference today outside the local election board offices, the Socialist Workers Party also announced the nomination of two additional candidates in the November elections: Cynthia Jaquith, 58, a meat packer who is running for Pittsburgh city council; and Ryan Scott, 22, a coal miner running for county council. Scott, a member of the Young Socialists, is a leader of organizing activities in Pittsburgh to send a delegation of young people to the 16th World Festival of Youth and Students in August in Caracas, Venezuela.

Ressler gave the press a statement signed by nine coal miners at Consol Energy's 84 mine, who protested the "anti-subversive" pledge as "designed to intimidate and deter union fighters, activists for social justice, and others from participating in politics." The miners are members of United Mine Workers of America Local 1197. One of them is Brian Taylor, the 2005 SWP campaign director in Pittsburgh.

"I am proud of you and I understand why you didn't sign the loyalty oath," Jamie Hebb told Ressler after hearing the news. Hebb is a former coworker of Ressler at High Quality, a UMW-organized coal mine, who now works in a mine in Maryland.

After reviewing the SWP petitions



Militant/Marty Ressler

Cynthia Jaquith announcing her campaign as Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council in Pittsburgh, July 20. Also running on the socialist ticket is Jay Ressler for mayor and Ryan Scott for county council.

for over an hour, board of elections workers said they stopped counting at 1,776 signatures, well above the required 1,041. Ballot petitions may be challenged until August 11, they added.

After filing, Ressler was interviewed by reporters from WDUQ, the local National Public Radio affiliate; the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, one of Pittsburgh's two dailies; WAMO Radio, a station oriented to the Black community; and WQV Radio. The WDUQ reporter asked Ressler if his opponents in the mayor's race might use his refusal to sign the loyalty oath against him. "Well, they may," Ressler replied, "but then they'll be going up against strong opposition by working people to thought-control measures of this kind."

The same reporter asked whether it was worth running a socialist campaign "when the Democrats pretty much have the election sewn up already." Ressler said it was. "Working people face an unrelenting offensive by the employers," he said. "Driven by the

need to reverse declining profit rates, the bosses are intensifying speedup, lengthening work hours, throwing job safety to the wind, cutting pensions and health-care coverage, probing to undermine Social Security, and seeking to break down solidarity among working people.

"The SWP supports workers' struggles to organize trade unions and mobilize union power to defend working people from assaults by the employers and their twin parties of capitalism—the Democrats and Republicans. We call for a labor party based on the unions that fights in the interests of working people.

"There are no 'Pittsburgh solutions' to the deepening economic and social crises," Ressler continued. "The wars Washington and its allies are fighting abroad—from Iraq to Afghanistan to others they are preparing against Iran and north Korea—are an extension of assaults at home against the living standards and job conditions of workers and farmers. We call for

Continued on page 9

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# Back Militant Fighting Fund!

Winning new endorsements and securing financial contributions are urgently needed as part of defeating a harassment lawsuit by C.W. Mining Company and the management-run group called the International Association of United Workers Union at the Co-Op coal mine near Huntington, Utah. The suit targets the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), Co-Op miners fighting to win UMWA representation, unions and others who have supported the miners, and newspapers that have covered what is now a 22-month-long struggle.

The *Militant* is one of those being sued for defamation. We are targeted because of our consistent coverage of the miners' struggle, our accurate reporting of what the workers involved have to say about their determined fight to be represented by the UMWA and be reinstated in their jobs with safe working conditions and a pay scale worthy of a union mine. The bosses' suit also lashes out at the *Militant's* editorial support for the union-organizing fight.

The Militant Fighting Fund has been established to win support to beat back this attack and to help cover the *Militant's* rapidly mounting costs in this case—the most important labor defense case in the United States today. The effort to win support for this campaign is advancing, as the broadening number of endorsers listed in the new Militant Fighting Fund brochure shows. These include Ricardo Icaza, president of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor; Randy Jasper of Family Farm Defenders in

Wisconsin; Bruce Nestor, former president of the National Lawyers Guild; and Ismael Guadalupe, a leader of the successful fight to get the U.S. Navy out of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

Contributions are needed now. Legal bills are due from the June court hearing on the case. Substantial expenses are mounting as attorneys representing the *Militant* prepare to respond to a new complaint by the Utah mine bosses.

As of today, some \$19,000 has been collected in the current effort to raise \$60,000 for the fund by August 15. In this week's issue we are listing quotas toward this goal adopted by local supporters of the campaign (see page 4). Drawing on and expanding that support can help meet the challenge of raising tens of thousands of dollars in the next four weeks. When the issues in this fight and the pressing need for funds are explained, those who lend their names as endorsers are usually glad to chip in financially too.

The new brochure on the Militant Fighting Fund is an effective tool to win support for this fight. It is available in English, Spanish, and French at [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com), along with letters from endorsers. Readers and supporters of the *Militant* can also aid the defense effort by submitting short articles to the paper reporting on progress in their areas—who is signing on and why, and how they see the importance of defending the miners, the UMWA, and the newspapers that report on the miners' union battle.

## Copper strikers in Arizona win support

**Continued from front page**

Workers, International Association of Machinists (IAM), and Boilermakers.

Workers say they struck over unfair labor practices by the owners. "The company is not negotiating," said Daniel Madrigal, a member of USW Local 886, who has worked 27 years at the Asarco smelter in Hayden, Arizona. The bosses demanded concessions and have refused to talk, despite repeated proposals from the union to open negotiations, pickets said. Concession demands include a wage freeze, cuts to pensions and health benefits, and the extension of shifts from the current 8 hours to 12 hours without overtime pay.

Madrigal said the way the company makes job assignments jeopardizes workers' safety. "They assign people without enough training and people get hurt," he said. "Sometimes they have one man doing a two-person job."

## Victory in Seattle

**Continued from page 7**

but cautioned her colleagues that the SEEC had received "guidance from Judge Lasnik it would be foolish to ignore."

Mahon repeatedly objected that protections perhaps reasonable for the SWP did not seem pertinent, since Seattle's mayoral race is "nonpartisan."

Lobsenz pulled out the party's campaign brochure and held it up for the commissioners, reading the headlines to them: "Support the Socialist Workers 2005 Campaign! Chris Hoepfner for Mayor of Seattle." The brochure, he added, features the party's 2005 platform: "What the Socialist Workers Party stands and fights for."

Funds continue to be urgently needed for legal costs as the SWP prepares for the August 11 Washington State Public Disclosure Commission and responds to other violations of election rights. Checks should be made out to the Socialist Workers Party. Those wishing to make tax-deductible donations can write checks to the Political Rights Defense Fund, earmarked "2005 SWP electoral rights fight." Address envelopes to the SWP headquarters, 5418 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98118-2439.

Asarco, one of the world's largest copper producers, was purchased by Grupo Mexico in 1999. "Since Grupo took over they've said the wages are too high," noted Ernest Bustamante, another member of USW Local 886.

Strikers report that so far the contractors who do work at the mines have honored their picket lines. But they are coming under increasing pressure to cross. "Road Machinery workers said they wouldn't cross," said Dennis Mar, referring to a contractor. "But Asarco said if they don't, they won't pay Road Machinery money that's already owed. We need other unions to refuse to handle work related to Asarco." Mar is a mechanic at the company's Mission mine and a member of the Teamsters union.

Individual workers and a few local union delegations, including from the IAM at Raytheon in Tucson, have joined the picket lines to show their solidarity. On July 16 the striking unions organized a women's support day. Relatives of strikers and some of the women who work at the mine beefed up the picket lines that day.

Over the last six months the company had done a lot of hiring, pickets report. Strikers at the Mission mine, a smaller operation south of Tucson, said a number of new hires have crossed the line there. It's a different story at the large mine in Kearny and the smelter in neighboring Hayden. Manuel Ceniceros, a shop steward in USW Local 915, said new hires who are not yet in the union have been staying away and not crossing the picket lines. The union will fight to protect their jobs, he said.

Bill Grime, picketing the smelter July 17, said he had just started in the flash furnace last September, after working for construction contractors that are nonunion. "I never had any benefits before, and no protection," he said, explaining why he supports the union.

Several strikers said union officials from their locals have been talking with unionists at Grupo Mexico's mine and smelter in Sonora, Mexico, whose contract is about to expire. Some 2,100 members of the National Miners Union waged a hard-fought strike in 1999 at the owners' massive mine in Cananea, Mexico.

*Dean Hazlewood contributed to this article.*

## Pittsburgh campaign



Militant/Tony Lane

Jay Ressler (second from left), SWP candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh, files petitions at board of elections July 20, along with campaign supporter Devin Gorney (left). At right is Mark Wolosik, Allegheny County Board of Elections division manager.

**Continued from page 8**

Washington to withdraw all its troops from these countries—now!"

Among those who joined the SWP candidate in filing was Devin Gorney, 17, a restaurant worker. "The loyalty oath was proven unconstitutional 30 years ago," Gorney said. "It was bad enough when it was first introduced and it's disgraceful that they've brought it back again. I hope the SWP campaign will bring some attention to this and we get a lot of support."

Gorney was part of a group of young people in Pittsburgh who traveled to New York the weekend of July 16–17 to help campaign for the SWP slate in New York, headed by mayoral candidate Martín Koppel. In Pittsburgh the week before, Maura DeLuca, who recently joined the Young Socialists, and Chris Sang, a University of Pittsburgh student, participated in a campaign team for Ressler at a street festival in East Liberty, a largely Black working-class district, where the SWP campaign office is located.

*Joel Britton and Cindy Jaquith contributed to this article.*

## Seattle socialist slate

**Continued from front page**

Western Council of Industrial Workers, which represents workers who recently won a union contract for the first time at the Snokist cannery in Yakima after a seven-month strike. "Our union in Yakima received a lot of support from the SWP and the party spread the word about our fight for better working conditions and benefits nationally and internationally," he said.

"I think it is a good thing that the Socialist Workers Party won the exemption," added Montes, after learning that the SWP will not have to turn over names of campaign contributors to the city of Seattle (see article on page 7).

"It's great" that the SWP won the right not to disclose contributors, said Patrick O'Connor, a long time member of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 19 in Seattle. O'Connor was part of a delegation of longshore workers and other unionists who joined a union delegation to Utah in solidarity with coal miners organizing to win representation by the United Mine Workers of America at the Co-Op mine there.

O'Connor also welcomed the announcement of the Socialist Workers slate in the election. "It's better than the two-party system and a step forward for the labor movement," he said. O'Connor said he is planning to participate in the August 27 anniversary event in Huntington, Utah, to support the Co-Op miners' organizing efforts (see box on page 4).

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