

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

125,000 tell Carter: No nukes!



Militant/Anne Teesdale

WASHINGTON, MAY 6—Spurred to action by Three Mile Island nightmare, protesters converged on Capitol in largest antinuclear demonstration ever held in United States. See pages 2, 3, 11-15.

Support the rubber strike!

Carter's wage-cut drive threatens all workers

Labor's alternative to nuclear power

The day after 125,000 demonstrators converged on Washington, D.C., Carter gave his answer to their demands against the nuclear danger.

It is "out of the question," he declared May 7, to shut down all the nation's nuclear plants. He added, "We do, however, want to shift toward alternative energy supplies and also a strict conservation commitment to minimize the requirement for the use of nuclear power."

Carter's pronuclear stance has already been judged as an exploitable weak spot by presidential contenders in the Democratic Party.

At the May 6 rally, participants were treated to an appearance by California Gov. Jerry Brown, a 1980 presidential hopeful.

But the only program Brown offered the demonstrators was: "Join the politics of the future. Join life. Join the moratorium" against construction of new nuclear plants.

Another unannounced presidential candidate, Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy, didn't show up at the rally. But he sent a message saying, "A national reassessment is under way in Congress and the nation to determine whether any additional commitments to nuclear power should be made. I am glad to be a part of that reassessment."

When you get right down to it, all three—Carter, Brown, and Kennedy—said pretty much the same thing—keep the nuclear plants going.

The 125,000 protesters did not travel to Washington May 6 to demand a moratorium on new plants, or as Kennedy puts it, "a reassessment of additional commitments."

They marched because they are faced *today* with poisonous low-level radiation emitted from nuclear plants. They are confronted *constantly* with the risk of nuclear disasters like Three Mile Island. They are dying *now* of

cancer caused by nuclear weapons testing. They are deeply concerned with the deadly nuclear wastes accumulating *every hour*.

They want an *immediate* halt to the nuclear danger.

But the capitalist politicians say they can't shut down nuclear plants because there are no immediate alternatives. They say we have to wait until these are developed.

But there *is* an immediate alternative: Shut the nukes down today! Use the coal plants already in existence and expand coal production to meet the nation's needs for electric power. This could be done *right now* while other energy sources are developed.

The United Mine Workers union points out that there is no need to devote gigantic federal subsidies to the nuclear risk. There are vast coal reserves waiting to be mined.

The entire labor movement should be fighting for this alternative.

If the energy industry says it can't "afford" to use coal because of the costs of environmental standards and union safety demands, the unions should respond: "Let's open the books of the energy corporations to public inspection. Let's see just how small the costs are compared with the profits the companies rake in."

Such a campaign by the labor movement would provide a real answer to the lies and crimes of the nuclear industry and the government.

British elections and class struggle

The victory of Conservative Party leader Margaret Thatcher in the May 3 British elections was a further step in the capitalist drive against the wages, living conditions, and union rights of British workers. While the defeat of the Labour Party was a setback, the election took place in the context of intensifying resistance by the working class to these attacks.

Thatcher's victory followed five years of procapitalist policies carried out by her Labour predecessors, Harold Wilson and James Callaghan. Instead of defending the interests of the working people who placed them in office, these class-collaborationist politicians instituted wage controls and social service cut-

backs aimed at increasing capitalist profits at workers' expense. Living standards of working people, none too high to begin with, deteriorated steadily.

Union members fought back with strikes that forced the employers to retreat from the sharpest attacks. Frustrated at the Labour government's incapacity to beat back union militancy, the capitalists turned to Thatcher in an effort to get the antilabor offensive back on the rails.

Thatcher campaigned on a frankly reactionary platform. She called for "right to work" laws, restrictions on the right to strike, moves against nonwhite immigration, and further cutbacks in social services. In foreign policy, she sent up trial balloons about recognizing the racist regime in Zimbabwe.

Thatcher's election signaled a rightward shift on the part of the British industrialists and bankers, but not by the masses of working people. Their growing desire to fight for decent living standards and union rights was deliberately obscured by the campaign rhetoric of Thatcher and Callaghan. Both portrayed the unions, which have stubbornly resisted the antilabor drive, as a problem.

While Thatcher aggressively pushed her anti-union proposals, Callaghan proposed more modest steps in the same direction. He indicated that his methods would be less likely to provoke explosive working-class opposition.

Thatcher had the advantage of seeming to represent "change" compared to Callaghan, who upheld the rotten record of his term in office. It is hardly surprising under the circumstances that most voters opted, without much enthusiasm, for a change of government.

Despite Callaghan, however, most organized workers voted for the party based on their unions—the Labour Party. They know that the living standards and human rights of working people can't be defended by strikes alone.

The prospect in Britain is for deepening class polarization and intensifying class struggle in the period ahead. A growing layer of militant, class-conscious workers in Britain are going to learn from the experience of this election and subsequent events that they need a class-struggle leadership both in the unions and in the Labour Party.

The working class needs a leadership that can fight to put a workers government in power to implement anticapitalist policies. The battles that are coming will present growing openings for the construction of such a leadership.

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May Day in Iran

Hundreds of thousands marched on international working-class holiday. The demand that the Bazargan government nationalize industry was widely raised. **Page 7.**

Newport News workers: 'Not bluffing'

Steelworkers in Newport News, Virginia, declared they are ready to strike again if Tenneco continues its stalling and refuses to recognize their union. **Page 4.**



Women postal workers meet

'A woman's place is in her union,' declared women members of the American Postal Workers Union, meeting for the first time. **Page 9.**

The Militant

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125,000 say: no nukes!

By Arnold Weissberg

WASHINGTON—They came from Harrisburg, thirty-three buses full. From Vermont and Alabama. From Illinois and Florida. From Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. From New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and Connecticut. From Rhode Island and Massachusetts. In all, they came from more than thirty states, and they filled Pennsylvania Avenue May 6 to demand an end to nuclear power.

They came from anti-nuclear power groups, from high schools and colleges, from unions, and from women's rights organizations. Many of the demonstrators were in their teens.

May 6 Coalition organizers estimated the crowd at 125,000. More than 600 charter buses carried people to the demonstration.

The unexpectedly large turnout, making it by far the biggest antinuclear protest ever in this country and one of the largest in the world, sharply indicated the spread of opposition to nuclear power since the Three Mile Island disaster.

It was also the first major demonstration to focus directly on the Carter administration's responsibility for the nuclear threat. "Uncle Sam Lies About Nuke Safety," read one sign. "Split Peanuts, Not Atoms."

The huge contingent from Harrisburg led the one-and-a-half mile march to the Capitol. Late-arriving buses continued to swell the march, and the rally at the Capitol began long before the final marchers reached it.

Among the last to arrive were 160 people from Gainesville, Florida, who had ridden in buses for nineteen hours.

A multitude of homemade signs and banners created a colorful display that showed the breadth and depth of popular opposition to nuclear power.

Demonstrators from the Rocky Flats Action Group in Colorado spoke for many of the marchers in demanding



Thirty-three-bus contingent from Harrisburg led march

Militant/Arnold Weissberg

an end to both nuclear power and nuclear weapons. On April 28, 15,000 people had demonstrated at the Colorado nuclear weapons plant, calling for shutting it down.

Antiwar sentiment ran deep in the crowd at the Capitol. There was widespread recognition of the dangers of nuclear war and its connection to nuclear power. "If You Liked Hiroshima, You'll Love Three Mile Island," said one sign. "Stop the Draft," read another.

Signs also declared opposition to uranium mining on Indian land; support for the Karen Silkwood lawsuit; and opposition to creation of more nuclear waste.

For many of the marchers, this was their first big demonstration.

Becky Andrews and Karen Johns, high school students from Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, told the *Militant* they were at their second protest. The first had been at the Limerick nuclear power plant site two weeks before.

A junior high school student from a Washington suburb said she had been on only one other demonstration, in support of striking coal miners last year.

Thousands of people came from central Pennsylvania, the general area near Three Mile Island. Signs identified marchers from Harrisburg, Sharon, Lancaster County, and York. "Twelve miles from TMI—People over property," read the York sign.

The *Militant* asked a woman from Hershey, fifteen miles from Three Mile Island, why she had come to Washington. "We were scared," she said. "This is a cause I really believe in. We're still getting radiation down there. You can't believe 'em [the government] and their three main words are 'We don't know.'" She added that she thought all nuclear power plants should be shut down. "Switch to coal and sun," her companion, another Hershey woman, said.

The crowd included many students

from colleges and universities throughout the eastern half of the country, and from high schools and junior highs. At least 100 students came from Walter Johnson High in nearby Bethesda.

Signs emphasized that radiation endangers the future of the human race. "The NRC Played Russian Roulette With My Children," read one. "Nuclear Waste is Unhealthy for Children and Other Living Things," read another.

A troop of twenty-four uniformed girl scouts from Paterson, New Jersey, stood on the sidewalk as the march passed, enthusiastically chanting, "No more nukes!" while waving balloons with antinuclear slogans. Their troop leader explained they had come down to Washington for the weekend on a field trip, not for the march, but "the kids really got into it."

A group of railroad workers marched under a banner from Lodge 190 of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen, Washington, D.C. The local had voted May 4 to oppose nuclear power and support the May 6 protest—without a dissenting vote.

Steelworkers came from Local 1010 in East Chicago, Indiana, and Local 6787 in Burns Harbor. The Local 1010 contingent was led by Mike Olszanski, chairperson of the local's environmental committee. Both locals, along with Steelworkers District 31, have publicly opposed construction of the Baily nuclear power plant near Gary.

There were also steelworkers from Pittsburgh, Baltimore, and Hartford, Connecticut; auto workers and postal workers from New Jersey; rail workers from Philadelphia; and coal miners.

"Why are you here?" the *Militant* asked Bob Speth, a member of Steelworkers Local 12046 in Pittsburgh. "We've been lied to long enough," Speth answered.

Dozens of local anti-nuclear power

Continued on page 12

So. Africa convicts 11 Blacks in frame-up trial

By Ernest Harsch

Eleven young Black student activists were found guilty April 30 of "sedition" against South Africa's racist system of apartheid, with sentences to be handed down May 11.

The verdict marked the end of one of the most important political trials in South Africa in recent years.

All eleven youths were active participants in the massive urban rebellions that shook Soweto and other Black townships throughout 1976. Most were leaders or activists of the Soweto Students Representative Council (SSRC), which led many of the protests. One of the defendants, Daniel Sechaba Montsisi, was president of the SSRC at the time of his arrest nearly two years ago.

The prosecution made no attempt to hide the political nature of the trial. The indictment against the eleven accused them of striving "to create political, social and/or cultural awareness and solidarity amongst Black schoolgoing students with the ultimate object of contributing towards the liberation of Blacks in the Republic of South Africa. . . ."

The regime attempted to use the trial to portray the 1976 uprising as the work of a handful of "agitators," who used violence and intimidation to stir up an otherwise "contented" Black population. Not surprisingly, that effort failed. Even the prosecution's own witnesses, despite the police torture that some of them had suffered, testi-

fied to the massive nature of the protests and the deep opposition among Blacks to white supremacy.

What actually transpired in the courtroom, however, had little to do with the fate of the defendants. The regime needed a guilty verdict as a club to use against other Black political activists. The outcome of the "trial" was a foregone conclusion, regardless of the weaknesses of the prosecution's case.

Judge Hendrik van Dyk found the eleven guilty of the following "crimes":

- Organizing the initial June 16, 1976, student demonstration in Soweto, which marked the beginning of the uprisings.

- Organizing a general strike by

Black workers against the regime.

- Initiating a demonstration against the visit of American Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to South Africa in September 1976.

- Burning school textbooks as a protest against the racist education system.

Despite the conviction of the eleven freedom fighters, the apartheid regime can expect similar "crimes" to be committed in the future. Blacks have shown through their struggles that even the fiercest repression cannot keep them down indefinitely. In the words of one of the SSRC leaflets submitted as evidence in the trial:

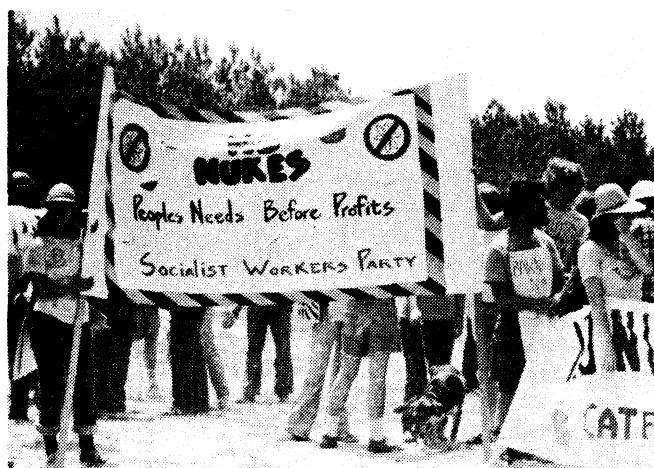
"We are determined to free ourselves from the shackles of the oppressor."

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Warns company: 'We're not bluffing'

Newport News union ready to resume strike

By Jon Hillson
and Greg Kobey

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.—Steelworkers here are prepared to resume their strike against Newport News Shipbuilding if the company continues to stall on recognizing the union.

That was the immediate response of United Steelworkers officials when the latest round of vote fraud charges against the union were found on May 4 to be completely phony.

"This is a suspended strike, not a terminated strike," declared USWA District 35 Director Bruce Thrasher. "We have the option to resume, and whether we invoke that option is up to the company. They're at the crossroads. It's a warning. If they think we're bluffing, let them call our bluff."

A majority of the 15,500 production and maintenance workers in the yard struck for eighty-two days this year for union recognition. They suspended the walkout April 23 to regroup their forces and await new developments in the legal wrangling over bargaining rights.

The Steelworkers won a union representation election in the shipyard all the way back in January 1978, defeating the Peninsula Shipbuilders Association, a company union. But Tenneco, the multi-billion-dollar oil firm that owns the shipyard, has stopped at nothing—from interminable legal appeals to police violence—to keep the union out.

The May 4 ruling was a recommendation by Melvin Welles, an administrative law judge for the National Labor Relations Board, that the NLRB "reaffirm its previous conclusion that the Steelworkers were properly certified" as winners of the election. Welles recommended dismissal of the vote fraud charges against USWA Local 8888 raised by Tenneco and the PSA.

In hearings before Welles last month, a parade of Tenneco-PSA scabs and finks claimed to have seen some blank ballots in polling places during



Militant/Nancy Schwalb

Morale was high on picket line during Newport News strike. Now workers are ready to go out again if company sticks tough.

the voting. This was alleged to be evidence of "chain voting"—passing ballots outside to be marked.

Many of the procompany witnesses, it was revealed, had been rewarded for their testimony with promotions and wage increases.

Welles had little choice but to find that the likelihood of "chain voting" was "virtually nonexistent." He noted that "there is no evidence at all in this case, none proffered by PSA or the company, not even a hint or suggestion, of anyone witnessing a single ballot being passed from one voter to another."

As USWA International President Lloyd McBride noted, the verdict "completely vindicated and validated" the Steelworkers' position.

But will it be a step toward recognition of the union? That depends.

The snail's pace of NLRB "justice" is designed to work entirely in the company's favor whether it wins or loses any particular legal match.

What happens now is that the full NLRB will consider Welles's recommendation. Maybe the board will rule this summer. Maybe not until October. And after that, Tenneco or the PSA can appeal any unfavorable ruling through the federal courts. For years.

In fact, this is the *second time* around with the NLRB for Newport News Steelworkers. After nine months of investigation the board certified the union in October 1978. Tenneco, which had first promised to recognize the election outcome and then to abide by the NLRB's decision, appealed instead to the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of

Appeals.

Last March the judges threw out all the Tenneco and PSA charges against the union. But they invented one of their own—"chain voting"—and tossed the whole issue back to the NLRB for yet another hearing.

Steelworkers are beginning to suspect that this kind of runaround could go on forever if their fate is left up to the NLRB and the courts.

"The union can't stand for a delay by Tenneco," a Black material handler told the *Militant*. "Tenneco said it wanted its day in court. Well, it's had it."

"Tenneco will appeal it to the Supreme Court," a young burner said. "They'll exploit everything. They won't negotiate a contract until they've exhausted every appeal. They'll try to tie us up for two years."

In those years, everyone realizes, Tenneco will be firing union militants and trying to disperse and demoralize the union forces (see story below).

So far, the company's abusive tactics have served to unite the Steelworkers and strengthen their determination, not to intimidate them.

It's easy to identify Local 8888 members as they walk into the yard. They are decked out in Steelworker jackets, wear Steelworker buttons, and sport Steelworker hats.

At lunch time in Kim's Restaurant across from the main shipyard gate, only one tune gets played on the jukebox—"Bustin' Loose," the unofficial fight song of Local 8888. This disco hit inspired the picket line chants of "Steelworkers, bustin' loose!" and

"Eighty-eight, bustin' loose!"

The beat of the song is a reminder to all that the Steelworkers are in town to stay.

District Director Thrasher's statement about readiness to strike again reflects these militant sentiments in the Local 8888 ranks—militancy Tenneco has been unable to beat out of them.

Some are optimistic that when the strike resumes, "more will go out with more support," as a worker in the melting shop said.

He believes that since the return to work, many union sympathizers who didn't stick with the first strike have had a lot of their questions answered by the Steelworkers. "Now they understand what the union will do for them," he said.

But sentiment for a return to the streets is tempered by the realization that the union forces must be organized and prepared. That's why a top priority of many union members is for a Local 8888 meeting to collectively talk out what is happening and democratically decide the best course for the union.

"We need to meet, because we sure as hell can't meet in the yard," one young worker told the *Militant*.

"Anytime you have a meeting to discuss things is good, because it keeps the members in touch," said a veteran of eight years in the yard.

Whatever the Steelworkers decide is the next step in their historic battle for union rights, they need and deserve the broadest possible solidarity from the rest of the labor movement.

Support needed

Send messages of solidarity and financial contributions to Steelworkers Local 8888's Suspended Strike Headquarters, Bank of Newport News Building, Third Floor, 3301 Washington Avenue, Newport News, Virginia 23607.

For information call the Suspended Strike Headquarters at (804) 247-5291, or the Local 8888 office at (804) 599-0480.

Tenneco victimizes shipyard strike militants

By Jon Hillson
and Greg Kobey

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.—At least 156 Steelworkers have been suspended from work at Newport News Shipbuilding, as Tenneco cracks the whip on union militants arrested on the picket lines during the course of their eighty-two-day-long strike.

Local 8888 responded by immediately filing 156 unfair labor practice complaints against Tenneco with the National Labor Relations Board.

The workers are suspended pending the outcome of what Tenneco calls "investigations of misconduct." But shipyard spokesman Jim Griffith refused to tell reporters just who is conducting the inquiries or how workers—who are denied union representation—are supposed to defend themselves.

Tenneco made it clear that its list of witch-hunt victims is far from complete. Referring to the company's "dis-

charge rights," shipyard President Edward Campbell warned, "We're going to follow up very heavily on that."

Among those already suspended are Local 8888 President Wayne Crosby and Treasurer Kelly Coleman. The suspensions, said USWA Subdistrict Director Jack Hower, are "a basic violation of the [federal] act giving these people the right to have a union of their choice, to organize, and to bargain."

Most arrested Local 8888 members have yet to come to trial; all convictions are under appeal. But no matter to Tenneco. The company policy is guilty until proven innocent—and guilty even *when* proven innocent.

"I don't think the suspensions are right," a Black worker told the *Militant*. "It's your right to strike, and you shouldn't be arrested for defending your right to strike. The union's going to get these workers in and with back pay."

Another worker told how female Steelworker militants are now facing greater harassment than before the strike.

But Tenneco has taken on a determined group of people. People like the Black production worker who told the *Militant* why the Steelworkers are hanging tough.

"The union movement is new in the South," he said. "It's like slavery days. Some people stayed on the plantation, even though they could go free. Tenneco gives you two sandwiches and a Pepsi and you think you're feeling pretty high."

"But you're not. We need to educate about the labor movement."

"They gave me a small raise—fifteen cents an hour—when I came back. They could give me ten raises, and I'd still stay out. Because it's for the principle of union recognition, better benefits, and better safety conditions."



Militant/Jon Hillson

Strike militants were beaten up by cops; now they are being suspended.

Rubber workers fight gov't wage-cut plan

By Fred Feldman

About 8,500 members of the United Rubber Workers Union struck against the Uniroyal Corporation at noon on May 9.

The workers, who have been without a contract since April 21, walked off the job at eleven plants after negotiations between Uniroyal, federal mediators, and the URW halted May 8.

They and nearly 47,000 other employees of the "big four" tire corporations—Firestone, Goodyear, B.F. Goodrich, and Uniroyal—are the latest target of the wage-cutting offensive being pressed by the employers and the Carter administration.

Carter wants to use the negotiations for a new three-year contract between the URW and the big four to tighten up controls after the alleged bending of the 7 percent wage guidelines by the Teamsters.

The employer-government pincers movement against the rubber workers is aimed at the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) the union won in a bitter 140 day strike in 1976. The escalator has brought rubber workers' hourly pay up to nearly eight dollars—still well below pay scales for unionized auto workers and truck drivers.

The union is demanding an increase in COLA to one cent for every 0.26 point increase in the Consumer Price Index (instead of for every 0.3 point as at present). It also wants a hike in base pay and improved job security and retirement provisions.

Double cross

As the contract with the big four was running out April 19, URW President Peter Bommarito announced that Uniroyal, B.F. Goodrich, and Firestone had agreed to contract proposals including the improved COLA. But the three firms quickly denied this.

Bommarito then charged that Uniroyal—the URW's target company in the negotiations—had backed out on two clauses of the agreement: COLA and a promise of company neutrality toward URW organizing drives in non-union tire plants.

Uniroyal executives wrapped themselves in the flag to justify the apparent double cross. They claimed the company "can't offer the terms Mr. Bommarito outlined because they would exceed the guidelines, which Uniroyal has pledged to honor," according to the April 30 *Wall Street Journal*. B.F. Goodrich Chairman O. Pendleton Thomas adopted a similarly high moral tone.

Alfred Kahn, the head of Carter's wage-cutting Council on Wage and Price Stability, encouraged the corpo-



In 1976 union struck 'big four' rubber companies. This time, URW officials have adopted 'one at a time' policy.

Militant

rations to stand firm: "It is our view that the guidelines are alive, and we have every intention of using whatever power is at our disposal to see that they are complied with."

Contract negotiations this year have shown that workers seeking a decent living standard and protection against inflation confront the government as their foe at every turn. Carter, unable and unwilling to lift a finger to control prices, brings all the power of government to bear in order to jack up corporate profits at the expense of workers.

GM chimes in

General Motors, the world's biggest auto producer, also joined the government-corporate gang-up against the rubber workers. GM Chairman Thomas Murphy sent letters to all GM suppliers, including the big four, demanding that they stick by Carter's guidelines.

GM appears to have been chosen by the United Auto Workers union as its target company in upcoming contract negotiations.

"If there has to be a strike to test the guidelines," commented an editorial in the April 26 *Wall Street Journal*, "it is manifestly in GM's interest that it be a rubber strike rather than an auto strike. Equally, it's in GM's interest that the guidelines do not collapse before July," when formal bargaining with the UAW opens up.

Caught between government-employer demands for lower wages and insistence on an improved contract by union members, Bommarito is on the spot. "They've put us in a hell of a position," he complained about the corporations' turnabout.

Instead of explaining to union members that the government and corporations are cooperating to force down living standards and attack union rights, Bommarito (like other top AFL-CIO officials) is counting on the courts to put a stop to Carter's antilabor moves. He asked a federal court May 4 to rule on a suit brought by the URW and other unions challenging the constitutionality of the guidelines. The court refused.

The big four meanwhile are dropping hints that their hard line stems from government threats to cut off lucrative contracts. The April 23 *Business Week* gives the lie to this claim: "Because there are so few tire companies, the government has few sanctions that it

can realistically use, aside from buying military tires abroad—an unlikely course of action."

The arrogance of the government and the big four toward the rubber workers stems from their conviction that the union is increasingly vulnerable to attack.

At the time of the 1976 contract talks, less than two-thirds of 275,000 rubber workers in the United States were under union contract, and the proportion was declining rapidly. Contract negotiations were fragmented, with wages and working conditions varying widely from region to region and company to company.

Ruling class sees opening

The URW's decline inspired the big four to launch a concerted drive to cripple the union. The union ranks fought back stubbornly in a four-month strike, and the bosses were forced to retreat. Gains won in 1976, such as COLA, put the union in a position to begin organizing the unorganized and establishing uniform wage scales.

But the employers did not give up their goal of pushing back the URW. The big four continued to shift operations from Akron to nonunion plants in "right to work" states.

Firestone shut down production in Akron, while Goodyear cut back sharply. The number of Uniroyal workers under contract dropped to 8,500. The French tire firm of Michelin set up nonunion shops employing 3,500 workers in South Carolina. The union contract, covering about 60,000 workers in 1976, now covers only 55,000.

Union officials responded not with an aggressive campaign to organize the unorganized, but by making concessions to the employers in hope of preserving organized plants. In April, Local 9 in Akron accepted a wage cut of thirty-six cents an hour in an effort to persuade General Tire Company to build its new plant in Akron.

Company officials indicated, however, that this concession was only a first step. They project the institution of a longer workweek and a seven-day production schedule in the new facility.

Such concessions, stemming from the union officialdom's search for unattainable—that is, harmonious—relations with the tire magnates, pose

the danger that the standards of unionized workers will be dragged down to the level of the unorganized instead of the reverse.

Employer 'neutrality'?

In response to growing membership pressure for progress in unionizing rubber workers, however, the URW is now demanding that the big four pledge neutrality in the face of URW organizing efforts.

The employers have no intention of making even this verbal concession. And even if they did, they are about as likely to abide by such a promise as a man-eating tiger is to swear off meat. Organizing the rubber industry can only be accomplished through a determined struggle. But the potential is there—as the fight of Newport News, Virginia, Steelworkers for union rights has shown.

One-at-a-time strategy

Tactically, the government and companies are seeking to deal a blow to the URW without sparking the kind of united response by the union ranks that dealt the employers a setback in 1976.

With this object in mind, the employers have put aside for the time being their antistrike mutual-aid pact, which helped spark the URW strike against the big four in 1976. Firestone pulled out of the arrangement in February, and the others no longer talk about it.

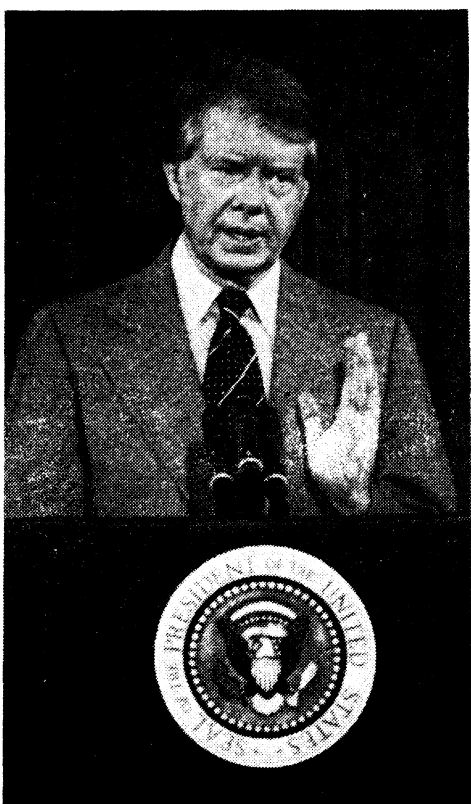
Bommarito responded with a one-at-a-time strike strategy. Uniroyal was selected as the pattern setter. But despite the apparent demise of the employers' aid pact, Uniroyal can count on their help in trying to outlast the URW.

The rubber workers showed in 1976 that they can give the employers a tough fight despite the union's weakened overall position.

The rubber workers need the solidarity of the whole union movement in the battle that has now opened up.

Auto workers have a special stake in backing their union brothers and sisters at Uniroyal since—as GM's intervention in the rubber contract talks indicates—auto workers are among the next targets of the government-employer squeeze play.

Victory in the Uniroyal strike could open the way to the broader organizing drive on which the survival of the URW ultimately depends.



CARTER: wants workers to pay for inflation.

How bankruptcy helps bosses

Milwaukee Road moves to cut 5,000 rail jobs

By Dick Roberts

CHICAGO—A federal bankruptcy court here appears to be moving quickly toward reorganizing the Milwaukee Road along lines that could eliminate 5,000 or more jobs on the bankrupt railroad.

On April 23 Milwaukee Road trustee Stanley Hillman asked the federal court in Chicago for an order liquidating most of the present operations of the Milwaukee Road.

Federal Judge Thomas McMillen subsequently ruled that the railroad should continue operating through May 31. McMillen asked the Interstate Commerce Commission to present an alternative plan for reorganizing the railroad at hearings in his court scheduled for May 15.

Whether the court chooses trustee Hillman's original plan, the ICC plan, or some third variant, all aim at drastic reductions of the present operation. They would reduce the Milwaukee Road to approximately 2,400 route miles from its present 9,800-mile system.

The main midwestern routes from Louisville and Kansas City through Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis/St. Paul would be retained. The western segments in North and South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, and Washington would be dropped. With roughly 10,000 workers currently employed in the entire system, job losses due to the liquidation of these operations could run to 5,000 or more jobs.

The Milwaukee Road bankruptcy is part of the national profit drive of the railroad companies. The railroads are attempting to eliminate thousands of jobs, speed up the jobs that remain, and hone down the U.S. railroad system into a few highly profitable freight lines between major cities.

In this process the railroad owners, government, and courts are riding roughshod over railroad workers. The sole concern of the ruling class is to eke out every last drop of profit from the railroads that are being abandoned regardless of the social cost.

When a railroad goes into bankruptcy, as the Milwaukee Road did in December 1977, its full operations are continued under a court-appointed trustee. The trustee's job is to reorganize the railroad in such a way as to make the maximum payoff to the bankrupt railroad's owners and creditors.

Milwaukee Road trustee Stanley Hillman was previously the chairman and chief executive officer of the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad.

"The Milwaukee Road has a great many valuable assets," Hillman declared when he took over the bankruptcy more than a year ago. "While



Militant/Welford McCaffrey

Ruling class is seeking to sharply cut back number of train routes, eliminating thousands of jobs, in order to eke out maximum profit from crisis-ridden railroads.

some of the railroad property may best be operated by other railroads, it remains possible that most of the system can be profitably operated . . . and that such a reorganization will provide the greatest benefits to all of the interests in this proceeding," Hillman said.

The interests Hillman has in mind are creditors and owners, not railroad workers. On the contrary, Hillman moved rapidly to make the Milwaukee Road employees take up a greater burden of sacrifice.

Using the "possible" impending liquidation as a threat, the Milwaukee Road drove through a big slash in its operating crews in April 1978.

A work-rule settlement with the United Transportation Union gave the company the right to reduce the total operating crews from four to three.

While this sweetened the pie for the owners and made working conditions all the more difficult for employees, it did nothing whatsoever to stave off the impending liquidation—as subsequent events have shown.

In December 1978 the New York firm of Ford, Bacon and Davis told Hillman that the Milwaukee Road would be worth \$882 million if it was entirely liquidated. Since the total debt is only about \$400 million, this would make some \$480 million available to the owners. From that time on Hillman moved quickly to get a reorganization plan in court.

Meanwhile new pressures were brought to bear on workers. "I shall be conferring with representatives of rail

labor," Hillman said April 23, "about new agreements which might enhance the Milwaukee's financial prospects."

It is not automatic, however, that the court will proceed to final reorganization on May 31. The leadership of the UTU has moved to support resolutions in the U.S. Congress that might postpone the liquidation for several months. Some capitalist interests in the western states might support such a move because they would be adversely affected by a Milwaukee Road liquidation.

Yet reliance on a behind-the-scenes deal in Congress would be a disastrous approach for the railroad unions.

The entire history of railroading is one in which lesser capitalist interests have been squeezed out by greater—and always at the expense of the working class.

Only workers themselves have both the interest and the power to mount a resistance against these capitalist cutbacks.

The U.S. Congress, the courts, and the Interstate Commerce Commission are all part of the capitalist con game the Milwaukee Road is playing against its employees. To a large extent the passing of the buck back and forth between trustee Hillman, the courts, the ICC, and Congress is designed to confuse and intimidate workers.

The unions could cut through this confusion and win broad public support by demanding that the secret financial books of the Milwaukee Road and all of its creditors and owners be made public. The hidden profit-

gouging, swindles, and manipulations that brought the Milwaukee Road—and the rail industry in general—to the present crisis should be exposed to all.

The elementary obligation of the union at each step of this fight is to level with the membership, to keep workers fully informed—not to help the capitalists keep them in the dark, so that panic spreads about losing jobs.

In the books and secret records of the Milwaukee Road will be found more than ample proof that private ownership of the railroads is destructive to the needs of the vast majority of the American people. This includes rail workers, farmers, people who live along increasingly dangerous rights of way, and tens of millions of Americans in large cities who need adequate public rail transportation.

A genuine reorganization is needed for the Milwaukee Road and the entire rail system—a reorganization in the interests of the public and the rail workers. But that can never be carried out while the industry remains privately owned and controlled. By opening the books of the rail profiteers—examining in detail how the capitalists have milked the railroads while abusing both employees and rail users—the workers will quickly see that they could do a better job themselves.

The unions should fight to convert the railroads into public utilities—services that would be publicly owned and run by independent, democratically elected boards, in the interests of working people instead of private owners.

N.J. railroad's profit drive creates accidents

By Linda Slodki

NEWARK—On Amtrak's Northeast Corridor it is almost a daily occurrence for railroad workers to see or hear of accidents.

On April 19, a power line was pulled down by a Metroliner train in Linden, New Jersey, knocking power out for two-and-a-half hours and stranding 28,000 passengers.

A few hours later a serious derailment occurred in the Bronx.

The next day a Metroliner collided head-on with a track car in Edison, New Jersey. Seventy-three people were injured.

Management continually pounds into us that any misroute, derailment,

or collision is the tower operator's fault. Any accident that happens, they assure us, will result in immediate firing. In case of deaths resulting from an accident, we could be brought up on manslaughter charges.

In the control tower workers are confronted with antiquated equipment, most of it built around 1910. To move trains, we rely heavily on the model board, which has variously colored lights showing the positions of oncoming trains. These circuit lights often go out, and there are frequent switch and signal malfunctions. Some are repaired immediately. Others remain out of order for months.

When the April 20 head-on collision occurred, management immediately did two things.

First the company fired two operators, one of them only minutes after the accident.

Second, Amtrak released a press statement blaming the wreck on "human error."

It was later learned that the tower operator tried to warn the Metroliner of the imminent crash, but because the train's radio didn't work, the warning wasn't heard.

"We have enough problems keeping our trains on time," one railroad official told the Newark *Star-Ledger*. "If we stopped every train from running that didn't have a working radio then we might as well throw our schedules out the window."

Another factor contributing to the accident was that track cars do not shunt the circuits; in other words, they do not light up on the operator's model board. So when that operator looked at his board, he only saw the Metroliner, not the track car.

Nobody asked Amtrak why it doesn't

invest enough money to correct that situation.

Instead, the company deluged the operator with a list of rules he had supposedly violated, and fired him. And if someone had died as a result of the wreck, the operator could have gone to jail.

The railroad had another scapegoat. The responsibility for these accidents should be placed squarely where it belongs—on the railroad. The real causes of most accidents are conditions over which workers have no control.

To cut costs, the company uses make-do equipment and does inadequate repairs. It postpones the closing down of unsafe operations. It cuts back on crews and puts high pressure on workers to increase production.

It's the railroads' drive for profits, not "human error," that injures and kills.

Linda Slodki is a member of Local 1402 of the Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks.

A step forward for working class

Iran: huge turnout for May Day rallies

By Gerry Foley

The May Day demonstrations held in the major Iranian cities showed a deepening of the radicalization of the masses of working people throughout the country. In Tehran, hundreds of thousands of persons participated in rallies May 1.

The capitalist Bazargan government and the religious leaders who support it found themselves unable to prevent massive celebrations of the international workers holiday.

The May 2 *New York Times* reported:

The call for marches and rallies to mark the traditional worker's holiday was first issued by leftist groups. . . .

However, in recent days, the call was taken up by the religious revolutionary leadership [i.e., the forces around Ayatollah Khomeini] in an apparent attempt to dilute its leftist content.

Unfortunately, the mobilization of the working people in Tehran was not united or on a clear class basis. There were several demonstrations. The two largest were called by the Islamic Republican Party led by Khomeini's ideologist Abdul Bani Sadr and by the Coordinating Committee dominated by the Fedayeen, a guerrilla organization with left-centrist politics. One to two hundred thousand persons participated in each.

Friendly response to socialists

In addition, tens of thousands of persons attended a rally called by the Mujahedeen-e Khalq, a left-wing Muslim guerrilla organization, in Karaj, an industrial suburb of Tehran. And the Stalinist Tudeh Party held its own much smaller rally.

The Islamic Republican Party leaders tried to turn the demonstration they called in a rightist direction. Groups of rightists within it raised anticommunist slogans. But large numbers of working people also shouted demands for the nationalization of industry. The Iranian Trotskyists sold their paper on this demonstration, getting a generally friendly reception.

The demonstration called by the Fedayeen was organized in a sectarian way. The Coordinating Committee consisted of so-called unions, actually union organizing committees dominated by the Fedayeen, sometimes in alliance with Maoist groups.

These "unions" have a very small membership, and most of the workers resent their claims to represent them. No other organizations were allowed to participate officially. Although the monitors often prevented Trotskyists from selling to the marchers, sales were conducted nonetheless, with a generally good response. Despite the divisions and confusion that existed, the general meaning of so many working people coming into the streets and raising calls for nationalizations was quite clear.



Kurdish rally in Sanandaj opposed referendum for 'Islamic republic.' May Day demonstrations indicate Iranian government can no longer hold back mobilizations among Persian workers either.

In the first place, the May Day rallies broke an effective ban on mass demonstrations of the working people in support of their own demands.

In the period following the insurrection that overthrew the old regime, the new authorities and their supporters tried hard to keep the masses of working people from returning to the streets to demonstrate for their demands.

With the exception of the International Women's Day marches in Tehran, which were subjected to attacks by rightist goon squads, no large street demonstrations not approved by the authorities took place in the Iranian capital in the two months after the fall of the dictatorship.

Active mass opposition to the government's policies aimed at restabilizing capitalist rule was essentially confined to the centers of the oppressed nationalities.

The struggles of the oppressed nationalities have continued to spread and deepen. Only three days before the May Day rallies, 100,000 persons demonstrated in the southern city of Khorramshahr protesting intimidation of the Arab population by the local Imam's Committees, which in this case were basically Persian racist gangs.

Now, the May Day demonstrations have indicated that the Persian and Azerbaijani workers can no longer be effectively held back from mobilizing behind their own demands.

It was in this context that the rightists sought to exploit the assassination of one of the leading ayatollahs, Morteza Motahari, who was murdered on

the evening of May 1.

The assassination was claimed by a clandestine group calling itself the Forghan. This group presents itself as a Muslim fundamentalist organization opposing a clergy that it claims has become too worldly. It also took responsibility for shooting former army chief of staff General Vali Ullah Gharani, on April 23.

The Forghan group first became known in 1978. During the struggle against the shah, it adopted as its main objective combating the clergy that was in the leadership of the movement. Correspondent Eric Rouleau commented in the April 26 *Le Monde*: "It is not surprising then that . . . it was denounced as being manipulated by the shah's secret police."

Even prominent progovernment figures have been compelled to acknowledge that the Forghan has nothing to do with the left. After the murder of Gharani, for example, Sadeq Ghotbzadeh, head of the radio-TV network and notorious for his purging of liberal and left broadcasters, said:

It is out of the question that the left committed this crime. . . . The murderers are very probably former SAVAK agents who infiltrated the Forghan organization.

Rightist attack

Nonetheless, rightists tried to turn the massive funeral march for Motahari into an anticommunist demonstration. That was the way it was portrayed, for example, in the May 4 *New York Times*.

However, Iranian Trotskyist leaders report that the anticommunist slogans begun by the rightists were taken up only by a minority of the marchers.

For three days after the assassination, the authorities used all their resources to whip up an anticommunist hysteria. This campaign had some effect. For example, in some places Trotskyist activists selling their paper were attacked in the streets and beaten. But the Trotskyists refused to hide, as the other left organizations did. They maintained that the only way to defeat the hysteria campaign was to confront it. They asserted their right to continue their work. They also made their attitude to the assassination clear.

Immediately after Motahari's murder, the Trotskyists issued a statement printed in *Ayendegan*, the morning Teheran paper, denouncing the act as a counterrevolutionary crime and explaining the opposition of Marxists to assassinations and other acts of terrorism.

The anticommunist hysteria campaign failed to take hold among the broad masses. This will probably not be the last attempt to create such an atmosphere. But the Trotskyists have given an example of how to fight it.

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The Third Iranian Revolution



Peru: five socialists still jailed by regime

By Fred Murphy

Sixteen members of the Socialist Workers Party (PST) were released without charges by Peru's military rulers on April 27, after having been held incommunicado for six days at the State Security prison in Lima.

They were among twenty-one persons arrested in an April 22 raid on the PST's public headquarters in Lima by State Security agents.

Five persons were still detained as of May 2—four foreign citizens facing deportation; and one Peruvian, Narciso Fernández of the PST's Executive Committee.

The foreign citizens still jailed are alleged by the regime to have "interfered in Peruvian politics." Sylvia Heidel and Lidia Vásquez are Argentines; they are in danger of being turned over

to the Videla dictatorship. Colombian Edgar Martínez could be deported against his will to Colombia, where the Turbay Ayala regime is carrying on a witch-hunt against "subversives," and recently jailed two Trotskyists. Martínez's companion, Italian citizen Pia Limongelli, is also being held and threatened with deportation.

State Security agents ransacked the PST's headquarters during the April 22 raid and then occupied it for six days. The offices were turned back to the PST on April 28.

The regime retreated after Constituent Assembly deputies Hugo Blanco and Enrique Fernández* began a

*Fernández is a leader of the PST and Blanco is a leader of the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT). Both groups are sympathizing organizations of the Fourth

International and are currently discussing hunger strike at the Legislative Palace in Lima on April 25 to demand a halt to the attacks on the PST. Protest telegrams were sent to the dictatorship from Amnesty International in London, from leaders of Swiss trade unions, and from a number of Socialist and Communist deputies in the Swiss parliament.

Telegrams demanding the release of the five remaining prisoners and safe passage to countries of their choice for Heidel, Vásquez, Martínez, and Limongelli are still urgently needed. Send them to Peruvian embassies or to Gen. Francisco Morales Bermúdez, Presidente de la República, Palacio Presidencial, Lima, Peru.

From Intercontinental Press/Inprecor

International and are currently discussing unification.

3,000 'Militants' sold at D.C. antinuke protest

By Harvey McArthur

With 125,000 people marching in Washington, D.C., to protest nuclear power and weapons, what was the best way for socialists to present their ideas on how to win this fight and how to involve the labor movement?

For the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance, the answer was obvious: sell the *Militant*. Some 250 socialists fanned out through the crowd, selling more than 3,000 *Militants*. And many more were sold on the buses going to and from the march.

"It seemed that the *Militant* was just what people were looking for," reports Priscilla March, who sold eighty-eight copies that day. "Ninety percent of the people I spoke with were very young—this was probably their first political demonstration. They knew that it was a historic day, and they wanted to see what a paper like the *Militant* had to say about it."

Joel Britton from New York reported the second-highest sales, with sixty-two copies. "I introduced myself as someone from a party that was actively involved in getting the union movement into the fight against atomic power," he said. "Most of the protesters were not unionists, but they

agreed that we need labor in this struggle. And they were glad to see someone actually doing something about it.

"One of the best selling points I found was the interview with Mike Olszanski from Local 1010 of the Steelworkers. He was very well received when he spoke at the assembly point, and this helped show that it was realistic to try to involve more unions in this movement. I sold twelve or more papers while he was speaking."

Socialists also found the antinuclear protest was a big issue at the Ford Motors assembly plant in Edison, New Jersey.

The *Militant* had not been sold there regularly before, and it is the type of plant where the sales team has to stand in the middle of the road and try to stop people as they are driving by.

But on May 4, four sales people sold nine copies of the *Militant* and passed out 600 leaflets announcing the May 6 march. Lots of people did stop to talk briefly, and several carloads of auto workers said that they were already planning to go to the march.

Overall, sales at industrial plants made up 14 percent of the total reported last week.

These sales, and the big sale at May 6, put us in a good position for the final week of the spring campaign.

This is the special sales target week, May 12-19, when socialists across the country are putting aside other work to make extra efforts to sell the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Most cities have raised their bundle orders for the target week, and many are doubling their normal weekly goal. Plant-gate sales and sales on the job to industrial workers will be a focus of the week.

Chicago steel and auto workers report special plans to sell subscriptions to their co-workers. They will be taking advantage of the special offer we are making this week: four months of the

Militant for only three dollars.

The *Militant* will publish the final results and report on the progress made during the spring campaign once the target week is over.

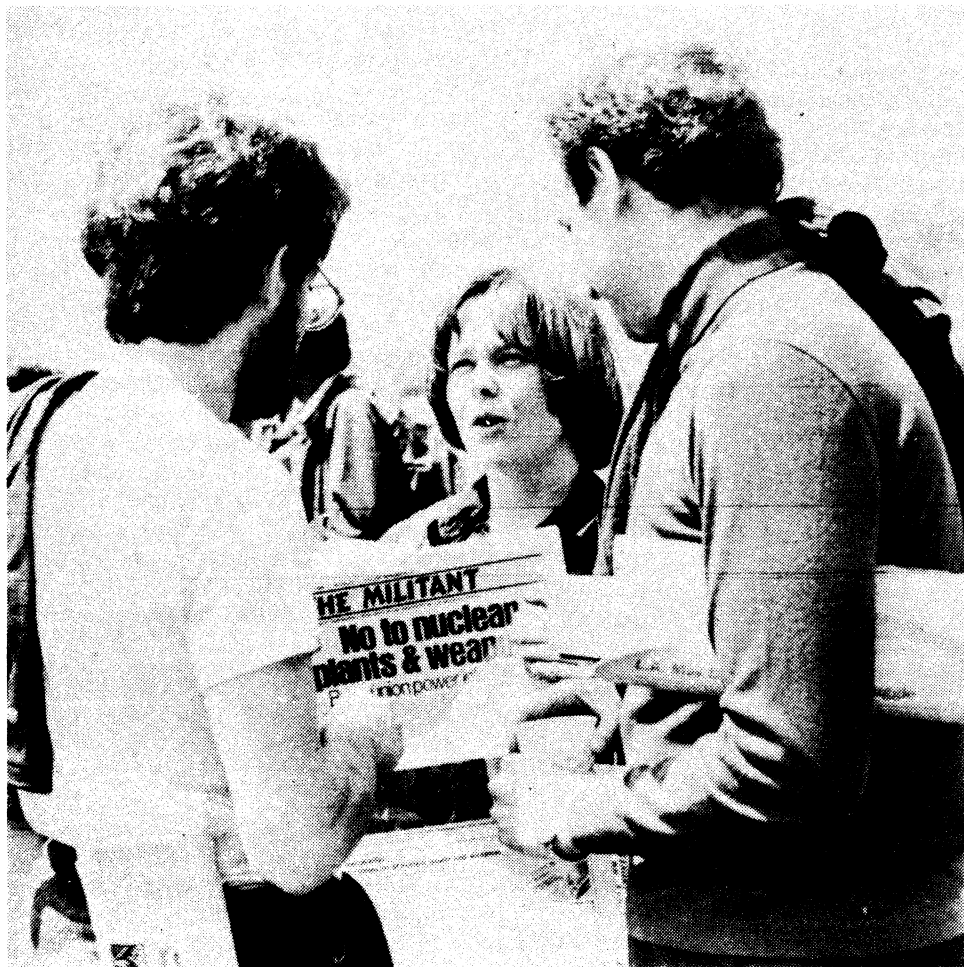
Included in this will be the winners of the prizes we offered at the start of the campaign. They will go to the areas with the highest participation, the highest cumulative sales, and those that make their goal each week of the ten-week drive.

Sales directors should be sure that we have complete information on sales in their areas. And be sure to include the names and totals for the highest sellers in your area, since we will also be awarding prizes to the top ten salespeople in the country.

Sales scoreboard

| CITY | MILITANT | | PM | | TOTAL | | |
|----------------|----------|------|------|------|-------|------|---------|
| | Goal | Sold | Goal | Sold | Goal | Sold | Percent |
| Iron Range | 35 | 45 | | | 35 | 45 | 128.5 |
| Albany | 100 | 127 | 5 | 7 | 105 | 134 | 127.6 |
| Seattle | 145 | 173 | 5 | 2 | 150 | 175 | 116.6 |
| Denver | 120 | 136 | 20 | 26 | 140 | 162 | 115.7 |
| Atlanta | 145 | 169 | 5 | 2 | 150 | 171 | 114.0 |
| Birmingham | 100 | 113 | | | 100 | 113 | 113.0 |
| Kansas City | 110 | 117 | | 3 | 110 | 120 | 109.0 |
| Dallas | 125 | 115 | 35 | 57 | 160 | 172 | 107.5 |
| Phoenix | 95 | 86 | 30 | 43 | 125 | 129 | 103.2 |
| Morgantown | 100 | 102 | | | 100 | 102 | 102.0 |
| Toledo | 100 | 102 | | | 100 | 102 | 102.0 |
| Los Angeles | 320 | 344 | 80 | 60 | 400 | 404 | 101.0 |
| Portland | 100 | 100 | | 1 | 100 | 101 | 101.0 |
| Albuquerque | 115 | 110 | 20 | 25 | 135 | 135 | 100.0 |
| Gary | 75 | 75 | | | 75 | 75 | 100.0 |
| Louisville | 100 | 100 | | | 100 | 100 | 100.0 |
| Salt Lake City | 130 | 133 | 5 | 2 | 135 | 135 | 100.0 |
| Minneapolis | 150 | 142 | | | 150 | 142 | 94.6 |
| Baltimore | 100 | 91 | | | 100 | 91 | 91.0 |
| San Diego | 105 | 99 | 20 | 12 | 125 | 111 | 88.8 |
| San Antonio | 50 | 47 | 10 | 4 | 60 | 51 | 85.0 |
| Chicago | 310 | 258 | 40 | 10 | 350 | 268 | 76.5 |
| San Jose | 105 | 83 | 15 | 8 | 120 | 91 | 75.8 |
| Philadelphia | 225 | 186 | 25 | 3 | 250 | 189 | 75.6 |
| Newark | 100 | 82 | 10 | 1 | 110 | 83 | 75.4 |
| Tacoma | 125 | 94 | | | 125 | 94 | 75.2 |
| Indianapolis | 115 | 86 | | | 115 | 86 | 74.7 |
| Cleveland | 115 | 83 | 5 | 2 | 120 | 85 | 70.8 |
| Detroit | 175 | 125 | 5 | 2 | 180 | 127 | 70.5 |
| New Orleans | 100 | 58 | | 10 | 100 | 68 | 68.0 |
| Miami | 100 | 76 | 30 | 8 | 130 | 84 | 64.6 |
| Pittsburgh | 200 | 118 | | | 200 | 118 | 59.0 |
| St. Louis | 125 | 70 | | | 125 | 70 | 56.0 |
| Houston | 170 | 81 | 30 | 22 | 200 | 103 | 51.5 |
| New York City | 540 | 263 | 60 | 28 | 600 | 291 | 48.5 |
| Cincinnati | 75 | 32 | | | 75 | 32 | 42.6 |
| Totals | 6363 | 4221 | 525 | 338 | 6888 | 4559 | 66.1 |

Not reporting: Amherst, Berkeley, Boston, Iowa City, Milwaukee, Oakland, Raleigh, San Francisco, St. Paul, Vermont, Washington, D.C. Covers sales of 'Militant' issue seventeen and the first week of sales of 'Perspectiva Mundial' issue number eight.



Militant/Anne Teesdale

Chilean workers mark May Day with protest

By Peter Archer

Hundreds of workers demonstrated in Santiago, Chile, May 1, the international workers' holiday. They were demanding wage increases, an end to layoffs, and freedom for union and political activity.

"The people are in the street, they are calling for liberty," chanted the marchers.

Cops arrested some 300 of the demonstrators. Most were later released.

Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who seized power in a bloody coup in September 1973, claims he will not be moved by the growing militancy of Chilean workers. "I don't propose to precipitate elections and stumble into a series of upheavals," he told John Oakes of the *New York Times*. He added, "I trust the people all right; but they're not yet ready."

However, Pinochet's draconian anti-labor measures have fueled growing anger in the work force. Even some union officials who originally supported the junta have begun to desert the regime.

Evidently responding to this pressure, Labor Minister José Piñera announced that beginning May 2, unions could hold meetings in their own halls or other closed meeting places without having to seek prior permission from the regime.

Pinochet's coup initiated a wave of repression, coupled with a savage attack on workers' living standards. Today at least 15 percent of the work force is unemployed, and wages, even for skilled workers, are at subsistence levels.

Acting on the advice of U.S. economist Milton Friedman, the junta has

concentrated on attracting investment by foreign banks. Interest rates now run as high as 45 percent. Oakes commented that "the large conglomerates of financial power . . . controlling much of the country's economy. . . are known familiarly as 'piranhas,' 'crocodiles,' or by even less complimentary descriptives."

Strikes are outlawed by the regime. But to fight for a wage increase and cost-of-living bonus, 1,500 workers at Chile's largest paper factory voted April 30 to resign en masse if their demands are not met.

"There is no law that says we have to keep working if we resign," says Carlos Flores, president of the union at the paper factory. Union officials at the factory presented reporters with statistics showing that the average wage of a worker there is \$125 a month.

To combat the workers' wage demands, the Chilean capitalists have been carrying on a ruthless campaign of layoffs and speedup. The May 2, *New York Times* commented:

"As May Day, the international day of labor, approached, there were new announcements by both private and state companies of operations being closed down and of dismissals. At Tomé, near Concepción in central Chile, a textile plant announced it was closing, leaving 600 workers jobless. A glass factory at Lirquén said 182 of its 312 workers would have to leave. . . ."

Under these circumstances, it's no wonder that opposition to Pinochet's dictatorship is growing. As one woman watching the May Day demonstrations commented, if the police want to lock up every person who is against the government, "they will have to arrest all of Chile."

'A woman's place is in her union'

Women postal workers hold first conference

By Martha Pettit

ST. LOUIS—"A Woman's Place is in Her Union."

Large red-and-white buttons with these words were everywhere at the first national American Postal Workers Union Women's Conference here April 27-29.

The conference was convened by Rosie Robertson, a leading member of the Gateway Area (St. Louis) APWU Local. One hundred thirty-five women from all over the country registered for the meeting.

The spirit was one of enthusiasm, determination, and unity. A solid groundwork was laid for the future of the APWU women's caucus.

The name APWU POWER (Post Office Women for Equal Rights) was adopted.

The APWU, with 300,000 members, is the largest of the four unions representing postal workers. Approximately 35 percent of APWU members are women.

The resolutions approved by the conference here reflect the big tasks POWER has before it.

One resolution adopted put the women's caucus on record against the Weber anti-affirmative-action case. Brian Weber, a white lab technician, is trying to overturn an affirmative-action training program negotiated by the United Steelworkers.

The proposal adopted resolved to "work with other groups and individuals who oppose Weber, and . . . seek to educate the entire membership of the



Militant/Martha Pettit
Conference convenor Rosie Robertson

APWU on the issue of affirmative action."

Another resolution addressed the lack of action by officials of the APWU in support of the Equal Rights Amendment. The last two national conventions of the union have gone on record in support of the ERA, the resolution noted, but have "never adopted any definitive policies for action by Locals and State organizations."

It continued, "Therefore be it resolved that the women of APWU join the labor movement's fight for passage

of the Equal Rights Amendment; by actively seeking to dispel the falsehoods spread by E.R.A. opponents. . . . [and] return to our Local and State union organizations and urge them to join with any and all other organizations in coalitions to ensure passage of the Equal Rights Amendment before the deadline of June 22, 1981."

The conference also voted not to hold any more of its national meetings in unratified states.

Other resolutions included those in support of child-care legislation, against the proposed merger of Social Security and the current federal workers retirement program, and in support of amnesty for the 200 postal workers fired last summer for their protest of the tentative contract.

Conference participants also voted to endorse the lawsuit brought by the Karen Silkwood estate to probe the truth about the death of the young nuclear worker.

Conference convenor Robertson told the *Militant* that she believes the women's caucus is finally coming together because "women have become more aware of the problems of women in the workplace and in the labor movement."

In addition, she said, the national women's movement has "attracted the attention of women." Such events as the July 9 march on Washington for the ERA and the demonstrations of women in Iran earlier this year, she said, have "changed the minds of many women who had accepted things the way they were."

Now women are saying, she went on, "They're exactly right. I'm going to get out there and fight for my rights."

Caucus goals

The statement of purpose adopted by the first American Postal Workers Union Women's Conference set the following goals:

To establish an APWU National Women's Committee, to be incorporated within the structure of one of the present APWU National Departments.

To establish APWU Local and State Women's Committees.

To establish a viable communications network for APWU women throughout the country to exchange ideas, issues, problems and solutions; and to initiate and also support educational programs.

To encourage the involvement and participation of all women in the APWU.

To organize the unorganized workers in our workplaces.

To promote affirmative action programs in the APWU; to assist women in achieving leadership roles with the ultimate goal of equalizing participation in leadership positions.

To join and become fully involved in the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW).

To work in cooperation with other groups and individuals where possible and appropriate to promote women's rights and advance the labor movement.

We espouse "A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN HER UNION," and will constantly endeavor to make the above quotation a reality.

N.J. unionists discuss sexual harassment

By Priscilla Schenk

The growing number of women entering the work force, especially into relatively higher-paying industrial jobs, is a victory for women's rights.

Women have fought to get these jobs. They face an equally challenging fight to keep them. The employers hire as few women as they can get by with and then try to force them out as soon as possible. Recent head-on attacks on affirmative action—the *Bakke* and *Weber* cases—are examples of how far the bosses and their government are willing to go to lock women into the lowest-paying jobs—or into the ranks of the unemployed.

Part of this drive to keep women workers in their "place"—which is an attack against the unions as a whole—is sexual harassment. This intimidation is organized and carried out by the employers. It can include everything from verbal insults, trying to coerce women into sexual relations, placing women on jobs before they have adequate training, to outright physical abuse.

Sixty people, mostly women, attended a recent Militant Labor Forum in Newark, New Jersey, to discuss the issue of sexual harassment on the job and what women can do to fight back.

One case was discussed by Helen Schiff, a member of the United Auto Workers union in Metuchen, New Jersey. Wendy Barnes, her co-worker at the Ford assembly plant, became one more among thousands of victims of brutal sexual harassment.

Barnes was subjected to a series of sexual propositions from her foreman and his friends, which she refused. A few days before her probation ended, her foreman kicked her, bruising her badly. Barnes went to the union and filed a grievance. Although the union griever was reluctant to take up the case because there were no witnesses, Barnes and some of her co-workers

were not so convinced that they couldn't fight this.

They put out a leaflet and distributed it at the plant. The leaflet described the incident and asked for support. "There was widespread support, as we might expect, from female workers," Schiff said. "But there was also support among male workers, especially young and Black workers. They viewed it as a situation that can affect any worker in the plant. They began talking about similar abuses they had suffered from the foremen."

Sexual harassment has been a hidden problem. Women, afraid of being further victimized or of losing their jobs, have kept silent about the harassment they face. After Barnes filed her grievance, for example, she was punished by being placed on a job so physically difficult that she suffered a serious back injury.

But speakers at the forum emphasized the importance of speaking out and involving co-workers and the unions in the fight against sexual harassment.

Ginny Hildebrand, a member of United Steelworkers Local 1843 in Pittsburgh, described how women in her plant responded to an incident involving the sexual advances of a foreman toward a new woman employee in her plant.

"During her probation period, a time when you can get fired for anything without explanation, the foreman kept asking her out. She refused his advances," Hildebrand said. "Just a week after she was off probation, the foreman came up, grabbed her, and kissed her. She went to the union and filed a grievance."

The seven women on her shift got together, put out a leaflet, and succeeded in gaining the support of many of their male co-workers. "The men took it seriously," Hildebrand said. "Does this boss think it is his right to

demand *anything* of women on the job?" they asked."

Hildebrand felt the workers made an important step forward by facing the boss collectively and forming a women's committee within the union that can address the problems women face on the job.

Nadine Taub, an associate professor of law at Rutgers University, told the audience about the three-year court battle by a nonunion clerk typist. Adrienne Tomkins, an employee at New Jersey Public Service Electric and Gas, filed a court suit demanding the company take action against a supervisor who abused her sexually.

In the discussion after the presentations, women in the audience described

incidents of sexual harassment they or their co-workers faced. "But what can women do to fight back?" asked one woman.

Schiff emphasized that in addition to winning the support of many men and women unionists in the Metuchen plant, it was vital to also involve women's groups outside the plant. Barnes appealed to the National Organization for Women. She won support from the Hudson, Middlesex, and Essex County NOW chapters, which organized their members to write both to the company and the union to protest this incident of sexual harassment.

Hildebrand explained the importance of fighting through the unions to protect women's rights on the job.

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WOMEN'S LIBERATION AND THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION



ILWU supports affirmative action

San Diego: unionists rally to defeat Weber

By Michael Anderson

SAN DIEGO—One hundred twenty-five people rallied here April 29 in support of affirmative action and against the *Weber* decision.

The meeting was organized by the Labor/Community Affirmative Action Task Force, a coalition of labor, women's, Black, Chicano, and student groups formed to defeat the anti-affirmative-action *Weber* case.

Earlier in the week the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union had passed a resolution against *Weber* at its international convention here.

The resolution explains that the appeals court ruling in favor of Brian Weber—a white lab technician at the Kaiser Aluminum plant in Gramercy Louisiana—"invalidates preferential access for minorities and women to an apprenticeship training program."

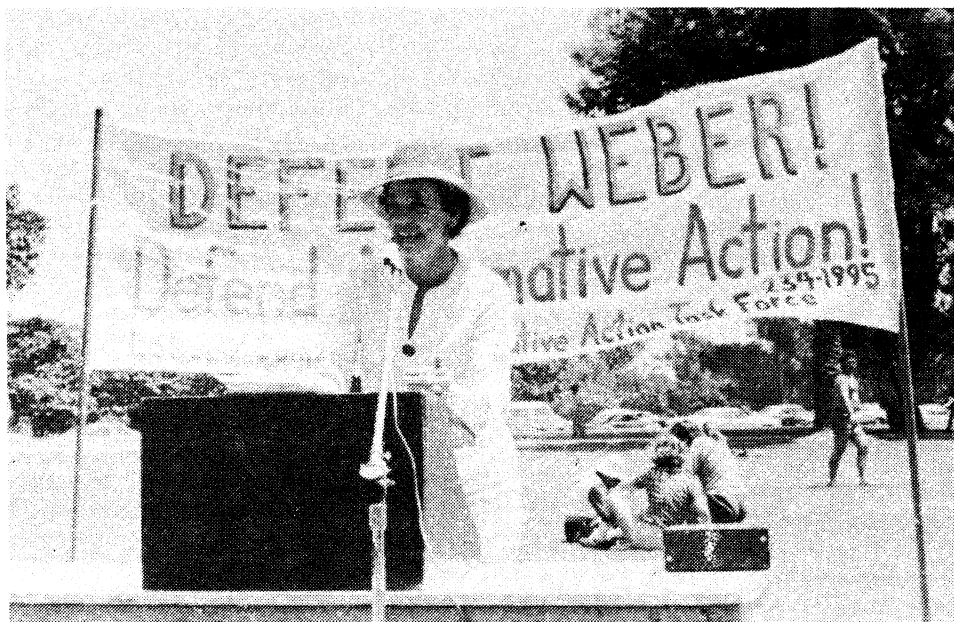
That program, the resolution goes on, "was established through a collective bargaining agreement between Kaiser Aluminum and the United Steel Workers of America to reverse past policies which had resulted in a great racial imbalance in the work force."

It continues, "Should the Supreme Court uphold *Weber* in his claim of reverse discrimination, all of the gains won in the 50's and 60's which culminated in the 1964 Civil Rights Act, for which millions of people including the ILWU and its membership fought so hard, will effectively be erased."

The resolution calls for the ILWU International Union and its affiliated locals to "seek out church, community and other labor organizations with which we shall seek to mobilize millions of people to guarantee that the agreement reached between Kaiser and the United Steel Workers of America is not tampered with by the courts."

Also, three days before the affirmative-action rally here, a local radio station aired a debate on *Weber*. Speaking against *Weber* were two coordinators of the task force—Mark Friedman, representing the International Association of Machinists Local 685, and Ambrose Brodus of the Urban League.

The only pro-*Weber* speaker the station could line up was David Duke, Imperial Wizard of one of the national



Estelle Ricketson, president of the San Diego Coalition of Labor Union Women, told rally why women workers have stake in fight against *Weber*.

Ku Klux Klan factions based in Louisiana.

Estelle Ricketson, president of the local Coalition of Labor Union Women, chaired the rally, explaining the background to the *Weber* case and CLUW's opposition to it.

Dottie Sullivan, representing United Auto Workers Local 506, told the meeting, "Women and minorities suffer the most from society's economic and social ills."

"The unions fought hard for affirmative-action programs—years of progress can be lost in just a few months."

Pat Hryczyszyn, president of the local National Organization for Women, also stressed the importance of affirmative action.

IAM member Mark Friedman told the rally that a reporter had called him from Tijuana, Mexico, to find out the facts on the *Weber* case and how it would affect the trade-union movement in Mexico.

"People in other countries are watching this case to see if the American people will stand up and defend our unions and civil and human rights," he said.

"American labor can and must be in

the forefront of this struggle."

Amos Johnson, representing the Southeast Ministerial Alliance, charged that "the rich are using Brian Weber to keep up forever fighting each other so the rich continue to get richer and the poor continue to get poorer."

Elizabeth Reed of the Service Em-

ployees International Union read some of the many greetings the rally received. These included messages from Nicholas Hernández, director, AFL-CIO Human Resources Development Institute; former congresswomen Bella Abzug and Yvonne Brathwaite Burke; William Oliver, director, UAW Fair Practices and Anti-Discrimination Department; Bert Corona, national organizer of Hermandad Mexicana Nacional; John T. Williams, former vice-president of Teamsters Local 208; and the New Orleans Committee to Overturn the *Weber* Decision and Defend Affirmative Action.

Domingo de la Cruz, president of San Diego IMAGE, spoke, representing the fourteen state IMAGE chapters. IMAGE works toward the employment and training of Chicanos and *latinos*, especially in government jobs.

"Without training programs, minorities can't go anywhere," he said.

Clark Johnson, director of the IAM Department of Civil Rights, said in a message to the rally, "The machinists union supports this effort all the way."

"We must protect labor's gains and fight for more," declared Philip Vera Cruz, former vice-president of the United Farm Workers union. "The workers' unity in action is the only power that can save us all."

Union papers oppose Weber

In addition to passing a resolution against *Weber* at its San Diego convention (see story on this page), the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union ran an article on the case in the April 6 *Dispatcher*.

Titled "High Stakes in Affirmative Action Case," the article says, "The outcome may have a tremendous impact on the lives of millions of American workers."

"The special importance of the *Weber* case to labor is highlighted by the growing number of unions and labor leaders actively opposing the case, and upholding the Steel Workers' contract."

The article reports that the Alameda County Central Labor Council recently passed a resolution against the *Weber* decision. If *Weber* is successful, it quotes the resolution as saying, "then all attempts to solve social problems through collective bargaining are in jeopardy."

The April 20 *Missouri Teamster* also ran a story headlined, "Ruling in *Weber* case could affect millions of workers." It was subtitled, "Affirmative action on trial." The story gives the facts on the case, quotes from the United Steelworkers' defense of the affirmative-action program, and lists some of the unions who filed court briefs asking that the *Weber* decision be reversed.

NY Teamsters break through wage guidelines

By Halket Allen

NEW YORK—Members of Teamsters Local 584 voted April 28—860 to 52—to end their sixty-four-day milk strike.

Headlines in the big-business newspapers here predictably claimed the settlement's chief result would be a two-cent price hike for a quart of milk.

But the milk drivers and plant workers think their strike has a different significance. For one thing, the new contract broke through Carter's 7 percent pay guidelines.

"The two-year contract will be an example for other settlements," said Jim Nielson, a representative of Local 584. "We have won a good raise, eliminated the pay differences between old and new workers, kept the companies from laying off 400 members, improved the pension and medical coverage, and now have medical coverage for retirees."

The settlement provides about a 22 percent increase in wages alone over two years.

"The strike lasted eight weeks because the bosses were used to making sweetheart deals," one of the drivers at the union hall told the *Militant*. "We lost more than we gained during the last two contracts. The milk association would call up our old president

and tell him what the contract was going to be and that's what we got."

"Last December, our local threw out all the old officers and elected one of our own, Willie Whelan, as president." Whelan, who worked as a milk driver for twenty years, reportedly won the union election on a platform of militancy and democracy.

During the strike he refused to rent a costly suite of rooms at the motel where the negotiations were going on. "If they have something to say to me, they can call, and I'll come up there in fifteen minutes," he said. The union officers also suspended their salaries during the strike.

"The bosses didn't believe we could fight," the Teamster driver continued. "They ran scabs, got court orders, and even had the cops beat us up, but we have a new spirit at the union, and that is hard to beat."

The eighty-five dairy-processing companies got court orders limiting the number of pickets to five per line.

The strikers responded by inviting their families to join them in picketing.

Five weeks into the strike, Sunnydale Farms, a dairy in Brooklyn, announced that nonunion drivers would deliver raw milk to the plant. Local 584 mobilized a mass picket line of more than 400 to block the scab milk delivery.

The pickets were savagely attacked by 200 helmeted cops. About a dozen pickets were injured, some suffering broken bones.

News of the attack increased support for the strike. Teamsters Local 680 in New Jersey, which had been delivering milk to New York, decided to honor the strike.

Local 584 held mass meetings during the eight weeks to discuss the problems and progress of the strike.

Near the end, a state supreme court justice proposed that the strike be settled through binding arbitration.

The milk dealers agreed, but Whelan said he would have to submit the proposal to his members for a vote. At that local meeting, strikers hooted and jeered the arbitration proposal.

"You know how I feel," Whelan told the meeting, "I've been against arbitration all along. If you vote yes, you will have no say."

The secret ballot at the meeting rejected the proposal 1,291 to 54.

Several days later the milk dealers came up with a contract acceptable to the strikers.

Local 584 spokesperson Nielson explained that the union won back benefits lost during the past two contracts. Now its job is to organize the 1,000 unorganized dairy workers on Long Island, he said.



Teamsters in N.Y. milk strike faced scabs, court orders, and cop attacks in struggle for a decent contract.

Inco miners' strike solid after 8 months

By Stu Singer

More than 11,000 Canadian nickel miners in Sudbury, Ontario, are completing their eighth month on strike. In this long battle, they have closed down the biggest nickel mine and smelter complex in the world.

Members and families of United Steelworkers Local 6500 went through an unusually hard winter. But as

A tentative settlement of the Inco strike was announced in Toronto May 7. Future issues of the 'Militant' will report details of the settlement.

spring floods cover towns in the area, the strikers are holding solid in defense of their working conditions.

Inco, the arrogant imperialist giant that dominates Sudbury, is hurting. The huge stockpile it accumulated in hopes of discouraging a strike is being used up rapidly, and there has been an unexpected increase in demand for nickel.

In an earlier strike Inco was successful in dividing the strikers by playing off wives against husbands. But this time it hasn't worked. The spirit and solidarity of the strike has even forced local business interests to go along with the needs of the strikers by allowing delays in home and car payments. When I was there in November, a furniture store had an ad on television offering "no payments until after the strike."

The economy of the Sudbury area, with its population of about 150,000, has been brought almost to a halt.

Stu Singer is a member of Steelworkers Local 6115 on the Minnesota Iron Range.



Inco strikers are holding firm in defense of their wages and working conditions

Even the snow was cleaner than in the past as a result of the shutdown, Wilf Collin, a member of the local executive board, said.

The heating and housing committee of the local, serving throughout the winter, successfully prevented any attempts to freeze out strikers or drive them out of their homes.

Strikers have been touring Canada for months speaking to unions and at support meetings. Contributions in April alone will total about \$250,000. This is in addition to more than \$1 million per month in strike benefits from the USWA strike and defense fund.

In a phone conversation on May 3,

Collin pointed out that the solidarity the strike has received from unionists—in Canada especially, but also from the United States, Great Britain, and even Poland—has had a big effect in keeping up morale.

Strikers showed their spirit in March when 500 of them—responding to a slightly revised contract offer mailed to them by Inco—marched to the main company office, where they burned the company's letters.

Collin reported that Inco leaked details of another proposal in late April. This was played up big in the pro-company Sudbury Star, the only daily in town. The proposal contained little new, but intentionally confused the

average wage rate with the base rate in order to give the impression that Inco had made a large, new offer.

The insulting four-cents-an-hour raise originally offered by Inco is still fresh in everyone's mind. Earlier in the strike, at a protest at the Provincial Assembly in Toronto, strikers packed the gallery and shook tin cans containing four pennies.

Local President Dave Patterson and other members of the bargaining committee have been in Toronto for the past four weeks in negotiations with the company.

In addition to wages, the main issues in the strike are pension benefits and the maintenance of the union grievance procedure. Pensions are not rising with inflation and are unequal for members who retired at different times.

Inco has also proposed a so-called streamlining of the established grievance procedure to get disputes settled away from the job sites. Since many grievances concern safety, this is correctly seen as a threat to the ability of the union to protect its members.

The strikers still need financial and moral support from the union movement, especially the USWA. The battle between the Steelworkers and Inco has become one of the longest and most solid major strikes the union has ever conducted. Its result will have an impact on other contracts in both Canada and the United States.

The quarter of a million steelworkers in the United States covered by the Basic Steel Contract, which expires next year, have a special stake in the Sudbury fight and should make efforts to support it.

Strikers from the local are available to speak. Contact Local 6500 at 92 Frood Road, Sudbury, Ontario T3C 4Z4, Canada, or call (705) 675-3381.

Japan: protests force closing of nuclear plant

By Dan Dickeson

Japan's Nuclear Safety Commission (NSC) ordered a temporary shutdown of the country's largest nuclear power plant on April 13.

The NSC's decision came amidst a wave of protests touched off by news of the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island in the United States.

On April 2, antinuclear coalitions including district councils of the Sohyo trade-union federation in Fukuoka and Shizuoka demanded an immediate shutdown of the nuclear power plants in those prefectures (provinces).

The Nagasaki chapter of the Japan Congress Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (affiliated to the Socialist Party) also issued an emergency appeal "for the immediate shutdown and dismantling of all nuclear reactors, and immediate decommissioning of the nuclear-powered ship *Mutsu*." The appeal noted that the *Mutsu*, now docked at the nearby port of Sasebo for repair of a radiation leak, is powered by a pressurized water reactor (PWR) that could have the same type of accident as the PWR at Three Mile Island.

In Kyoto, a stronghold of the Communist Party, the local CP council demanded that construction of a planned reactor in that prefecture be held up "pending a thorough examination of the safety questions" raised by the accident in the United States.

In Tokyo, the Liaison Council Against Nuclear Power, a coalition of several groups, issued a statement demanding the immediate shutdown of all nuclear plants, and calling for the resignation of all five members of the Nuclear Safety Commission.

On April 5, a 100-member delegation representing antinuclear groups from throughout Japan demanded to meet with the minister of international trade and industry in Tokyo. When their request for a meeting was refused, they staged an overnight sit-in

in the ministry building, which received extensive publicity.

In each case, government officials responded to the protests merely by pledging to study the problem. Many hastened to point out that while nearly all of Japan's twenty nuclear power plants were supplied by American companies, none had been manufactured by the same firm that built the ill-fated plant at Three Mile Island.

Under pressure from spreading protests, however, a series of local government bodies began to openly call for a reassessment of the country's nuclear development policy. In at least two towns where nuclear power plants are scheduled to be built, the mayors demanded that the central government and electric power companies suspend construction plans.

Officials in Tokyo continued to insist, however, that there was nothing

to worry about. Nuclear Safety Commissioner Hideo Uchida, who had been dispatched to the United States to "investigate" the Three Mile Island accident, stated April 9 that "there is no need to alter the designs or safety regulations for nuclear power plants in our country in light of the recent accident."

But on April 12, it was reported that Westinghouse Electric Company, the American manufacturer of the PWRs used in Japan, had advised its customers of a design defect in the reactors. Faulty instrument readings could prevent the reactors' emergency core cooling systems from switching on automatically in an emergency. The company suggested that this problem could be circumvented by having reactor technicians operate the emergency cooling system by hand.

This was apparently more than offi-

cials in Tokyo felt they could explain away, under the circumstances. The following day, after what were described as thirteen hours of "intense deliberation," the Nuclear Safety Commission ordered the shutdown of all eight Westinghouse PWRs in Japan until the design problem could be corrected and safe operation assured.

The NSC's decision represents a concession to opponents of nuclear power in Japan. It puts the government and the power companies in a weaker position in the struggles to come.

Electric power companies have already announced postponement of construction on two new nuclear plants in Ishikawa and Miyagi.

On April 14, in response to a call by the Tokyo Liaison Council Against Nuclear Power, more than forty groups joined to form an action coalition to build further protests aimed at shutting down all nuclear plants.

An important factor in the new upsurge of antinuclear protests has been the participation of trade unions. The official stance of the Social Democratic leadership of Sohyo (like that of the Communist Party) is to press for "adequate safeguards" rather than to demand the closing of all nuclear power plants. Nevertheless, those unions are being drawn into united actions with groups that refuse to compromise on this question.

The NSC's decision to shut down reactors that were admittedly defective means that in the impending fight over restarting the PWRs, the debate over whether to call for "safe nukes" or "no nukes" will come to the fore.

The Trotskyists of the Japan Revolutionary Communist League are demanding the immediate closing of all the nuclear plants in Japan, and disclosure of all corporate and government secrets concerning the nuclear industry.

From Intercontinental Press/Inprecor



Angry protesters confront Japanese official. Responding to national outcry, government ordered temporary shutdown of nation's biggest nuclear plant.

...125,000 march

Continued from page 3

groups carried their signs. They included the Clamshell Alliance, Shad Alliance, Huron Alliance, Conchshell Alliance, Catfish Alliance, Georgians Against Nuclear Energy, Safe Energy Alliance, Citizens Against a Radioactive Environment, and the Bailly Alliance.

Nearly half the demonstrators were women. One sign identified the Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, chapter of the National Organization for Women. Another sign read, "Women Against Nuclear Power—Stop the Rape of Our Mother Earth." Gay rights groups carried signs, and the National Black Veterans Association had a banner.

As the marchers approached the Capitol, they passed a row of parked farm tractors. The tractors marked the encampment of small farmers who had come to Washington protesting government policies that were driving them to bankruptcy.

The *Militant* spoke with Don Patterson, Virginia coordinator of the American Agriculture Movement. The AAM has played a leading role in farmers' protests.

Patterson said he had come to the march because of the crisis farmers face with the sharp rise in energy prices.

Nuclear power, thought Patterson, was "risky." He noted that radiation could destroy crops and livestock. A disaster like that, he explained, would not only victimize farmers but would threaten the entire nation's food supply.

Patterson said farmers were being squeezed by the banks and big businesses, who are causing the energy crisis. "Are we going to let profiteers control energy, or farmers and others?" he asked. "We've got to control our own destiny."

Among the left groups carrying banners were the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, Communist Party, Youth Against War and Fascism, and Revolutionary Communist Party.

Many imaginative and well-designed displays graced the march:

- An eight-foot-square banner with a picture of a mother and a baby, and a quote from Albert Einstein: "To the village square must go the facts of atomic energy. There will America's voice be heard."

- A fifteen-foot inflated blue whale sporting a sign reading "Flukes Against Nukes."

- Someone in a gray business suit and a Jimmy Carter mask, parodying the president's whirlwind visit to Three Mile Island by wearing protective yellow footgear.

The May 6 Coalition, which organized the protest, encompassed more than 200 antinuclear, community, and political groups. The central organizational work was done mainly by Public Interest Research Groups. PIRG staff members made up most of the coalition staff, which was buttressed here in Washington by hundreds of volunteers.

Local groups and chapters of national organizations did much to build the march in cities around the country. In New York, for instance the Mobilization for Survival chapter and the Shad Alliance put out leaflets of their own and distributed them widely.

On a national scale, organizations such as War Resisters League, Mobilization for Survival, and the Socialist Workers Party also helped build the action.

The march and rally were carried live on television and radio, bringing the anti-nuclear power message directly to tens of millions of people.

Crowd cheers, listens

By Suzanne Haig

Tens of thousands of demonstrators sat tightly packed together for hours on Capitol Hill May 6. They listened, chanted, and cheered while some twenty speakers addressed the rally.

Many demonstrators had never protested nuclear power before. They stayed throughout the rally because they wanted to learn more about nuclear power and what to do to close all the plants down.

This was a militant crowd. They cheered whenever the speakers demanded the immediate shutdown of all nuclear plants or an end to nuclear weapons. They applauded speeches denouncing the lies of the government or the profits of the nuclear industry. They especially responded whenever speakers urged them to continue their protests.

Some of the speakers gave educational talks. Elsie Peshlaker spoke on the plight of Native Americans whose lives and land are endangered by uranium mining. Dr. Helen Caldicott catalogued the dangers of radiation.

Two victims of nuclear energy provided moving testimony on its deadly effects. Orville Kelly, one of the participants in the atomic testing in 1958 on the Marshall Islands, is today stricken with cancer. "I charge the U.S. government with willful, deceitful cover-up and manslaughter in the death of hundreds of service men," he said.

Susan Cassidy, a pregnant woman who lives four miles from Three Mile Island, spoke, saying that "before the accident I had no knowledge or concern about nuclear power."

A reflection of the deep impact Three Mile Island had—particularly on working people and their unions—was the fact that William Winpisinger, president of the International Association of Machinists, spoke. He is also a member of the AFL-CIO Executive Council.

Winpisinger called nuclear power and the energy issue as a whole a life-and-death issue for trade unionists.

"Workers slowly die of radiation making nuclear fuel and operating nuclear power plants," he explained.

"Workers transport the fuel. [They] are front-line economic, health, and safety casualties whenever nuclear accidents and mishaps occur."

Unfortunately, a number of the most prominent speakers—despite some militant remarks—focused their speeches on orienting the antinuclear movement to the 1980 presidential elections.

Former Democratic Party senatorial candidate Tom Hayden, attacking Carter's "betrayals," said the movement should look for an "alternate president" and an "alternate program" that "can make even the best of our politicians realize that they have to get in line with the people and catch up to where history is going."

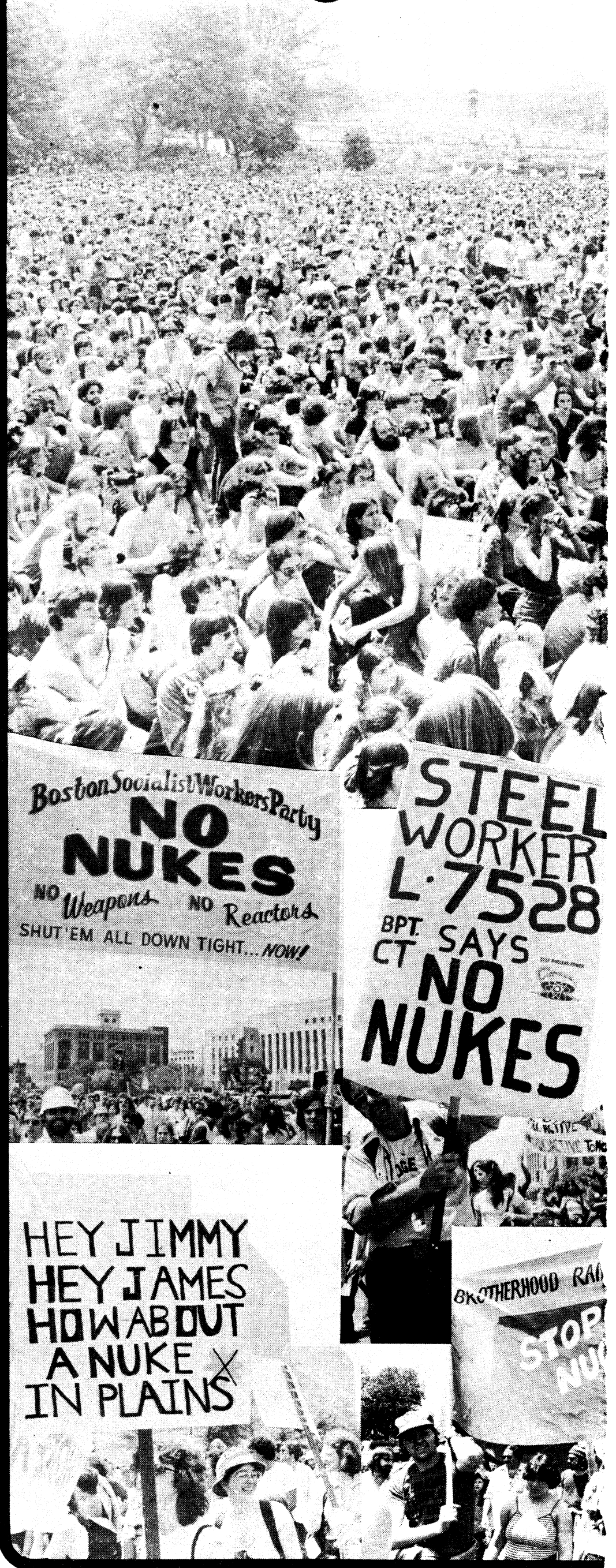
Democratic presidential hopeful Jerry Brown spoke toward the end of the rally. He received a mixed response—both cheers and boos—when he told demonstrators to support a moratorium on new nuclear power plants. This is in contrast to the demand for closing all plants immediately.

Brown called for a "new politics," urging marchers to "go home and tell your congressmen, mayors, governors, and tell me to join the politics of the future. Join life, join the moratorium."

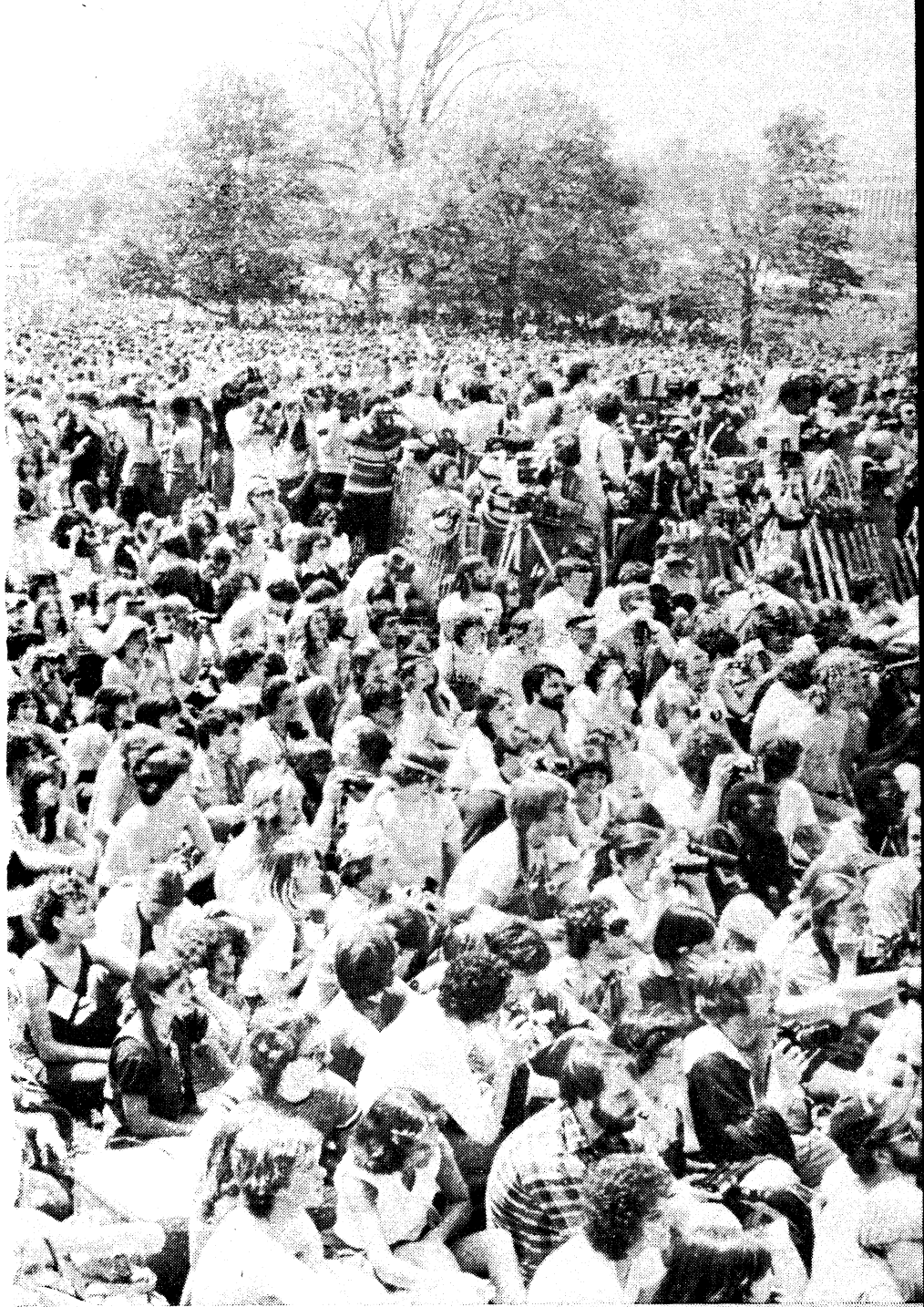
This theme of looking to Democratic politicians to stop the nuclear threat was echoed by Jane Fonda and Ralph Nader.

Other speakers at the rally included John Gofman, former researcher with the Atomic Energy Commission; Barry Commoner; Dick Gregory; Bella Abzug; and George Wald. Entertainers included Jackson Browne and Joni Mitchell.

May 6: n



0 nukes!



Why unionists came

By Nancy Cole

There were unionists marching in Washington May 6, even though you didn't see a lot of union banners and signs.

They came in twos and threes, on their own rather than as part of contingents, to demonstrate their opposition to the nuclear threat.

On one of the buses from Newark, I had a chance to talk with a few of the protesting unionists.

Darryl Henry works at the New York Bulk and Foreign Mail Center in Jersey City. He was one of three postal workers on the bus.

Many of his 5,000 co-workers knew about the demonstration, he said. "Some said they were coming by car. And a lot of people, whether they came or not, *thought* about coming."

Henry is against nuclear power because he believes it's "bad for the future of the world."

There's no way to get rid of the wastes, he said. "How can we subject future civilizations to this? We have to think of the futures of our children and their children."

He favors devoting funds to the development of safe forms of energy, such as solar power. The only reason that isn't on the agenda right now, he added, is that "the oil corporations are interested only in making money for their stockholders."

Sitting beside Henry, co-worker Rachel Fruit emphasized the impact Three Mile Island has had on workers at the bulk-mail center. On Friday, she said, "people were coming up to me and telling me they were thinking about coming, or were definitely coming."

A union leaflet posted at the plant reinforces the point, she explained. It protests the serious safety problems at the rebuilt Morgan Station post office in New York City. The flyer concludes, "Don't let Morgan Station become the next Three Mile Island."

Behind Henry and Fruit was Linda Grunewald, who has worked at the bulk-mail center for two years. This was her first demonstration of any kind, and she brought along her two children—ages three and four—and her mother.

"Three Mile Island convinced me," she said. She decided to demonstrate because "everyday you find out more about how much they're lying to you."

Grunewald believes the value of the demonstration at the Capitol will be to "show other people" the extent of the opposition to nuclear power.

Toward the front of the bus was a cluster of electrical workers—five of them. They work at Wallace and Tiernan in Belleville, New Jersey, and are members of the International Union of Electrical Workers.

Wallace and Tiernan makes precision instruments, including ones for nuclear power plants.

"It's a heritage of death for our children," said Geody Senter. "I was shocked to find out how fast nuclear power plants have spread all across the country."

"I hope a lot of people are here today," he continued. "If America wakes up, sits up and says something, we can stop it. We can force a commitment to other energy sources that won't poison us."

There is discussion on the job about nuclear power, and opposition to it, "but a lot of people don't believe you can stop it. This demonstration will show you can," Senter declared.

"We'll show there is power in numbers," interjected co-worker Marcie Porter.

Altogether, there were six workers from their plant marching May 6. "We'll at least double that number next time," said Porter.

Senter, who has worked at the plant since October, has never been to a local union meeting. Now he wants to go. "I think we should all go and raise this," he said to his co-workers. "The first thing is that the union should take an official position against nuclear power. We should mobilize the sentiment of the union workers."

They started tossing around ideas on how they can "help educate the union members" on the nuclear danger.

"We could get an article in the union paper," suggested Jane Harris.

"We should bring some of Washington home to Belleville, New Jersey, and do something," concluded Senter.

A steelworker speaks

Below are excerpts from remarks made by Mike Olszanski at a rally at the beginning of the May 6 march. Olszanski is head of the environmental committee of United Steelworkers Local 1010 in East Chicago, Indiana, and a leading labor spokesperson against nuclear power.

I'm proud to be a part of this movement and proud to be here representing the 18,000 steelworkers of Local 1010, the largest in the Steelworkers union. Ours was the first Steelworkers local, in 1976, to publicly oppose nuclear power plants.

Even more importantly, our Steelworkers District 31, representing 120,000 steelworkers in Chicago and northwest Indiana, went on record last year opposing construction of the Bailly nuclear plant by Lake Michigan.

The significance of my being here today is not in anything I might say but in the fact that we in District 31 can add to this struggle the support, the clout of 120,000 steelworkers.

We in the labor movement must recognize the options in terms of energy use and insist that those options compatible with our goals of full

employment, a high standard of living, and the health, safety, and quality of life of our members are adopted.

The struggle in this country today is a political one between corporate monopolies and people. The antinuclear movement should see that and remind us which side we're on.

People can control our own destinies. People can share in the benefits of our technological, automated society. People can prevent the destructive misuse of technology, both in the building of weapons of war and in the destruction of the environment, our health and lives, through shortsighted and greedy application of industrial technology like nuclear power.

People can get control over our own collective lives. The name of the game is political power. There may come a time in the not-too-distant future when environmentalists may join steelworkers on the picket lines to force the giant corporations to obey the law. But now we are joining your picket line. We can stand together. Solidarity is the watchword of the labor movement.

But, in the words of an old song, "Freedom doesn't come like a bird on the wing. You've got to work for it, fight for it, day and night for it. And every generation has to win it again."

Millitant photos by Nancy Cole and Lou Howort

Interview with antinuke steelworkers

'Working people must act to stop Bailly'

By Mark Severs

GARY, Ind.—The Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) is constructing its Bailly I nuclear power plant several hundred feet from Bethlehem Steel's Burns Harbor Plant.

Bill Paulus has worked at the steel plant for thirteen years and is a member of the United Steelworkers Local 6787. In April Local 6787 passed a resolution—with one dissenting vote—against the nuclear plant and is entering into a lawsuit to stop its construction.

Paulus and his wife Kathy live with their two children only a few miles from the Bailly site. They have both been active for more than a year in the Bailly Alliance, an antinuclear group opposed to the Bailly plant.

Several other steelworkers from Local 6787 are also active in the Bailly Alliance.

"Things have changed since Harrisburg. There is a tremendous difference in the attitude of my co-workers. That event changed a lot of minds and now at least a majority oppose the Bailly I plant," explained Paulus in an interview with the *Militant*.

"I have fifteen years to go for my retirement but I may lose that, my family, my house—everything—if this plant is built.

"It's a simple fact—the power companies have invested billions of dollars in nuclear energy and it won't be easy to shut them all down. But we have to get active now to make sure we do that," he added.

Evacuation plan

Paulus talked about the proposed evacuation plan for workers in the steel plant in the event of a nuclear accident.

"The evacuation of the plant would be impossible in any reasonable time. I park my car approximately 300 feet from the [Bailly] site and walk about a quarter of a mile from where I work—that takes fifteen minutes. From there it is almost two miles to the front gates. On a good day with normal shift change it takes between forty-five minutes and an hour to get out.

"So you see, no evacuation plan for 2,000 to 3,000 workers would be sufficient.

"They got permission to build the plant in the first place because they said there was no signifi-



The Bailly site (building in upper left corner) is just a few hundred feet from Bethlehem's Burns Harbor steel plant.

cant population near the plant," commented Paulus.

"But there is an even worse aspect of the plan. It calls for 200 workers to remain in the plant to shut down the ovens.

"If all the workers left the mill, which they should, the furnaces would be left unattended.

Without workers attending them, the coke ovens would have their own little meltdowns."

To make things worse, NIPSCO has petitioned to build the plant on "short pilings." These pilings, or structural supports, would be in sand and water—"floating pilings" as Paulus calls them. This same kind of foundation has caused major problems in the steel plant.

"The coke oven is literally split in half because of uneven settling. The furnace has sunk so much that the cranes have a difficult time running on the twisted tracks.

Think what could happen if one side of the [nuclear] plant settled six inches. There is a constant problem of flooding, which the nuke plant will have also," said Paulus.

Nick Contri is another Bethlehem steelworker concerned about the dangers of Bailly.

"I became aware of the nuclear power plant by accident," he told the *Militant*. "I asked why the environmental conditions in my area of the mill were so bad. The floors are wet all of the time. I got no answer from the company. But on my own I found out the water was coming from the pilings construction at the Bailly plant.

"When I heard that NIPSCO wanted to build Bailly I on short pilings, I contacted the Bailly Alliance and the U.S. Steel Local 1010 environmental committee," Contri said.

Contri too is concerned about the evacuation plan for workers in the event of an accident.

"When my local president showed the plan to me, I honestly thought it was a joke," he said.

Contri has noticed a turnaround in attitude at work since Harrisburg.

"At the April 7 Stop Bailly I rally in Chesterton, Indiana, I saw people I work with that I never thought I'd see. And antinuclear literature I've been bringing to work, which has often been criticized, is being circulated and well received. The Harrisburg accident changed things qualitatively.

"I had intended to speak at our local meeting in favor of the resolution opposing Bailly I. But there was no need. People who had never been to a union meeting before spoke in support of the resolution."

Involving unionists

This sentiment, Contri believes, means that more steelworkers can be involved in the fight against nuclear plants.

"We have to get rank and file union members—the labor movement—involved in the Bailly Alliance. That would strengthen the antinuke movement eighteen fold," he declared.

"In order to do that, we have to go on an educational campaign. One idea is to have an all-unions antinuke educational conference—maybe cosponsored by U.S. Steel District 31 and the United Auto Workers. Open it up to all union members, and build it big with a lot of publicity to maximize participation. We could use the conference to reach out to coal miners, teamsters, carpenters, etc.

"The possibilities of involving the unions are good. We have to get working people active to stop Bailly I. If anyone can do it, we can," concluded Contri.

Unionists oppose NIPSCO rate hike

On April 17, more than 400 angry people attended rate-hike hearings in Crown Point, Indiana. The hearings took testimony on Northern Indiana Public Service Company's request for a \$65 million rate increase. Much of the increase would go for construction of the Bailly I nuclear power plant.

In the March-April edition of *The Record*, newspaper of United Steelworkers Local 1011, union officers urged their members to participate in the hearings. Their statement read in part:

"NO RATE HIKE FOR NUKES!"

"We urge our members to join us at the Indiana Public Service Commission hearing on NIP-

SCO's rate increase proposal. We can make our voices heard, and we can beat this company's plans to make us pay, more than ever, for a 'profits first' policy that would put an atomic time bomb in our future."

The statement was signed by James Balanoff, District 31 director; Mike Olszanski, District 31 environmental chairperson; Norman Purdue, president of U.S. Steel Local 1011; William Andrews, president of U.S. Steel Local 1010; and Paul Kaczocha, then president of U.S. Steel Local 6787.

Balanoff and Kaczocha testified at the hearings, along with representatives from locals 1010 and 1011.

—M.S.

Indiana rally demands end to nuke construction

By Curt Steinmetz

INDIANAPOLIS—"Building safe nuclear power plants wouldn't cost a dime, because it simply can't be done," Bob Petersen, a member of United Auto Workers Local 933, told a rally of 250 people here May 5. The rally and a preceding march were sponsored by the newly formed Indianapolis chapter of the Paddlewheel Alliance.

Demonstrators demanded a halt to construction of two nuclear power plants in Indiana. It was the first antinuclear protest here.

Demonstrators chanted, "They say meltdown, we say shutdown."

The Bailly nuclear power plant is planned for the shores of Lake Michigan, five miles from Gary. Marble Hill is planned for southern Indiana.

Petersen told the *Militant* he was optimistic about winning ever-greater numbers of working people to the antinuclear movement. "Any sane person can see that nuclear power is unsafe, once they know the truth," Petersen said.

Franz Neely, a Black member of Paddlewheel, stressed the importance of reaching out to Blacks. In future nuclear accidents, Neely said, Blacks will be "the first contaminated and the last evacuated."

Other speakers at the rally included Herb Read, Bailly Alliance; Celeste Williams, Muncie Paddlewheel; and State Sen. Mike Kendall.

Plans are under way here to take part in June 3 protests against Marble Hill and Bailly. For more information, call (317) 923-1762 or 873-3701.



Three Mile Island

Gov't lied to victims of deadly radiation

By Arnold Weissberg

They said the radiation from Three Mile Island wouldn't hurt anyone. But as in everything else connected with the near-meltdown there, the government was lying.

On May 3, a month after the accident, Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano told a Senate committee that at least one and perhaps ten people would die of cancer as a result of the accident.

And the rise from zero to ten is just the beginning. Califano said the estimates were expected to rise further. He added that ten "nonfatal" cancers could be expected.

Other estimates are grimmer. Paul Milvy, assistant professor of community medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, said that fifty people would die from cancer after exposure to radiation from Three Mile Island.

The deaths, according to the HEW's figures, will occur among the 2 million people who live within fifty miles of Three Mile Island. According to Califano, those 2 million people received a total dose of 3,500 rems of radiation. This is twice the earlier estimate.

(A rem is a measure of radiation absorbed by the body. Government regulations are supposed to keep the average exposure for the entire population down to .17 rems, or 170 millirems. A 1972 government study urged this figure be reduced, but so far nothing has happened.)

Califano said the new estimates were the result of an increase in radiation monitoring equipment. He admitted radiation monitoring in the first days of the accident had been inadequate.

The government's figures originally

estimated an average dose of one millirem per person within fifty miles. But this figure is meaningless, because it doesn't take into account the higher exposures of people living near the plant.

The figures also fail to take into account the damage done by inhaled radioactive gases. Dr. Ernest Stern-glass of the University of Pittsburgh has estimated that between 300 and 2,500 deaths could result from breathing the radioactive krypton and xenon that were released at Three Mile Island.

Meanwhile, a study by the National Academy of Sciences predicted that

2,000 Americans would die of cancer in the next twenty years as a result of exposure to human-made sources of radiation, including radioactive emissions from nuclear power plants.

The study was financed by the Department of Energy, which wants to step up the construction of nuclear plants.

Nearly all these deaths could be prevented by halting the entire nuclear cycle—stopping uranium mining, shutting down nuclear power plants, and dismantling nuclear weapons.

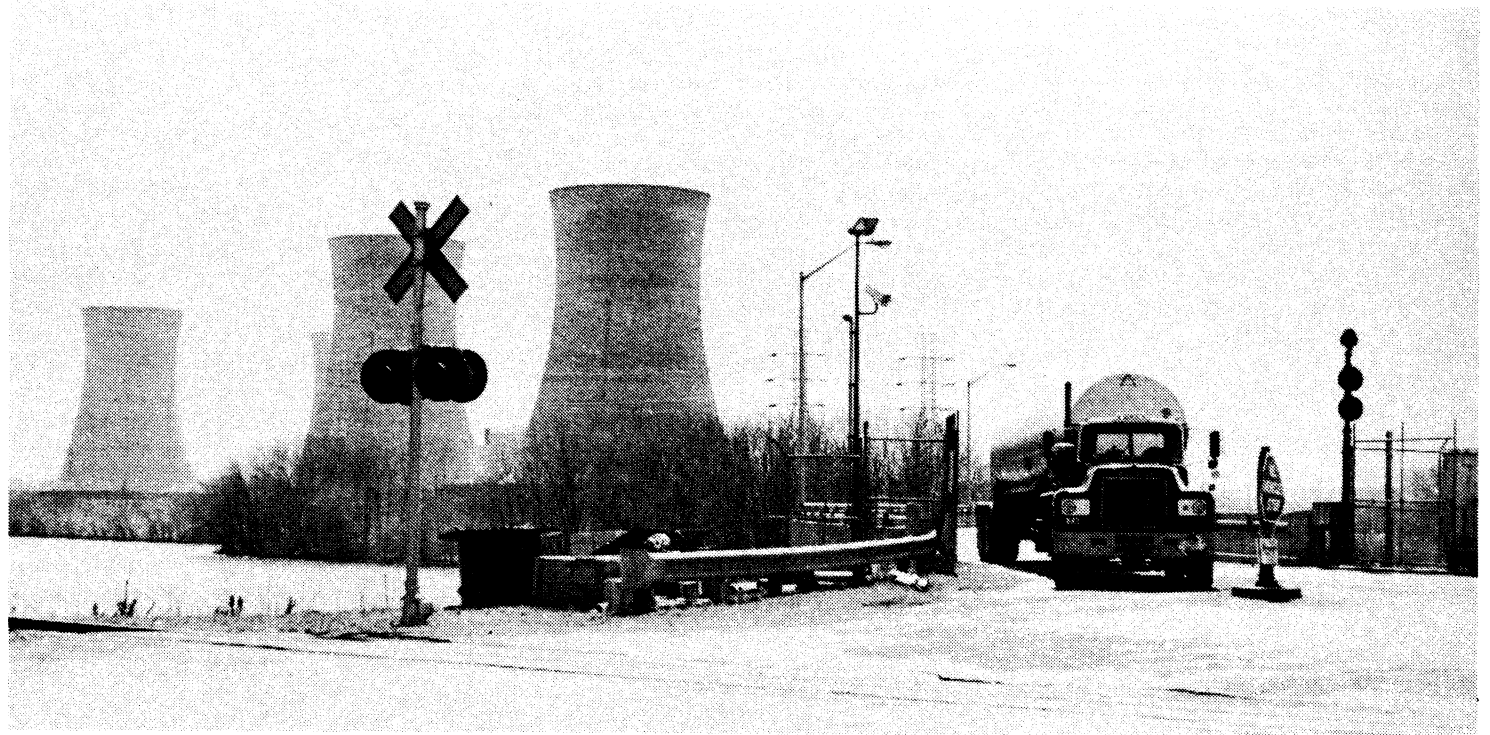
A second study from an Academy of Sciences committee said that 1 person in 1,000 living in the United States

today would contract cancer as a result of exposure to radiation, either natural or human-made.

That's 220,000 people.

Dr. Edward Radford, chairman of the second study panel, added that he believed maximum workplace exposure to radiation should be reduced to one-tenth its present limit, from five rems to half a rem.

"If the guideline levels were reduced the way he wants them, there wouldn't be any nuclear industry at all," another committee member complained, thus admitting it's not possible to operate a nuclear power plant safely.



Gov't now admits radiation from Three Mile Island was at least twice the amount it previously claimed.

Militant/Nancy Cole

Shipyard workers protest Carter wage limits

When President Carter began his 1980 reelection campaign with a 'town meeting' in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, April 25, nearly 500 protesters were outside. Among them were seventy-five workers from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

The Portsmouth shipyard workers are represented by sixteen unions, all affiliated with the Federal Employees Metal Trades Council. The protesting shipyard unionists distributed the following statement.

The Metal Trades Council is the representative of the blue collar workers at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

This present group [of demonstrators] is a delegation of union officers and members who represent the approximately 5285 blue collar workers in the Portsmouth area.

The council is taking this action because of Mr. Carter's cavalier attitude toward the plight of working people in general, and federal workers in particular.

He has limited any pay increase for federal workers to 5.5%, while the cost of living soars over 12% and an impartial survey recently showed that we required an increase of 8.54% just to stay equal to the comparable pay, for our trades, in this wage area. That amount was and is required by law. Mr. Carter negated that law, by an amendment to the defense appropriation bill. At the same time Mr. Carter has allowed the pay of top government managers to climb to over \$52,800. He has further advocated a 5.5% cap, for the next two years, no matter what happens to the cost of living.

He has suggested changes in our wage structure to further reduce our pay and benefits, without any negotiations with employee unions.

He has instigated a study to find a way to eliminate our staff retirement system. This system was bought, and paid for, by federal workers. It has been a condition of employment, in government

service, for over fifty years. In doing this he has made Uncle Sam appear to be a con man, who induced us to work for, and pay for, this benefit. Then tries to find a way to cheat us of it. He is also looking for ways to reduce the benefits of all retirees by also cutting the social security benefits.

He is trying to make retired and working people scapegoats either because he lacks the talent to control inflation, or because he is the captive of big business. Look at the recent profits of the major corporations and financial institutions. Only a fool cannot see who benefits from, and causes, inflation. We do not believe that the president is a fool.

The wages of the federal employee did not and does not cause inflation. Reducing those wages will only have a very small effect on inflation because our wages are based on comparability surveys. Our wages only reflect the trends in the private sector. They trail behind the wages in the private sector, by almost a year, in most areas. How can this method cause inflation? Only Jimmy knows.

His proposals to deregulate the various sources of energy is a direct attack on all working people, particularly the people of New England, who are most vulnerable. His attempt to regulate the use of energy, by allowing the cost to rise, is to regulate the use only by working and/or poor people. The affluent can still use and waste all they want. What is a dollar a gallon to a rich man? In any case, because of the tax laws, the rich can deduct such costs as business expenses, so the working poor will pay for his gas too, in taxes and higher prices.

His excess profits tax on the oil companies is a joke. The major oil companies already have enough excess profits to buy up hotels, restaurants, food processors, and most other competing sources of energy. If the past excesses had been used properly, we would have no shortage.

We are taking this opportunity to demonstrate our feeling to Mr. Carter. We have nothing to lose. With our real income falling at a rate of 6% a year, we will all starve eventually in any case.

Guidelines at work

Carter is not just holding down workers' wages; he's cutting them. That's what limiting federal workers' wage increases to 5.5 percent—and all workers to 7 percent—amounts to when prices are rising at an annual rate of 13 percent.

But not all paychecks are feeling Carter's pinch. At least twelve corporate executives have passed the \$1 million salary mark, according to the May 5 *New York Times*.

"Chalk it up to inflation" is the *Times's* tongue-in-cheek explanation.

The \$1 million Club

Some of the executives who received \$1 million or more in 1978 salary, directors' fees, bonuses and stock-related benefits

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
|  David J. Mahoney Chmn., Norton Simon \$2,037,055 |  Archie R. McCardell Pres., Int'l. Harvester \$1,906,658 |  Harry J. Gray Chmn., United Tech. \$1,713,800 |  H. Robert Sharbaugh Chmn., Sun Company \$1,440,432 |
|  Thornton A. Wilson Chmn., Boeing \$1,299,860 |  E. L. Paramore Pres., Halliburton \$1,265,360 |  Malcolm T. Stamper Pres., Boeing \$1,232,255 |  John P. Harbin Chmn., Halliburton \$1,141,171 |
|  Edwin A. Gee Pres., Int'l. Paper \$1,108,856 |  Henry Ford 2d Chmn., Ford \$1,057,070 |  Philip Caldwell Pres., Ford \$1,040,128 |  J. Edward Lundy Exec. v.p., Ford \$1,000,928 |

New assassination try by right-wing Cubans

By Jack Lieberman

MIAMI—Rev. Manuel Espinosa was the target of an assassination attempt here May 3 when his car was fired upon by right-wing Cuban exile terrorists. Although a bullet struck his vehicle, Espinosa escaped unharmed.

Espinosa is among the best-known proponents of the "dialogue" initiated by Fidel Castro last fall—the rapprochement between the Cuban communities in the United States and Puerto Rico and the revolutionary government of Cuba.

Espinosa is also the pastor of the Christian Reformed Evangelical Church. This church, which draws several thousand Cubans to its twice-weekly meetings, has arranged numerous trips by Miami Cubans to Cuba. It also organizes activities demanding an end to the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba and the establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Espinosa was shot at on the way to the Miami airport. He was leaving for Washington to demand a federal investigation into the murder of Carlos Muñiz, another prominent figure in the dialogue, who was assassinated on April 28 by right-wing terrorists in Puerto Rico.

Muñiz was head of a travel agency set up to organize tours of Cuba by Cubans in Puerto Rico. He was also a member of the National Committee of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, an organization of young Cubans that supports the dialogue, establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba, and lifting the U.S. blockade.

Many members of the brigade are



Carlos Muñiz (above) was murdered by right-wing Cuban exiles April 28. The terrorists are trying to prevent contact between Cubans abroad and the Castro government.

supporters of the Cuban revolution, although this is not a position of the group as a whole.

Espinosa helped organize a protest demonstration of more than 1,000 Cubans the day after the assassination of Muñiz. On May 2 he was a keynote speaker at a news conference of Cuban leaders here who denounced the assassination and demanded U.S. government action against the threat of further terrorist acts. Simultaneous news conferences were held in four other cities.

A statement released at these news conferences documented the campaign of right-wing terror against the Cuban revolution and the proponents of the dialogue.

It noted that the terrorists—far from being unknown persons—function relatively openly, in close collaboration with such above-ground organizations as the Cuban Nationalist Movement and various right-wing Cuban exile newspapers.

It stressed "the relative impunity with which these elements are still operating today" and demanded a federal crackdown to put an end to the terrorism.

In addition to the activities organized by Reverend Espinosa and other dialogue supporters in Miami, news conferences and other protests have been held in Boston, Austin, Los Angeles, New York, and Washington, D.C., as well as in Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Venezuela.

In Cuba itself the terrorist attack and the protests against it have been given prominent coverage in *Granma*, the major daily, and in radio and TV broadcasts.

Here in Miami the news media and right-wing Cuban groups have tried to spread confusion over who is responsible for Muñiz's death and the continuing violence in the Cuban community. They are trying to make the criminal into the victim and the victim into the criminal.

Channel 7 TV went so far as to state that Muñiz was killed by "pro-Castro terrorists." This absurd statement was repeated on three news broadcasts

until protests caused the station to drop it.

The *Miami Herald*, the major daily, picked up the same theme. In a lead editorial May 5 titled "Terrorism Among Cubans Demands Immediate Action," the paper professed to see a danger "from left-wing pro-Castro elements" as well as from the right-wingers. The *Herald* claimed Muñiz's killing might have been a result of "bitter internal rivalries on the dialogue committee."

What the *Herald* conveniently left out is that all the members of the committee have condemned the terrorist attacks. They have been the victims, not the perpetrators, of the violence.

The terrorist record of the right-wing exile groups is notorious. Many members of these groups have been on the CIA payroll and were trained by the CIA. They are being driven into a frenzy today by loss of their base of support in the Cuban community.

Supporters of the dialogue have launched a campaign here to see that the murderers of Muñiz are brought to justice. They have launched a mass petitioning drive condemning the attacks and calling for a federal investigation. They also offer a \$25,000 reward for information leading to conviction of the murderers of Muñiz.

Rev. José Reyes, a leading figure among pro-dialogue Cubans, expressed the sentiment of thousands of Cubans here when he stated at the May 2 news conference, "We are going to fight them all the way. We will not be intimidated by these terrorists."

Atlanta march to protest capital punishment

By Linda Millwood

ATLANTA—A March Against Death has been set for May 12 here to protest capital punishment. The sponsoring groups are the National Coalition Against the Death Penalty, the Southern Coalition on Jails and Prisons, and Amnesty International-U.S.A.

In an interview with the *Militant*, Rick Reed, coordinator of the march, warned of "the immediately impending resumption of executions in several southern states; we anticipate the resumption in the southern states will open the floodgates across the country for a return to executions."

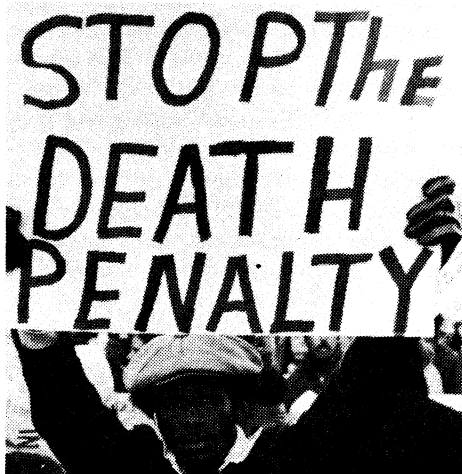
Around 500 men and women in thirty-two states are currently facing execution. Three southern states—Texas, Georgia, and Florida—account for three-fourths of the national death row population.

Between 1930 and 1967, 3,859 persons were executed in the United States. Rising opposition to the death penalty led to a halt in executions after 1967, which was formalized by a 1972 Supreme Court decision. That decision admitted the racist character of executions. Of those killed during the 1930-67 period, more than one-half were Black.

But in 1976, the Supreme Court held that capital punishment was not a cruel or unusual punishment in all cases. States began to set execution dates again. Gary Mark Gilmore was the first to be executed when he chose to face a Utah firing squad in 1977 rather than appeal his sentence.

The death penalty recently hit the news once more due to the on-again, off-again execution date of John Evans III in Alabama. Evans, who originally declared, "I choose death to a hell on

earth in prison," has since changed his mind. On April 27, a federal judge stayed the execution to allow Evans to challenge Alabama's death penalty law.



Sid Fine

Another threat of execution has resulted from the Supreme Court's refusal on March 26 to hear the final appeal of Florida death row inmate John Spenkelink. His only hope now is to obtain clemency from Gov. Robert Graham.

Spenkelink's appeal contended that electrocution is an "unnecessarily torturous and wantonly cruel means of execution" as well as arguing that Florida's death penalty laws are unfairly imposed on the basis of race, sex, and economic condition.

The death penalty, according to Reed, is part of an overall pattern of attacks on human rights. He pointed out, "To my knowledge, no one of any significant economic position has been subjected to execution. The death penalty is unquestionably discriminatory in that it is generally applied to minority and poor white prisoners."

Eula Love: Killed for not paying her gas bill

By Joan Quinn

LOS ANGELES—More than 500 people gathered here April 28 to protest the cop killing of Eula Love, a thirty-nine-year-old widow with three children.

Love was the third Black woman shot by police in the predominantly Black South Central area over the past five months. She was killed for failing to pay a \$22.09 gas bill on time.

On January 3 a meterman came to Love's house to collect money or turn off her gas. She fended him off with a shovel, but later a gas company supervisor arrived with the police. At that point she offered to pay the bill collector with a money order.

But the cops weren't satisfied. They left their patrol cars and advanced with guns drawn. Love was holding a

small knife that she had been using to trim trees. One of the cops knocked the knife from her hand while the other pushed her to the ground. While she was down the cops emptied their guns into her body, shooting twelve times.

Love's daughters recount seeing their mother struggling to get up when Officer Hopson, putting his foot on her chest, ordered: "Lay down, bitch." She was handcuffed as she lay dying on the sidewalk.

This savage display of cop violence brought a storm of protest from the Black community.

"I think [the cops] just shouldn't have guns," one of Love's neighbors told the *Militant*. "We'd be better off without the cops altogether," said another.

At the nearby Bethlehem Steel plant

there's been a lot of discussion about the murder. One worker who reads the *Militant* drew a parallel between the cop attack on striking Steelworkers in Newport News and Love's death.

"Just because we're part of the working class," he said, "they think they can just gun us down."

On April 17 the district attorney's office declared Love's shooting a "justifiable homicide."

Ten days later, cops shot a fifteen-year-old boy who accidentally wandered into a yard where trigger-happy cops were guarding a murder witness. Shot in the head, Carlos Washington is not expected to live.

Asked to comment on the number of police shootings in the Black community, L.A. Police Chief Daryl Gates tried to justify the wave of police terror, saying:

"Yes, we do police the south end of the city in a more intensive way. The people demand it. They want us there. They're frightened."

Forum on Love murder

The murder of Eula Love. Hear Paul Hudson, president, Los Angeles NAACP; John T. Williams, former vice-president, Teamsters Local 208; Ann Davis, Coalition Against Police Abuse; Rev. D.L. Johnson, New Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church; Frank Greenwood, playwright; Adwoa Acquah, Socialist Workers Party, United Steelworkers Local 8593. Fri., May 18, 7:30 p.m. Ward AME Church, 1177 W. 25th St., Los Angeles. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (213) 482-1341.

Is Kucinich really fighting the monopolies?

By Bob Schwarz

In the face of attacks on workers' standard of living by Cleveland's bankers and businessmen, the Communist Party continues to defend Democratic Mayor Dennis Kucinich.

Kucinich has become a central example of the CP's "antimonopoly" strategy—a strategy aimed at keeping the working class inside the two capitalist parties.

"What is unique about Cleveland," according to CP Political Action Director Si Gerson, "is the fightback of its people—and yes, of its mayor—and the great lesson that the banks and corporate interests can be defeated by the massed power of the people."

Kucinich, says Gerson in the April 5 *Daily World*, is one of the "urban populist" politicians who "in one way or another are fighting monopoly power."

On May 5, the CP's *Daily World* reiterated its support for Kucinich, praising "his consistent stance against big business. . . ."

But what side does the CP's "populist mayor" really stand on?

When the Cleveland banks demanded payment on their loans last December, Kucinich launched a campaign to convince the city's voters to raise their payroll taxes by half. To sell

his tax hike, he threatened mass layoffs and cutbacks.

The increase passed in a February 27 referendum, hitting Cleveland workers with an extra \$25 million a year in taxes. Meanwhile, not a cent will be taken from the profits of the banks and big corporations.

Is this a "consistent stance against big business"?

Even the CP finds that a hard one to argue, so it plays up the other measure on the February ballot, the proposal to sell Muny Light, the city-owned power system. Kucinich went on a big campaign to oppose sale of the facility, falsely claiming Muny keeps down utility bills. When voters defeated the proposal to sell Muny but passed the tax hike, the mayor—and the CP—hailed it as a great victory over big business.

The Muny issue was pure fakery, a smokescreen to hide the sharp tax hike.

Now the CP is keeping up the cover. Gerson mildly chides Kucinich for raising taxes: "The good mayor should be reminded of what is an almost iron law of taxes under capitalism. Virtually all emergency taxes become permanent and standard."

When Kucinich first proposed the tax hike, the *Daily World* ran front-page stories supporting it, saying four-fifths of the burden would fall on "suburbanites." In this heavily industrialized area it is auto workers, steelworkers, and other industrial workers who live in most suburbs and will pay this tax. Obviously the CP believes an "emergency" tax that soaks working people and leaves profits untouched is a necessary evil—at least when an "antimonopoly mayor" is in charge.

But why should workers pay any tax at all—"emergency" or not? Why should they pay for the "urban crisis" that has been brought upon them by the banks and the owners of industry?

These questions are at the heart of the Socialist Workers Party mayoral campaign of Thabo Ntweng, a member of United Auto Workers Local 217 in Cleveland.

"The capitalists have already taken their profits from the wealth we produce in the plants," Ntweng explained during the referendum campaign.

"Now they want us to pay even more taxes! The Socialist Workers Party doesn't think workers should pay any taxes. We should tax corporate profits, not working people."

Ntweng calls for opening the books of the banks, utilities, and the city treasury, to expose the profits, tax dodges, rate gouging, and kickbacks that are the real source of the crisis in Cleveland.

These proposals, which serve the interests of workers, not banks and utility monopolies, are summed up in his call for the Cleveland labor movement to run its own candidates. Ntweng proposes that labor break with the parties of big business—the Democrats and Republicans—and form a labor party based on the trade unions.

The Communist Party opposes this perspective.

According to Gerson, labor should

help the beleaguered "antimonopolist" mayors who, are supposedly challenging the Carter administration's budget cuts and the Pentagon. Labor should stay in the Democratic Party and elect more Kucinich's.

It is a myth that some Democrats are "populists" or "antimonopolists," defending workers against those who "support monopoly." The Democratic and Republican parties are bought, paid for, and controlled by the same capitalist class. Demagogues like Kucinich simply try to disguise this reality.

Those like Gerson and the CP who cover up for Kucinich help to grease the way for more "emergency taxes," "necessary austerity measures," and "lesser-evil candidates."

Labor needs its own candidates and its own party, one that fights in the interests of working people and against the bankers and owners of industry.



DENNIS KUCINICH

Pathfinder The Lesser Evil?

Peter Camejo
George Breitman
Jack Barnes

VS.

Michael Harrington
Carl Haessler
Stanley Aronowitz

What is the Democratic Party—the 'party of the people' or a dead end? Should feminists, Black people, union militants, socialists, and others support the Democratic Party? Or should they run their own candidates in opposition?

The Lesser Evil? contains three debates that examine the alternatives in light of the cold war witch-hunt, the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, women's liberation, the New York City budget crisis—and in the broader context of the socialist perspective.

128 pages, paper \$1.75, cloth \$7.

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Who prison guards were striking against

By Harry Ring

On various occasions, the *Militant* has stated a total lack of sympathy for striking police or prison guards.

Sometimes a reader will disagree.

As I see it

Cops and prison guards, it's argued, are, in the main, working people trying to make a living.

Besides, the argument runs, if they join unions or go through strike experiences, cops will be less inclined to bust heads on picket lines, less likely to go on racist rampages. Guards might be more inclined to treat prisoners like human beings.

But if cops stopped busting heads and guards started treating prisoners like human beings, they'd be out of work fast.

Cops are paid to protect private property. That means keeping all the victims of the capitalist private-property system in line. It means busting the heads of striking workers, like they did last month in Newport News, Virginia. It means keeping Blacks and other oppressed nationalities "in their place." It means brutalizing them.

And prisons were not built to serve the cause of justice, not to speak of "rehabilitating" people. Prisons are institutions of class repression. And if the guards who work in them didn't carry out that function, there would be no reason to have them there.

I was reminded again of all this as I read the

accounts of the recent strike by New York State prison guards.

Some of the reality even came through in the reporting of the *New York Times*, no friend of prison inmates.

An April 27 interview with guards picketing the Elmira Correctional Facility was headlined, "Striking Guards Say They Are the Prisons' Real Inmates."

The article reported that while the guards want higher pay, "money is not their principal complaint."

What is?

The inmates. As far as the guards are concerned, prisoners don't suffer enough.

"In five or six years," one guard complained, "it will be renamed Elmira Recreational Facility. You've got to make everybody in prison comfortable, like they were in camp."

"The prisoners up there have it better than we do," another asserted.

The guards are intolerant of prison officials who feel that the massive prison rebellions of recent years dictate some token reforms within a barbarous prison system.

"We have some people in there who are the ultraliberal, bleeding-heart types," said one guard.

The *Times* summed up the attitude of the guards:

"The correction officers call the inmates 'animals'—or worse."

Maybe the guards are reacting to rebellious prisoners? Just the opposite.

A *Times* reporter went inside Arthur Kill

prison, where National Guardsmen had replaced the guards. The April 28 article was headlined: "Calm Situation in State Prison Surprises Troops and Inmates."

"We were very apprehensive coming here," a National Guard major said. But he added that the troops were pleasantly surprised at what the *Times* described as "a generally relaxed atmosphere."

There had been a few fights among inmates after the guards walked out, prisoners said. But they quickly organized a committee to maintain order throughout the prison.

Inmates explained that they were treated as "subhumans" by the guards and feared it would be even worse when they came back.

"They can stay out as long as they want—the longer the better for us," one declared.

After the strike, prisoners at Wallkill talked to a *Times* reporter.

"They figured they'd be missed," one said. "But they weren't. Everything was cool in here. Very cool and very calm. Everybody got along beautifully."

Now the prisoners have the guards on their backs again.

"They came in kicking off, screaming at us," one prisoner said. "Nothing's changed, for sure. They came in as the same old people."

The captain of the prison responded to this with a good explanation.

He used an overly polite word—"disciplinarian"—but he made a point.

"Correction officers," he explained, "are by definition disciplinarians."

Eyewitness report

How Iranian revolution came to Turkmenistan

By Gerry Foley

IRANIAN TURKMENISTAN—Both the social struggle of the peasants and the fight of the oppressed Turkmeni nationality are deepening here.

The Turkmenis have taken back all their historic land, which had been stolen from them by the big landowners and officials of the shah's regime. They have seized some 30,000 to 50,000 head of livestock, as well as the farm machinery of the landlords. They are in the process of electing councils in all the villages, as well as a central council of the Turkmeni people.

A socialist-minded leadership, loosely linked to the People's Fedayeen, has emerged and is gaining the confidence of the Turkmeni people. In particular, it has led them in the fight against the racist Persian gangs organized by the old landlords acting through the local Imam's Committees.

The Imam's Committees recently staged a savage pogrom against the Turkmeni people, and the signs of it are still visible on the headquarters of the Turkmeni council building in Gonbad-e Qabus. The metal gate leading to the courtyard is full of bullet holes, apparently made by an automatic weapon. Inside the building, all the glass in the doors is broken. Holes have been put through the walls in some places.

Turkmeni leadership

The Turkmeni leadership obviously has many excellent qualities. Otherwise it could not have led the struggle so successfully thus far. But it suffers from a lack of realistic political perspectives for defending the gains of the Turkmenis and leading the struggle forward. For example, the leaders of one village council told me that the peasants had not really benefited from the expropriations yet because they have no money to buy gasoline to operate the farm machinery or to get fertilizer. I asked how they thought they could obtain what they needed, and suggested that it would be quite reasonable to demand that the government provide free gasoline, since the country faces a food shortage and domestic consumption of petroleum products represents only a tiny percentage of Iran's total oil production.

The council members responded that they had not considered making demands on the government or getting support outside their area. In general,

they seemed to look to the Turkmeni leadership to provide what they need, although there is no conceivable way that it can do that by itself.

The leaders, on the other hand, have little understanding of the reality that the fate of the Turkmeni struggle depends on what happens in Iran as a whole. They thought they could exploit the contradictions between the government and the Imam's Committees to do anything they wanted in Turkmenistan, including sentencing all the local capitalists to be expropriated and jailed as enemies of the people.

Persian gangs

This is despite the fact that the Turkmeni area is surrounded by Persian settlements where widespread racial hatred of the Turkmenis still exists. Also, the government has stationed about 500 troops in just one small Turkmeni town. At present, however, the Turkmenis view the troops as allies against the racist Persian gangs.

But the Persian forces are already beginning to show their hand. While I was in Gonbad-e Qabus, troops tried to seize about 3,000 sheep and give them back to the landowners. The Turkmeni leadership, though, is still completely unprepared politically for a confrontation with the army.

Moreover, the struggle in Gonbad-e Qabus remains quite isolated. Even in Iran, few outside the area know what the situation is. The local leadership has a certain understanding of the need to get out the facts, but apparently it doesn't feel much urgency about doing so. It thinks that revolutionary fortresses can be built among the oppressed nationalities, and after that revolutionists can sit back in those areas and wait for the revolution to advance in the rest of the country.

Only the Iranian Trotskyists are stressing that the national movements are part of the all-Iranian revolution. They make defense of the nationalities a central part of their program and propaganda.

In fact, the national movements bore the brunt of the first reactionary counteroffensive after the insurrection. With their resistance they gave the workers movement a breathing space, and now there are indications that the workers movement is reviving and moving forward again.

What the Turkmeni people have already achieved should be an inspiration to oppressed nationalities the



Iranian revolution has spurred Turkmeni people to struggle against their oppression.

world over. The Turkmenis were so beaten down under the shah's regime that they did not participate in the movement that toppled it. But after the insurrection, they became aware that the repressive forces had simply melted away. Their old aspirations flared anew, and they took back what had been wrested from them.

Today the entire Turkmeni people—perhaps the most oppressed in Iran—is full of confidence and hope. When I interviewed the leader of one village council, for instance, all the men and boys of the village gathered to listen. Afterwards they all lined up to have their picture taken, with the obvious assurance that they had done something that really should be in the newspapers. The last thing they told me was to be sure to tell the world how much they had suffered and how much they had won.

A very strong national consciousness has developed among the Turkmeni people. That struck me as I was riding through the countryside with an elderly Russian-speaking Turkmeni, who kept pointing to the rich, flat land extending as far as the eye could see from the green, wooded foothills of the mountain chain that separates Tehran from the Caspian coastal areas. "Look," he said, "Look at our Turkmeni lands. See how vast they are, how rich, how overflowing with wheat."

This in fact is the richest agricultural area of Iran, and what happens here will probably determine whether the country as a whole is able to feed itself and overcome food shortages.

Revolution in smallest villages

Turkmenistan is important not only for grain but for animal products as well. There are vast herds of cattle and sheep in this region. But most of the cattle appear to be in bad shape and poorly fed. Despite the fact that the

area is well-suited for mechanized farming, I could see groups of people everywhere working with primitive instruments.

A Persian village I visited in the Caspian region contrasted sharply with the Turkmeni settlements. There, people are still in the grip of the landlords and moneylenders. Their annual expenses tend to be higher than their incomes. The only farm machinery was in the hands of a few well-off farmers who rented it out to the other peasants.

A laborer in that area makes about \$4 a day in the fields or in the nearby village. Many of the men cannot find work at all, and are without jobs for long periods.

The people were wary. I thought that this must certainly be one place that had been left untouched by the Iranian revolution.

Then I visited the village mosque, a bare room spread with carpets. Apparently there was no professional clergyman, because the building was empty and open to all. On the wall there was a black-rimmed picture of a young man. One of the local teachers told me that the man was "our martyr."

He had been killed in an antishah demonstration that the villagers had held on the highway. These peasants would have had to walk at least two miles along the rutted dirt path to reach the paved road, where they faced the guns of the shah's repressive forces. And who knows how much farther they would have had to walk to link up with other peasants.

At an earlier stage, this village had probably been ahead of the Turkmenis. But the struggle had ebbed, probably because there was no leadership that the people could rally around.

Nonetheless, the Iranian revolution had put down deep roots even in that remote village.

April 13, 1979

From Intercontinental Press/Inprecor

Job cuts menace Europe's steelworkers

By William Gottlieb

Some of the stormiest class battles in Western Europe in years have erupted in the steel industry in recent months. The high points so far have been the first official strike in fifty years by the West German steelworkers, who demanded a thirty-five-hour week, and the march in Paris March 23 by a hundred thousand workers demanding their jobs be saved.

The immediate cause of these class-struggle actions is the threat that the "Davignon Plan," named after Viscount Etienne Davignon, its author, poses to the livelihood of Europe's steelworkers.

Davignon, an official of the European Economic Community (Common Market), proposes that the European capitalists drastically reduce their steelmaking capacity in order to set the industry back on a profitable (to the capitalists) basis. The bosses are only too willing to follow Davignon's advice, but widescale shutdowns threaten to be disastrous for the European working class.

The root cause of the problem is that form of crisis unique to capitalism known as a crisis of "overproduction." Instead of producing for actual needs, capitalist production is geared to profit only. If effective demand, that is, demand backed up by the ability to pay, is not great enough to ensure that a commodity can be sold at a price high

enough to deliver a "fair" return on the capital advanced, the capitalists will complain about inadequate "demand" and slash production.

In addition to the general crises of overproduction that periodically hit the entire capitalist world, there are partial crises that effect certain sectors of industry or certain regions. Particularly vulnerable to this kind of crisis are those sectors of industry that the capitalists have allowed to fall behind in the race for increased labor productivity.

The European steel industry is a classic case in point. Construction of a steel mill requires a vast amount of capital. Consequently, the bosses are very reluctant to modernize them once they are built, since this would risk the loss of a portion of the original capital investment. Instead they prefer to "run them into the ground."

The result has been that Europe's steel industry has been lagging behind that of many "younger" capitalist countries such as Japan.

In addition, the European capitalists have been hit by American protectionism—the so-called "trigger price" system designed to safeguard the profits of the owners of the declining American steel industry. For example, the Common Market countries shipped 309,000 tons of steel to the U.S. in February 1979 compared to 790,000 in February 1978.

Agis Salpukas, writing in the *New*

York Times's annual *International Economic Survey* February 4, 1979, states:

While world crude-steel output last year edged to a record 712 million metric tons—with third world producers, fueled by their continued industrialization, making the largest gains—production by the European Economic Community, although 5 percent higher than in 1977, languished at 15 percent below the level of 1974.

And with further declines foreseen, the industry in Europe, in order to compete with increasingly modern and efficient steel plants overseas, has been phasing out older plants and consolidating the remaining ones under a plan that could ultimately mean the loss of some 65,000 steelworker jobs and further aggravate an already-battered working class.

Salpukas goes on to write:

The industrial center of Longwy, according to the plan agreed upon last fall to save French steel companies [Salpukas should have said the money bags of their capitalist owners], could lose up to 13,000 jobs, about one-third of its labor force.

Nor are the cutbacks limited to the French steel industry. According to Salpukas, 36,000 out of 342,000 workers have lost their jobs in the West German steel industry since 1975.

The London *Economist* of February 10-16 paints an even grimmer picture. "On the most optimistic projections," writes this organ of the City (London's financial district), "something like

200,000 jobs out of the present labour force of 510,000 . . . should go."

And this on the most "optimistic" assumption! It of course does not occur to the *Economist* that it is not 200,000 steelworkers who should "go" but rather the capitalist "investors" who allowed the industry to run down in the first place.

If the actual physical need for steel in the world was satisfied, one could at least make a case for shutting down the older steel mills, retraining the workers involved, and providing them with new jobs at full union-scale wages.

But in reality the world's need for more steel is enormous. For example, China's plan to modernize by the year 2000 would not be as utopian as it now is if the European (and other) steel plants would produce steel based on China's needs as opposed to its ability to pay.

The same is true for the entire impoverished semicolonial world, not to speak of the war-ravaged countries of Indochina. And even in the most advanced countries, demand for steel would increase sharply if human need rather than "purchasing power" determined the limits of production.

The current struggles of European workers give hope that these "theoretical" possibilities may become reality sooner than might be thought.

From *Intercontinental Press/Inprecor*

Israeli socialists hail Iranian revolution

The following open letter, scheduled for publication in the March issue of *'Matzpen Marxist'*, was adopted by the United Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist League (the Israeli section of the Fourth International) and the Palestine Communist Group, which are in the process of unification.

The translation is by 'Intercontinental Press/Inprecor.'

Dear Comrades,

It is with excitement and pride that we have learned of the formation of the Socialist Workers Party in liberated Iran. After years in which you, as revolutionary Marxists, had to carry out your activities in exile, you have returned, together with tens of thousands of other political exiles, thanks to the heroic struggle of the Iranian peoples.

The importance of the Iranian revolution goes far beyond the borders of your own country. The Iranian masses have demonstrated to the masses of the Middle East and of the whole world that the most barbarous despotism, the most sophisticated weaponry, and the most diverse methods of repression are ineffective when confronted with the determination of the masses to take their destiny into their own hands and to win their freedom and rights through struggle.

That is why the dogs of international reaction fear the influence of the Iranian revolution among all the masses of the Middle East, especially in Saudi Arabia and Egypt, where the sacrifice and determination of the masses of Iran have renewed the faith of the masses in their own strength and in the prospects for revolution.

The events in Iran have a special importance for us, as active revolutionary communists within the state of



Insurrection in Tehran. 'Importance of Iranian revolution goes far beyond borders of your own country.'

Israel. The bringing down of the Pahlavi tyranny is a defeat for one of the loyal allies of the Zionist regime and its main partner in defense of imperialist order in the Middle East. The Iranian masses have eliminated a major obstacle to the advance of the Arab revolution, and the Palestinian national liberation struggle in particular.

The Zionist regime was an active and direct partner in the repression of the peoples of Iran and in the maintenance of the notorious shah on his throne. The internationalist solidarity of the revolutionary forces of Israel will be small compensation for the crimes that have been committed against the Iranian masses in the name of the people of Israel.

Yes, we voice solidarity with the victory and the hopes of the Iranian masses and the Socialist Workers Party. Your victory is our victory; your struggle is our struggle!

The Zionist mass media has tried to

portray the massive Iranian revolution as a reactionary religious upheaval, to convince the Jews of Iran to emigrate to Israel and thereby strengthen the Zionists' colonial scheme.

Tell them, comrades, that to emigrate to Israel is to participate in the exploitation and oppression of the Palestinian Arab people; that they will not find security here, nor peace, nor freedom, but permanent war and insecurity. Show them, comrades, that they have nothing to fear from the Iranian revolution, but the whole world to gain.

On our part, we will do everything within our power to halt all Israeli provocations, which are designed to heighten anti-Semitism among the Iranian masses so as to get the Jews of Iran to identify with the Israeli state.

The Iranian masses have no reason to attack Jews. However, they have many reasons to consider Israel as one of their immediate enemies, an enemy that has not and will not hold back

from employing all necessary means to support the stooges of imperialism and return them to their posts.

The Iranian revolution has won its first battle. But, as in all other revolutions, if it does not advance, it will slip back. The existence of a revolutionary workers party capable of mapping out a road for the advancement of the revolutionary process is a guarantee of future victories.

The Socialist Workers Party is today the only party that strives to mobilize the working masses on the basis of class independence; that demands free elections to a constituent assembly to eliminate the remnants of the monarchy and establish a workers and peasants government that will lead the Iranian masses to real independence from imperialism, to prosperity, to full democratic freedoms, to complete equality between men and women; a government that will recognize the right of national minorities to self-determination and that will move forward to socialism.

Comrades, an enormous responsibility rests on your shoulders. The entire Fourth International must mobilize to place at your disposal the necessary resources to fulfill the tasks that the Iranian revolution demands of you.

Imperialist reaction united Israel and Iran in an "unholy" alliance. Solidarity between the Arab revolution and the Iranian revolution will be the response of communist internationalists to the maneuvers of our common enemies.

Long live the Iranian revolution!
Long live the Socialist Workers Party of Iran!

Long live international solidarity between the Arab and Iranian revolutions!

February 14, 1979

From *Intercontinental Press/Inprecor*

Quote unquote

"What really clinched my opposition to the plant was an instinctive feeling that nuclear power and the nuclear bombs that fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were essentially the same phenomenon. That was the root of our opposition; it still is."

—Fusaichi Hirona, a Japanese farmer leading the fight against construction of a nuclear plant near his village.

PUBLISHERS BACK THE 'PROGRESSIVE'

The board of directors of the American Society of Newspaper Publishers voted unanimously May 3 to support the appeal of the *Progressive* against a federal court order blocking it from publishing an article about atomic secrecy.

To justify this major act of political censorship, the court argued that the article endangered "national security" by describing how to build a hydrogen bomb.

The editors of the *Progressive* point out that this is not true and that it represents a new move by the government to keep the public from being informed on the life-and-death nuclear issue.

Among those associating themselves with the legal appeal by the *Progressive* are the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Scientific American*, the *Nation*, and PEN, the writers group.

N.Y. UNIONISTS MEET ON SOUTH AFRICA

More than 100 unionists attended a "Concerned Workers for South Africa" rally in New York City May 4.

Sponsored by District Council 37, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the gathering focused on the apartheid regime in South Africa and the need for U.S. trade-union solidarity with the Black majority there.

Bernice Tesfamariam, vice-president of Local 1930 of the Public Library Guild, and Leon Harris, president of the Village-Chelsea NAACP, co-chaired the event.

Harris declared that the U.S. trade-union movement must actively participate in the struggle against the barbaric system of apartheid.

Speakers included Rev. Herbert Daughtry, Black United Front; David Sibeko, Pan Africanist Congress of Azania; and others.

Other sponsors included the Social Service Employees Union Local 371; New York Public Library Guild Local 1930; and the Village-Chelsea NAACP.

JUST DOING THEIR THING

"I don't believe there is an oil shortage right now," says Sen. Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio.

Stating that Americans are using 700,000 barrels less a day than a year ago, he asked "Where is the oil?"

"Well," he continued, "I believe they are holding it back until June when price decontrols may take effect. They did exactly that with natural gas. If they can get ten dollars per barrel more when the price is decontrolled, you don't have to

be brilliant to withhold your product until then."

Nope. Just greedy.

AMHERST STALLS ON BLACK STUDENT DEMANDS

On April 26, after weeks of negotiations, a sit-in, and a rally of 1,500 students, the president of Amherst College finally responded to Black Student Union demands.

Militant correspondent Bill Dorris reports that the ambiguous, vaguely worded response was characterized by BSUs and their supporters as "another divide-and-delay tactic."

The BSU raised its demands after an April 8 decision by the administration to gut the five-year-old Black Freshman Orientation week by replacing it with an "ethnic day-and-a-half."

The BSU raised five demands, including maintenance and institutionalization of Black Freshman Orientation week; divestment of college stock holdings in companies doing business with racist South Africa; increased minority student input into the hiring of faculty and deans; more third-world faculty; and administrative support of a program under which Amherst students have tutored low-income high schoolers in nearby Springfield.

Pressing for these demands, BSU members and supporters staged a sit-in at the administration building April 23-24.

On April 23 a rally, called on two hours' notice, brought out 1,500 people in support of the action.

Other area campuses registered their support as well.

With the administration promising only to continue support for the tutoring program, and ducking the other issues, next semester is likely to see new protests.

N.Y. UNIONISTS PROTEST CUTBACKS

New York City unionists demonstrating May 1 against cutbacks in services won a sympathetic public response, including from a recently arrived Soviet dissident.

Georgi Vins and another recently released Soviet prisoner, Valentin Moroz, were luncheon guests of the mayor. They watched from city hall steps as 7,500 unionists and community activists protested closing of city hospitals and other cutbacks. Commenting on the demonstration, Vins said, "I felt that these people are demanding something that is just—I had a desire to join them."

The protest action was called by District Council 37, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the Committee of Interns and Residents, and community groups. It was the first in a series of planned actions against budget cuts.

Speakers included Victor Gotbaum and Lillian Roberts of District Council 37, Jonathan House of the Committee of Interns and Residents, and Rev. Herbert Daughtry of the Black United Front.

STEP TAKEN TO REVIVE DRAFT

As a further step in the bipartisan drive to ready the American people for participation in new imperialist wars, a House of Representatives sub-

committee voted for a measure requiring eighteen-year-olds to register for a future draft.

The bill, approved by the Military Personnel Subcommittee April 30, would require men turning eighteen after December 31, 1980, to register.

STEARNS STRIKERS BOYCOTT ELECTION

Striking miners in Stearns, Kentucky, boycotted the rigged representation election there May 3. Not surprisingly, it was reported that the 110 scabs who voted all opted for the company union, the Justus Employees Association.

Stearns miners have been on strike for nearly three years to win a United Mine Workers contract. The May 3 so-called election was the result of an agreement reached by the Blue Diamond Coal Company and the UMWA International Executive Board.

The day before the election Stearns strikers telegraphed the National Labor Relations Board, calling for a new election at a different site "and under conditions that assure an atmosphere free of intimidation."

Only thirty-five to forty strikers were even eligible to vote in contrast to the 110 scabs. In addition, the Stearns strikers charged that to have voted May 3 would have forced them to cross the picket line they had honored for three years, to vote at the mine site near the private armed gun thugs who had shot at and harassed them during the strike, and to violate a court order barring them from company property.

The NLRB's regional director said he saw no reason why the election should be invalidated.

Court scores FBI in Panther Case

A new trial has been ordered in the \$47 million suit against the FBI and Illinois officials involved in the murderous 1969 raid against Chicago Black Panthers. Panther leaders Mark Clark and Fred Hampton were murdered during the assault on their apartment.

After police and officials involved in the raid were acquitted in the killings, the mothers of Hampton and Clark, along with seven survivors of the raid, filed a damage suit in federal court.

The first trial ended with the presiding judge declaring in favor of the defendants, while the jury was out.

In ordering a new trial, a federal appeals court found that the FBI had deprived the plaintiffs of the opportunity for a fair trial by refusing to comply with

court orders to turn over documents in the case.

The court said that in retrial, monetary sanctions should be imposed against the FBI for "repeatedly disobeying the court orders to produce the documentary material."

The appeals court also said the judge in the first trial was mistaken in holding that the plaintiffs had not established "a prima facie case of conspiracy."

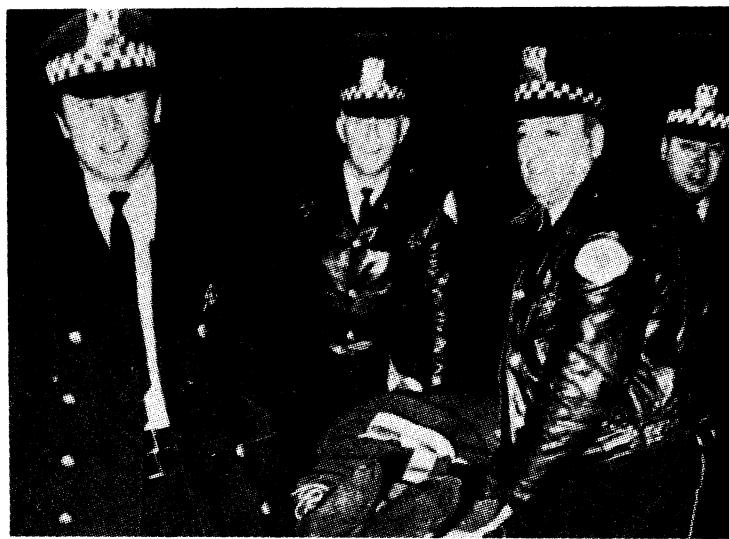
In fact, the court found, the plaintiffs had established not one but two conspiracies.

The first was that of the federal and local officials who planned the predawn raid on the Panther apartment. The second conspiracy, the court said, involved the cover-up by officials following the event.

The court noted the evidence establishing the fact of an illegal FBI program to destroy the Panthers.

It also noted that the warrant for the raid had been

issued on the basis of information from "a reliable source" later established to be a paid FBI informer and provocateur within the Panthers.



Chicago cops remove body of Hampton after 1969 raid.

IT'S AS EASY AS CHANGING A LIGHT BULB

That simple operation—changing a burnt-out light bulb—almost caused nuclear disasters at four power plants.

In March 1977, at the Dresden II reactor, forty miles southwest of Chicago, two wires shorted out when operators changed a bulb on the control panel. The short knocked out part of the cooling system.

After the same thing happened at the Millstone I reactor, the plant closed for a day and a half. And at the New England Pilgrim I plant a short caused by a light-bulb change resulted in a shutdown of two weeks.

At the Rancho Seco plant, California's duplicate of the Three Mile Island reactor, the operator had to shut it down—blind—without most of the instruments that prevent core meltdowns, because a light bulb had fallen into the control

What's Going On

CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES

THE ENERGY CRISIS: HOW CAPITALISM FOULS THINGS UP. Speaker: David Paparello, member of Socialist Workers Party and of United Steelworkers Local 2058. Fri., May 18, 8 p.m. 2554 Saturn Ave., Huntington Pk. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (213) 582-1975.

OAKLAND

MALCOLM X: HIS LEGACY FOR TODAY. Speaker: Clifton Deberry, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 18, 8 p.m. 1467

Fruitvale Ave. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 261-1210.

SAN JOSE

OIL HOAX: WHAT WORKING PEOPLE CAN DO TO FIGHT HIGH PRICES, LONG LINES, AND GOVERNMENT LIES. Speaker: George Johnson, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., May 13, 7:30 p.m. 942 E Santa Clara. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Militant Bookstore. For more information call (408) 295-8342.

KENTUCKY LOUISVILLE

THE PRODUCTIVITY SQUEEZE: INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY MEANS HIGHER PROFITS AND FEWER JOBS. Speakers to be announced. Donation: \$1. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS TODAY AND THE PROSPECTS FOR SOCIALISM. An educational conference. Sat., May 19, 6-7:30 p.m. social hour and buffet supper, United Electrical Workers hall, 3055 Central N.E.; 8 p.m. "The new rise of world revolution." Speaker: Malik Miah,

Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Donation: \$3.50.

Sun., May 20, 1 p.m. "The Iranian revolution and its impact." Speaker: Malik Miah. 2:30 p.m. "Behind Peking's invasion of Vietnam." Speaker: Ralph Schwartz. Donation: \$1.50 per class. Aup: Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (612) 825-6663. (612) 222-8929, or (218) 749-6327.

WASHINGTON SEATTLE

THE MIDDLE EAST TREATY: WILL IT

BRING PEACE? Speakers: Ernie Abdo, Socialist Workers Party; representative of Organization of Arab Students. Sun., May 20, 7 p.m. 4868 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$1. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

TACOMA

BEHIND THE ENERGY SWINDLE: MORE PROFITS, MORE POLLUTION & NUCLEAR HAZARDS. A panel discussion. Sun., May 13, 7 p.m. 1306 S. K St. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 627-0432.

Demand asylum for Marroquín



Immigration Service Director Leonel Castillo was greeted in Cleveland April 28 by pickets demanding political asylum for Héctor Marroquín, the Socialist Workers Party member threatened with deportation to Mexico. Castillo was attending a conference of the Panel of American Women.

After hearing that Marroquín faces torture or death in Mexico, where frame-up charges have been leveled against him, sponsors of the meeting permitted the Marroquín Defense Committee to set up a literature table. There was a very favorable response from conference participants, and the picket line was reported on TV.

panel and knocked out the plant's control gauges.

supporters of Native American rights and from feminists.

YVONNE WANROW IS FREED

Pleading guilty to reduced charges, Yvonne Wanrow was freed on probation April 26.

The agreement ended a seven-year ordeal for Wanrow, a Colville Indian. She had been charged with second-degree murder and assault for fatally shooting a child molester and wounding his companion during an attack by the two men on her and her daughter.

A Spokane, Washington, state court accepted her plea to reduced charges of manslaughter and second-degree assault. The court freed her on five years' probation.

Wanrow was convicted of murder in 1973, but won on appeal. The prosecution then sought a new trial which was slated to begin in late 1977. A series of legal moves resulted in further delay.

A new trial date had been slated for April 30, but Wanrow decided to plead to a lesser charge rather than undergo the ordeal of a new trial.

Her case won wide support, here and abroad, both from

WOMEN IN SPORTS: 'GAP IS CLOSING'

Differences in physical ability between men and women "almost disappear when highly trained male and female athletes are compared," reports Jack Wilmore, president of the American College of Sports Medicine.

Wilmore points out that most strength and endurance studies have compared average male and female students. "The problem with this is that the average male student is more active and the female is more sedentary."

As a result of such "culturally sedentary lifestyles," women have about half the physical strength of men in their upper bodies. But they are equally strong in their lower bodies due to activities such as walking, climbing stairs, and riding bicycles.

Such cultural differences can be overcome by training. "When you look at women's records in swimming, track and field events, the gap is closing quickly," says Wilmore.

RCMP

The Real Subversives

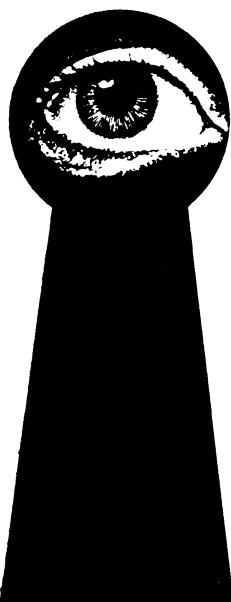
by Richard Fidler

There are striking similarities between the illegal harassment by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the FBI's Counterintelligence Program activities in the U.S. *RCMP: The Real Subversives* exposes the hidden role of Canada's political police and has valuable lessons for defenders of democratic rights everywhere.

The Mounties' victims are shown to be Québec nationalists, trade unionists, Native militants, the New Democratic Party, farmers organizations, socialists, and other political dissidents.

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The Great Society

Harry Ring



Ready cash—Houston Mayor James McConn had a bad night at Las Vegas and phoned home to City Purchasing Director Jack Key for help in securing an "emergency loan" of \$6,000. The money was at his hotel in two hours. But then the purchasing director was busted by the FBI for allegedly shaking down a businessman with a city contract for \$6,000. The good mayor insists it's all a coincidence.

Unmitigated brass department—The high cost of oil is the result of high wages, and the price of labor today does not reflect its true value, says Fred Hartley, president of Union Oil of California.

Spiritual malpractice—Clergymen are being offered malpractice insurance to cover suits for giving bad advice. A recent example was a pastor who advised a woman to leave her husband. Irrate, the husband shot his spouse. But they then patched things up and sued the clergyman. We wonder if the insurance covers advising people that the problems of this world will be solved Up There.

Grappling with the energy problem—The Senate approved a Carter

proposal that public and commercial buildings cut the heat in winter and air conditioning in summer. No penalties were included, since it was assumed that landlords would comply voluntarily. Meanwhile, the Senate rejected out of hand a proposal to restrict billboard lighting.

Daily diet—Cornell University researchers are trying to convert scrap paper into food. One idea is to grow mushrooms on wastepaper, using the cellulose content, a source of carbohydrates. The problem, they say, is to avoid picking up the toxic chemicals in the print. Especially, we assume, the editorials.

News of the week—"Despite rental laws, landlords do overcharge"—Headline in the *New York Times*.

Can't be—New Yorkers and visitors to the city will be astonished to learn that a special research project has concluded that the city's physical plant—roads, bridges, sewers, water mains, and so on—is wearing out faster than it is being replaced.

Capitalism Fouls Things Up

Arnold Weissberg

Fleeing the nuke

Suppose you live near a nuclear power plant—say thirty miles away, like I do. And suppose, like almost everyone else, you're worried about what would happen if the nuke suddenly threatened to belch radiation into your breathing space. Would you have enough time to pile the family into the station wagon and head out on the road?

For an answer, check the plant's emergency plans. Every nuclear plant has one. But if Consolidated Edison's plan for its Indian Point reactor is typical, the plans are a cruel joke.

For one thing, all plans require local governments to take charge. But few local governments have any idea what they'll do in a nuclear emergency.

Moreover, it's a question whether *any* plan could work, let alone the ones developed by the energy monopolies and their pals in government.

The plans are not exactly foolproof. Hear David Hayder, a New Hampshire civil defense planner: "People ask us what about the people who don't have cars or get a flat tire or something. They'll die—there is no guarantee for everybody, and we have to be concerned with the survivors."

I hope you're one of the lucky ones. What about the 8 million of us living in New York City? What would happen if there were a major accident at Indian Point, thirty miles up the Hudson?

"It depends on which way the wind is blowing," says George Liebler, senior engineer for radiation safety and emergency coordinator at Indian Point. "You could have a major release from the plant, and with the wind conditions it wouldn't even touch Rockland [County, across the Hudson]."

Realist that he is, though, Liebler concedes, "Of course, the wind could change."

Here's how the emergency plan for Indian Point is supposed to work (it was drawn up by Consolidated Edison, which owns two of the three units there):

Something goes wrong, and Con Ed

calls up the state on the emergency hot line.

Oops, no answer. Seems it's after business hours. The hot line rings in a state office in Albany that's not staffed at night or on weekends.

Not to worry, Con Ed reassures the public. Even though its two-volume emergency manual says to call that number, the utility says that it would really call another number.

Now with the emergency call finally placed, what happens? In three of the four counties adjoining Indian Point, nothing, because county officials haven't made any plans yet.

Westchester County has plans, but the county executive doesn't think they're adequate.

All evacuation plans count on having plenty of time to organize things. But a serious accident might not arrive after politely phoning ahead.

More than 200,000 people live within ten miles of Indian Point. "The refugees would have no place to go, and there would be no roads to carry them," noted State Assemblyman Robert Connor, who represents an area across the Hudson from Indian Point.

Things aren't any better in New England. Bradford, New Hampshire, is supposed to receive 4,550 refugees in an emergency. One hundred twenty of them are supposed to go to Dorothy Brown's beauty parlor. But no one's told her. And, as Michael Knight reported in the May 3 *New York Times*, "her reaction to unannounced visitors is to unleash her large and aggressive Airedale and bolt her door."

No one else in town knows about the plan, either.

A bit worried by all this? Relax. Con Ed insists that there's no problem, wrote Richard Severo in the May 2 *New York Times*, because "the technology used at Indian Point . . . is foolproof."

However, Severo noted, "Con Edison officials acknowledge that there may be some gaps and confusion."

Our Revolutionary Heritage

Writing a workers paper

The Socialist Workers Party has put a lot of effort into publishing and selling the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* this spring: special sales in support of the Newport News Steelworkers; the emergency issue against nuclear power and weapons; the ten-week sales campaign to sell 100,000 copies; the special target weeks.

These efforts are part of the SWP's drive to root its political campaigns and the majority of its membership in the industrial working class.

James P. Cannon, the SWP's founding leader, together with the great Russian revolutionist Leon Trotsky, gave a lot of thought to how the party's press could advance such a turn towards the industrial working class when the SWP was making a similar move in 1939.

The new Education for Socialists bulletin, *Background to "The Struggle for a Proletarian Party,"* contains some of their thinking on this. (The bulletin is available for \$1.75 from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, New York 10014.)

Trotsky felt strongly that the SWP had to transform its paper, then the *Socialist Appeal*. "It is undoubtedly a very good Marxist paper, but it is not yet a genuine instrument of political action," he said.

He felt the *Appeal* needed more reports, articles and letters from workers around the country. This was crucial to its ability to win workers to the party's political campaigns, such as the call for a labor party.

"The paper is very well done from the journalistic point of view; but it is a paper for the workers and not a workers paper. . . . You do not hear how the workers live, fight, clash with the police or drink whiskey. . . . The task is to encourage the workers to speak for themselves," Trotsky said.

Letting the workers "speak for themselves" is something that the *Militant* is still striving to do today. Our coverage of the Newport News Steelworkers' strike, for example, featured extensive interviews and discussions in which striking workers were able to express their thoughts and experiences.

But there is always room for improvement. Cannon insisted that regular workers correspondence was essential for a revolutionary paper to become an effective, as well as an attractive, voice among industrial workers.

"The problem which presses hard today," he explained, "is to interpret and expound the program in such a way as to

enable wider and wider circles of workers, hitherto unacquainted with Marxist doctrine, to understand it and act upon it. This is an art which we must learn."

Making these improvements went hand in hand with the need to step up the circulation of the party's press, Trotsky insisted.

The SWP needed to increase its efforts to sell to industrial workers. This would be a key step to getting its ideas actively discussed in the factories and the trade unions. Only in this way could the party's ideas "receive flesh and blood." Only then could the party start to enlarge its base and win new members among the industrial workers.

To start moving in this direction, Cannon proposed that the *Socialist Appeal* begin publishing three times a week, as a step toward becoming a daily as soon as possible. This, he believed, was how the party could best jump into the arena of workers' struggles and "begin to give answers and pose actions from day to day."

Cannon later explained that in 1939 he had assumed that a daily paper was necessary to be able to respond quickly to events and raise proposals for actions among the masses. Hence the three-a-week step was seen as synonymous with turning to serious work among the industrial workers.

But Cannon and the other party leaders later changed their minds and concluded that a daily paper was not a realistic tool for a small workers party. Given the limited resources of the party, it would have to choose between a small more-than-weekly or a larger weekly. The larger paper would allow for a wider variety of articles.

Furthermore, distributing a more-than-weekly is extremely difficult for a small party in a country the size of the United States. In fact, distribution per issue had actually declined when the *Appeal* had been published twice a week.

Of course, the need to respond quickly to new events is still important today: an example is the special issue of the *Militant* against nuclear power and weapons and the campaign to distribute it after the Three Mile Island accident.

And just as in 1939, members of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance are using the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* to "give answers and pose actions" to a growing audience among industrial workers.

—Harvey McArthur

Legal slavery

First I must thank you generously for the weekly paper you are sending me. Since we are in the penitentiary, my comrades and I look forward to your paper every week. We hold classes and use your paper to help in our studies.

I am writing this mainly to let you know about some of the unfit conditions that we must go through day after day here. We have to work in the fields cutting grass. The sun is very hot at this time of the year, and the free people (guards) push us relentlessly for hours at a time. We are allowed to stop for a few seconds at a time for water only, and sometimes there isn't even water to drink.

The medical treatment here is poor. I was discharged from the air force because of a severe medical problem with my back. I have tried to get treatment for my back but with no results. Still I must labor in the fields though I am in constant pain. Through all of this my brothers and I receive a mere two cents and hour. I call this legal slavery.

A prisoner
Louisiana

On Einstein

In light of the *Militant's* view of Israel and Zionism, I find it slightly ironic and even contradictory that you praise

Albert Einstein so highly. He was an ardent Zionist. Although not adhering to the Jewish religion, he felt himself closely attached to the Jewish people and to the idea of Jewish national liberation: Zionism.

As a matter of fact, he was offered the presidency of the newly formed Jewish state but declined because he did not really wish to involve himself in politics. A truly great thinker has no need of politics. Einstein showed the world that liberation comes from within and is not a matter of total violent revolution.

Paul Foer,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Auto workers vs. Ford

During the past three months, Ford Motor Company posted its most profitable quarter in its history. Ford's profits over this period were 27.7 percent higher than a year ago. In dollar figures Ford made a whopping \$595 million dollars in profits.

What this means for those of us working at Ford is that for each week of this period, Ford made roughly \$100 off each worker it employs. For some workers, this comes to almost one-half of their weekly take-home pay!

It also means that while Ford can get away with increasing its income by nearly

Steelworkers discuss abortion

I am writing to correct some inaccuracies that occurred in the editing of an article I wrote about the March 31 abortion rights demonstration on the Iron Range.

United Steelworkers of America Local 1938 member Peggy Keefe, who spoke at the rally, was not an official spokesperson for the union. She is, however, an activist in both her union and the National Organization for Women, which initiated the rally. In addition, the excerpts from Keefe's speech were incorrectly reported as a direct quote.

Local 1938's endorsement of the rally, which was approved by a two-to-one vote at a union meeting, is an indication that the majority of people on the Range support abortion rights. The endorsement sparked a lively and widespread discussion at subsequent union meetings and at work about whether the right to abortion is an appropriate issue for unions to discuss. A large number of miners here have expressed the opinion that abortion, being an individual question for every woman, is out of the union's domain.

But I, along with many others, disagree with this approach. I'm proud my union local took a stand for abortion rights.

Unfortunately, abortion is not the individual choice it should be. Working women and unemployed women are restricted from choosing abortion by anti-abortion laws. And the right-wing is proposing more restrictive

laws both on the state and federal level. These laws are part of an all-out attack on labor's rights by the courts, the government, and big business. Working women are increasingly going to their organizations, the unions, for support against the attacks that most affect them as women. The unions should back these women up.

It's important for the unions today to demonstrate their support to women to promote union solidarity. Giving support to women's rights such as the right to abortion, will involve more women in the unions and strengthen the union movement. USWA Local 1938 meetings are now attended by more women than before women's rights issues were discussed. It shows female union members that the union is serious when it says, "An injury to one is an injury to all."

Finally, the issue of abortion is a contractual issue that the union must face up to during the next contract negotiations. Our present contract includes health insurance plans that cover abortion. A new Minnesota state law gives health maintenance organizations the go-ahead to withdraw abortion from their group contracts except in extreme cases—rape, incest, and when the woman's life is endangered. The union must fight to ensure that the right to abortion covered by insurance under all circumstances is not taken away.

Ilona Gersh
Virginia, Minnesota

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The minimum wage and unemployment

28 percent, they expect us to limit the amount of money and additional benefits we receive in our next contract to only 7 percent per year.

What this has meant up to now, and will continue to mean in the future, is a steady lowering of our living standard—a process that is well on the way, since our real wages have decreased over the past few years.

One way of fighting this would be for our union, the United Auto Workers, to fight for a *real* cost-of-living protection in our next contract with the auto bosses. A COLA that would be based on the *real* rate of inflation as determined by committees of working people—those who suffer most from rising prices.

On the political level, our union should break with the bosses' parties—the Democrats and the Republicans—and issue a call for a party of labor.

This party would begin to expose the real source of inflation in this country—deficit spending by the government for the war machine—and would take the lead in mobilizing us to do something about it.

A few months ago our international president, Douglas Fraser, accused the companies of waging a one-sided class war against working people. Well, I say it's about time that we make it two-sided, and implementing these proposals will do just that. *Member, Local 600, UAW Detroit, Michigan*

'Inaccurate comments'

In your March 2 issue of the *Militant* under the heading, "La. Tenneco oil workers strike over safety and health," written by Michael Beslin. It has come to our attention you have printed some inaccurate comments with regard to the strike.

The words "the cops" on line 22 and paragraph 6 are inaccurate statements.

Sam Tardo
Corresponding &
Recording Secretary
Oil, Chemical and Atomic
Workers International Union
Chalmette, Louisiana

[*In reply*—The quotes Sam Tardo refers to are as follows:
[“The local press and the cops are joining with Tenneco in trying to isolate and intimidate the strikers.”

[“As for the cops, they're doing everything they can to provoke the pickets.”]

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

Does the minimum wage cause high unemployment and inflation?

Unbelievable as it may sound, that's what the bosses are saying. They've set their sights on the minimum wage—a pitiful \$2.90 an hour—as another target in their takeback offensive. With a scheduled increase to \$3.10 due in 1981, their press has started to sound the alarm about the “dangers” posed by the minimum wage.

Economists all agree, says an article in the May 5 *New York Times*, that “the minimum wage means fewer jobs for the young, many of whom are blacks.” But a solution is at hand—one that fits right into the divide-and-rule strategy of the bosses: a lower minimum wage for youth.

“The push for a youth minimum wage,” the *Times* suggests, “may coincide with efforts in some quarters to postpone the next increase in the minimum wage . . . on the ground that it would be inflationary.”

Allowing the bosses to push down the already inadequate minimum wage—and further institutionalize wage differentials between older and younger workers—would threaten the wages of all working people. When any section of the working class is forced to accept poverty wages—youth, Blacks, women, the undocumented, or the unorganized—only the employers benefit. They use the plight of the most oppressed to bludgeon other workers into submitting to their demands.

“The general tendency of capitalist production,” Karl Marx explained in *Value, Price, and Profit*, “is not to raise but to sink the average standard of wages, or to push the value of labor more or less to its minimum limit.” In other words, if a new subminimum wage is set for youth, the floor under everyone's wages will drop still further.

A minimum wage can offer a measure of protection to all workers, and socialists support efforts to raise the minimum scale to a liveable level.

But the minimum wage cannot be relied on to provide an effective counterweight to the bosses' wage-slashing drive. Only the power of the working class can build a barrier to capitalist greed—through organizing the unorganized, closing the wage gap between different sectors of workers, and fighting to increase wages at the expense of profits.

The bosses try to block such solidarity by casting the blame for the effects of their profit drive—like unemployment and inflation—onto one or another group of workers.

Usually unemployment is blamed on the unemployed themselves. Oppressed national minorities, in particular, are depicted as “welfare bums”—“shiftless, lazy, and unwilling to work.”

But when organized industrial workers struggle to defend their living standards, the bosses turn this argument around. They claim that if it weren't for union demands, they could afford to hire more people.

When the rulers rail against the minimum wage, it is the

very lowest-paid workers—80 percent of whom are women—who are held responsible for the outrageous level of youth unemployment, now officially 34.5 percent for Blacks.

The truth is the capitalist class—so busy pointing the finger of blame at its victims—is the sole source of mass unemployment. The capitalists periodically throw millions of workers onto the streets. That's because they run their businesses for only one purpose: profit.

In their race for profits, each capitalist concern seeks to maximize production—the more sold, the more profit can be realized. The result is that overall production outstrips demand, and the market is glutted with unsellable goods.

These regular crises of overproduction lead to massive layoffs and drive the least profitable enterprises out of business. The unemployed are then used as a battering ram against the wages and working conditions of the employed. Eventually a point is reached when profitable production can begin again. It is this anarchic boom-bust cycle, inherent in the capitalist mode of production, that causes unemployment.

Minimum-wage workers are no more responsible for inflation than for unemployment. Their \$2.90 an hour contributes to the bosses' record-breaking profit figures, not to soaring prices.

If wages were the reason for inflation, we could expect to see prices plummet when wages are frozen. But that was not the effect of Nixon's 1971 wage controls. Nor is it the impact today of Carter's 7 percent wage guidelines. Prices and profits have continued their climb, while workers' living standards are steadily sinking.

Inflation—a permanent feature of capitalism since World War II—has been stoked by the government's deficit spending—especially its multi-billion-dollar war budget. More and more money is pumped into circulation to cover the government's debts. But there is no simultaneous compensating production of values.

Today the bosses' press is scouting the possibility of an attack on the minimum wage. By threatening increased unemployment and inflation, they're trying to blackmail working people into supporting this reactionary measure.

The same line of argument is used to justify Carter's 7 percent wage guidelines—take a wage cut or face layoffs and higher prices. It's the same song workers hear when their bosses demand speedup, laxer safety standards, and overtime.

At bottom, all these exhortations to greater sacrifice are grounded on the lie that what's good for business is good for workers. For the scientific refutation of this claim, readers should study Karl Marx's *Value, Price and Profit*, along with *Wage Labour and Capital*.

The bosses' latest protest against the minimum wage is only one more practical proof of the incompatibility of the interests of workers and capitalists. —Shelley Kramer

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Oil companies hold Californians for ransom

By Dick Roberts

Anger against the oil companies and the Carter administration simmered towards the boiling point in California this week. The deliberate curtailment of gasoline supplies in that state has forced hundreds of thousands of people to wait in long lines for gas.

"Why don't they just raise the prices and get it over with?" one woman asked a *Militant* salesperson in Los Angeles, while waiting for gas.

It is not like 1974 when many people believed there was a valid basis of the oil shortage. This time the overwhelming majority feels that the gas companies cooked it up.

Meanwhile, gas shortages are spreading to other states.

Insult is being added to injury by the total inability of government and industry sources to offer even the flimsiest explanation of the shortage. It is like Three Mile Island all over again. One official says one thing, and another says something else.

"I'm as puzzled as anyone by some of the things that are going on," said the executive director of the Southern California Service Station Owners Association.

"I wish I knew," said a federal energy official.

Corporate blackmail

They carefully avoid the explanation that was obvious to those in the gas lines.

The oil trusts have stepped up their running battle against American consumers in order to soften us up for the drastic price increases that will come with Carter's decontrol of crude oil prices beginning in June.

Carter bluntly supported the blackmail operation of the giant energy corporations. In a statement released in Los Angeles May 5 he said, "To waste more valuable time looking for a painless way out can have only one result: more weekends like this here in southern California—all over the country."

Carter's "windfall profits tax" has

failed to fool the American people into accepting the price-gouging scheme. More and more realize, as *Washington Post* reporter Art Pine wrote April 29, that "the plan is not designed primarily to siphon profits from the oil companies, but rather to provide Carter with a cover for his earlier decision to decontrol oil prices. . . .

"Even the oil industry isn't fighting the measure seriously," Pine continued. "One oil industry executive confessed last week his company was grunting about it merely to save face for Carter and House and Senate lawmakers—to avoid pushing them into a really serious tax."

Carter's image is badly tarnished. Continuing inflation and unemployment, the near disaster at Three Mile Island, and the gasoline shortages coming right on top of Carter's move to decontrol oil prices, are making working people more and more angry.

With the 1980 elections coming up, someone in the Democratic Party has to at least appear to offer an alternative. This explains the escalation of attacks on Carter by Massachusetts Democrat Edward Kennedy.

The windfall profits tax, said Kennedy, is "no more than a transparent fig leaf over the vast new profits the industry will reap."

What would Kennedy do instead? *Time* magazine explained May 14: "Kennedy for his part had urged the Administration not to abandon the threat of continued controls [on oil prices] until a windfall tax was assured."

It might be a slicker way to con the American people. "But," continued *Time*, "Carter had tried that approach last year and been clobbered by Congress. This time the President figured to decontrol first and throw the responsibility for the tax onto Congress."

Open the books!

In Los Angeles, there are places where you can see the lines of cars at gas stations, then oil pumps on the hills nearby pumping away, and refineries in the distance that are going ahead full blast.

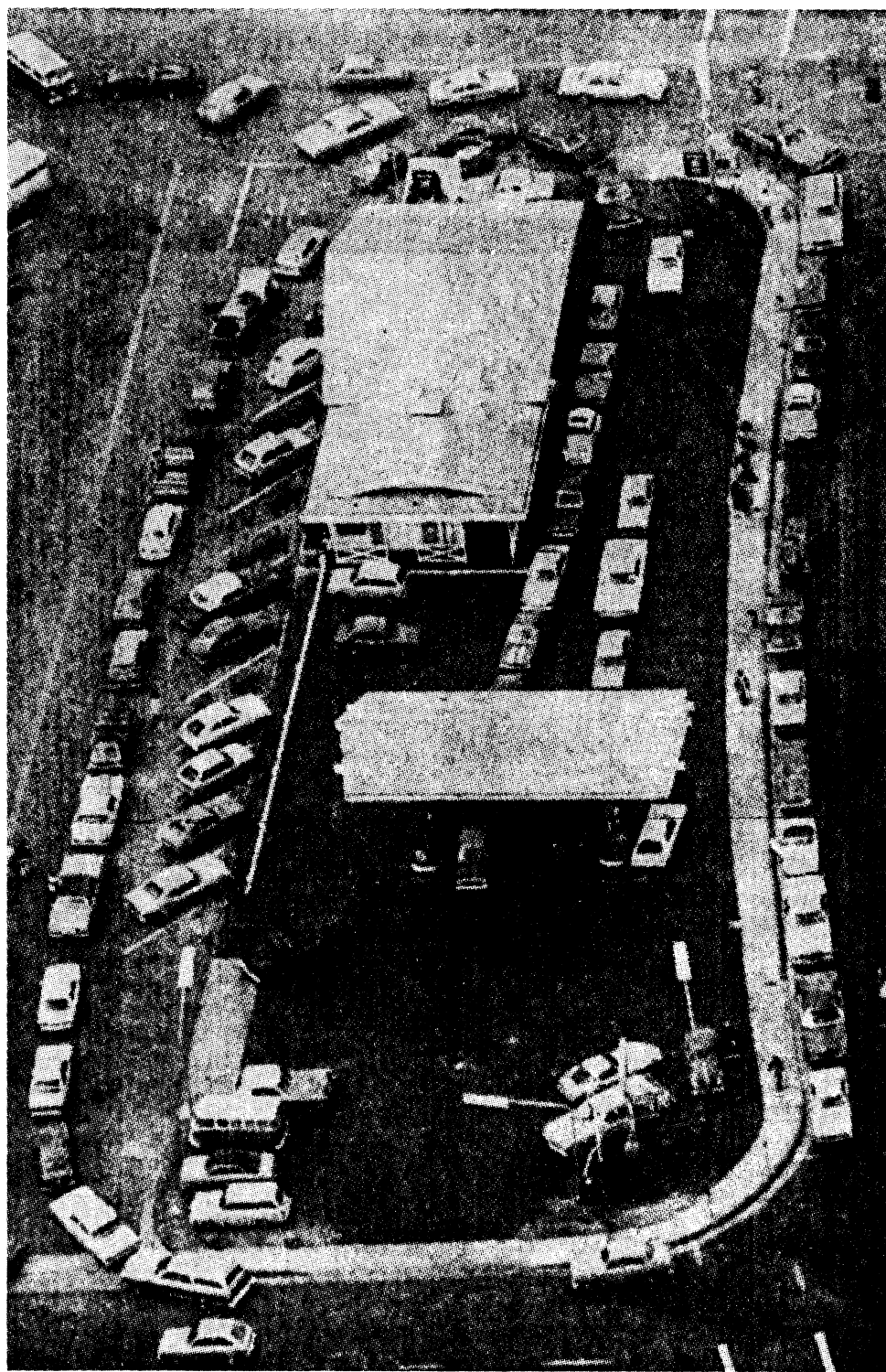
The image captures the frustrating dilemma of working people trapped in the vise of the energy trust.

How much gasoline is really available in California? When and why was a decision made to curtail gas supplies there—if such a decision was made?

What are the real costs of production of oil and gas in California? What are the real profits of the companies involved?

These elementary facts, which working people need to know to even begin planning a serious solution to the energy crisis, are locked up in secret by the privately owned corporations. The capitalist government that they control refuses to challenge these secrets and protects them.

The energy crisis seems to be escalating out of all control. Prices are shooting up everywhere, and there are still increasing shortages. A nuclear power plant nearly melts down, threatening tens of thousands of lives, and yet the administration refuses to halt nuclear energy production.



Waiting for gas at a San Diego service station. Oil trusts have taken another step in their running battle with American consumers.

There are abundant coal and natural gas resources in the United States, but government and industry refuse to tap them.

Public ownership

It is a vital necessity to take the energy industry out of the hands of private owners and their agents in Washington. Energy affects all aspects of our lives, from gas, heat, and electricity at home, to the pollution of the atmosphere, the spread of cancer-causing chemicals and radioactivity, and the danger of nuclear meltdowns.

Decisions that affect the jobs, health, safety, and the lives of millions of people are currently made solely on the basis of what is most profitable for the tiny handful of owners of the energy trust.

All energy should be publicly owned. Its production and use should be governed according to human needs, not private profits.

Public ownership would include putting the energy industry under the

management of an independent board directly elected by and responsible to the American people.

This board would not be like the Energy Department and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission—agencies directly under the thumb of the energy monopolies, whose main job is to protect the secrets and the profits of these monopolies.

Its functioning would be *policed* by the workers in the industry. They would ensure that safety standards were maintained and that no secrets were kept from the public.

An independent board would function *in the open*. It would make all the facts known so that working people everywhere could discuss and debate the problems and the solutions.

So long as this nationalization under workers control is not carried out and the energy companies remain under private ownership, there will be more and worse shortages, higher energy prices, and the certainty of new and more dangerous catastrophes in the nuclear power industry.

Oil profits soar

Giant oil companies claim that they are only passing on increased costs to consumers. But the rise in first-quarter profits in the oil industry—called "spectacular" by the *Wall Street Journal*—has kept well ahead of any increases in world market prices or shifts in demand.

Below are the first-quarter profits of the six largest U.S. oil companies, and their percent increase over the previous year.

| | Percent increase | Profits (in millions) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Exxon | 37.4% | \$955.0 |
| Mobil | 81.3% | \$437.0 |
| Standard (Indiana) | 27.6% | \$349.1 |
| Standard (Calif.) | 42.8% | \$347.0 |
| Texaco | 80.9% | \$307.0 |
| Gulf | 60.6% | \$249.0 |