

THE MILITANT

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

'80 OLYMPICS

Let our people go!

The following statement was issued April 16 by Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann, Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president.

Arm-twisting, blackmail, threats, and bribes. That's how President Carter got the U.S. Olympic Committee to go along with his boycott of the summer Olympics in Moscow.

Despite intense pressure, one-third of the committee voted to reject Carter's ultimatum. The vote of the bankers and other businessmen who make up most of the USOC is only a pale reflection of the opposition of the vast majority of athletes. Having trained for years with the Olympics as their goal, they feel betrayed by the vote.

Why is Carter so determined to wreck the Olympics, which millions of us are looking forward to?

The *New York Times* explained in an April 11 editorial, "Boycott is surely a sacrifice for young athletes who long to compete. But that is what makes the gesture meaningful."

Washington wants us to sacrifice to support stepped up preparations for war. The sacrifices extend from the playing field to the field of battle.

In addition to demanding that we give up the Olympics, the rulers ask us to accept big cuts in public services to pay for new weapons of war; higher gas prices; lower wages and more unemployment. To top it off, Carter is pushing for draft registration so that our sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, can provide cannon fodder for new Vietnams.



Washington's campaign against the Olympics is part of an effort to convince American working people that we face deadly dangers from abroad and that there is no alternative but to support new preparations for war. It coincides with economic sanctions and renewed military threats against Iran.

Carter deliberately blocked a solution to the

embassy crisis in Tehran by continuing to support the butcher shah. Now he is trying to use the growing frustration and impatience of Americans to launch a new anti-Iranian campaign.

Like the anti-Iranian witchhunt with its deportations and violence against Iranians in

Continued on next page

Unions, women unite to win ERA

March and rally in Chicago May 10



By Mark Severs

CHICAGO—"ERA is an issue of survival," declared Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women, at a news conference here April 15 announcing plans for a national march for the Equal Rights Amendment in Chicago on May 10.

"Some people are profiting from paying women fifty-nine cents to every dollar that men make," she said. "Some people are getting adult workers for half the pay. People cannot exist on half the dollar. American females are being ripped off."

Smeal laid out plans for a campaign to make Illinois the thirty-sixth state to ratify the ERA. Thirty-eight state legislatures must ratify by June 30, 1982, if ERA is to become the law of the land. The Illinois legislature is scheduled to close its session on June 30, 1980.

The major events of the Illinois spring ERA campaign will be a student rally in Springfield

April 23, an April 26 labor conference at Plumbers Hall in Chicago, and the national march on May 10.

Virtually the entire American labor movement is backing the conference and march, making them two of the most broadly union-sponsored actions in decades.

Speakers at the April 26 labor conference in addition to Eleanor Smeal include Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO; Douglas Fraser, president of the United Auto Workers; Joyce Miller, president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women; Charles Hayes, vice-president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Sam Church, president of the United Mine Workers; and others.

There will be three conference workshops on ERA: one on educating union members, another on lobbying, and a third on building participation in the May 10 march and May 13 lobby day, when

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Camp David rerun

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin has just arrived in Washington, coming on the heels of Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat.

Begin has come, as did Sadat, to try to salvage the Carter administration's Camp David "peace" accords, which are said to be threatened by disputes on the issue of Palestinian autonomy.

Just a week before he came here, Begin showed what the Israeli rulers mean by peace when he ordered an Israeli armored and infantry invasion into southern Lebanon. Under the guise of protecting Israelis from Arab guerrillas, the Zionist rulers reserve the "right" to invade Lebanon any time they choose.

Israel's aggressive policies were further shown when the Israeli-backed right-wing Lebanese militia of Saad Haddad fired on UN troops in southern Lebanon, killing a soldier from Fiji.

The Begin government in March appointed the ultra-expansionist Yitzhak Shamir to the foreign minister's post. Shamir is so far right in Israeli politics that he refused to back the Camp David accords as conceding too much to the Palestinians. His background is that of an assassin for the Zionist Stern Gang, which murdered UN mediator Count Folke Bernadotte in 1948.

But it is Begin's self-righteous proclamation of the "right" to settle Jews anywhere on the occupied West Bank—Arab territories captured by Israel in the 1967 war—and his unceasing pursuit of that aim that most expose the injustice and unworkability of the Camp David accords.

These Israeli settlements mean the expulsion by force and violence of the Palestinians now living in the areas the Zionists want to occupy. They express the historical drive of Zionism: expansion at the expense of the Palestinian Arabs.

In reality, Zionism admits no national rights at all to the Palestinians. This logic precludes the possibility that in the current talks Israel will in any way allow Palestinians in the West Bank even to exercise autonomy, much less self-determination. The proposals made by Begin for "autonomy" would not even allow the West Bank Palestinians the same rights as

any American city has in relation to the state or federal government.

The Carter administration had expressed displeasure at Begin's crudeness. But as Washington's most reliable ally in the Middle East, Israel is under no pressure from the Carter administration to grant justice to the Palestinians in the occupied territories. All that the White House is interested in is making it appear that Palestinian rights are being fairly treated by Washington, in concert with Begin and Sadat.

Carter understands that the Palestinian struggle continually tends to spur revolutionary sentiments and mobilizations throughout the Middle East. This makes it the major stumbling block to forging an effective bloc of the capitalist regimes in the region against the spread of revolutionary ferment from Iran and Afghanistan.

So the Camp David crew is talking again. But the policies of the Begin government, particularly the settlements policy, make it more difficult for Carter to carry out his charade.

This latest episode in the Carter-Begin-Sadat show is no more likely than the previous ones to produce a lasting solution.

The road to peace in the Mideast is inseparable from the triumph of justice. There will be no peace until the Palestinians win their right to self-determination.

... Olympics

Continued from front page

this country, the Olympic boycott shows how threats to our democratic rights at home are built into Washington's policies of militarization and austerity.

The administration has suggested that athletes who try to go to the Soviet Union this summer may have their passports lifted. Such a move would begin to unravel the victories that have been won for our right to travel over the past two decades.

And the U.S. media have been all but officially barred from covering the games. This is a major escalation of government censorship.

The chilling rationale for all this was presented by William Simon, former Treasury

Secretary under Nixon and now a major figure in Ronald Reagan's campaign. He told the Olympic Committee, "When the president of the United States makes a determination on national security, there is no way he can be denied."

Simon's role as hatchet man for Carter in the U.S. Olympic Committee shows that Democratic and Republican politicians are united behind the war drive and the "national security" attack on democratic liberties.

The U.S. media portray the insistence of the athletes on their right to compete as an example of the selfishness of the "me generation."

They put the same label on workers who fight to save their jobs, wages, and working conditions, and on youth who don't want to be drafted.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

If the Olympic games were being held in South Africa this summer, we think a lot of American athletes—white and Black—would voluntarily boycott as part of a worldwide movement against that racist government.

The reason why this boycott meets such resistance is the same reason why most American working people don't want to sacrifice for Washington's crusades against Iran, Afghanistan, Cuba, and the Soviet Union. The government has been unable to convince them that its foreign policy is worth sacrificing for.

Whatever their opinions about the hostage crisis, most American working people know the Iranians have a point when they complain about the U.S. government's complicity in the crimes of the shah. Many can't see why Carter doesn't just come right out and admit this.

Whatever their views about Afghanistan, most smell something rotten when they find that Carter's Afghan "freedom fighters" are opposed to the most elementary rights for women, murder schoolteachers, and seek to keep the Afghan peasant masses mired in disease and illiteracy.

American working people learned from Vietnam. They know Washington has repeatedly appealed to "national security" to demand blind obedience to policies that harm the overwhelming majority and benefit only the wealthy few.

The athletes who want to go to the Olympics are applying those lessons.

Let the athletes go to Moscow!

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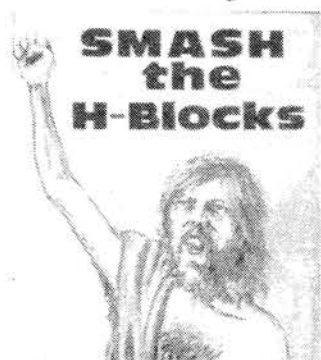


How Kansas City fire fighters won

Labor solidarity and support from the Black community overcame city moves to smash their union. **Page 8.**

Putting socialists on ballot

In Missouri, Michigan, New Jersey, and elsewhere, campaigners are getting out socialist ideas as they petition to put Pulley and Zimmermann on the ballot. **Pages 9-10.**



Irish prisoners brutally treated

In Belfast, Northern Ireland, Gerry Foley interviewed two Irish republicans who were recently released from the Long Kesh concentration camp. **Page 18.**

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Athletes slam boycott

By Sue Adley

DENVER—"I'm not dead yet." This was Flo Hyman's reaction when the U.S. Olympic Committee bowed to President Carter's demand that it boycott the Summer Olympics in Moscow. A member of the U.S. women's vol-

leyball team, Hyman told reporters that if the International Olympic Committee should invite the athletes, "the president himself will have to stop me."

"We've all been taught about the eternal 'American dream' where indi-

viduals can control their own destiny," she said. "We were doing that. We had done something no American volleyball team had ever done before. We had qualified for the Olympics."

"Now," Hyman continued, "that has been taken away by the president. All the while he's screaming at other people to 'let our people go.' Then he locks up the American athletes."

The Carter administration had brought extreme pressure to bear on the USOC delegates, who met in Colorado Springs April 12.

Nevertheless, athletes' sentiment for going was so strong that one-third of the delegates voted no on the boycott motion.

The vote, at a closed session, was reportedly 1,604 to 797.

That was after an address by Vice-president Mondale, who demagogically declared, "What is at stake is nothing less than the future security of the civilized world."

For weeks the White House had been pounding away on the theme that "national security" would be endangered if the athletes went to Moscow. Athletes and others who oppose the boycott, it was implied, are somehow "disloyal."

The arm-twisting went beyond demagogy.

Attorney General Civiletti threatened that athletes who went abroad in defiance of the ban could face criminal prosecution. Other officials spoke of lifting passports.

Business firms began holding back payment of their pledges used to help finance participation in the Olympics. The president of Sears announced withholding of such a payment after a White House meeting.

The committee was threatened with loss of its tax-exempt status.

Along with the blackmail came a bribe. Mondale told the delegates that if they voted right, the government would see to it that their present financial difficulties were resolved.

A stubborn effort to resist this government campaign was made by representatives of the Athletes Advisory Committee. They introduced, unsuccessfully, a resolution at the USOC meeting that had been adopted earlier by unanimous vote of the amateur athletes' group.

The resolution noted that USOC's constitution provides that it may not "deny or threaten to deny any amateur athlete the opportunity to compete in the Olympic games."

And it cited a section of the USOC charter that says the committee "must be autonomous and must resist all pressure of any kind, whether of a political, religious or economic nature. . . ."

The USOC decision was sharply criticized by Harry Nier of Lawyers for Sports Freedom, which is working with athletes to resist imposition of the boycott.

"Little attention has been given to the views of the athletes themselves," Nier said. "Except for papers like the

Cuban boxer scores Carter

In an interview earlier this year at the Havana airport, Teófilo Stevenson, the internationally renowned Cuban boxer, scored Carter's moves for a boycott of the Olympics.

Stevenson was returning from Charlotte, North Carolina, where he led the Cuban boxing team in a match with a U.S. team.

"We athletes go through a lot of sacrifices for four years to be able to take part in the Olympic games," Stevenson said. "I can well imagine how annoyed the U.S. athletes and the athletes from other countries must be. . . ."

"Most countries so far have not supported Carter, and it can be safely predicted that the Moscow Olympics will be a success."

Stevenson added: "Washington would do well to remember that most of the Olympic Games of the recent past have been held while the United States was intervening or waging war in Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea, the Middle East, and Latin America."



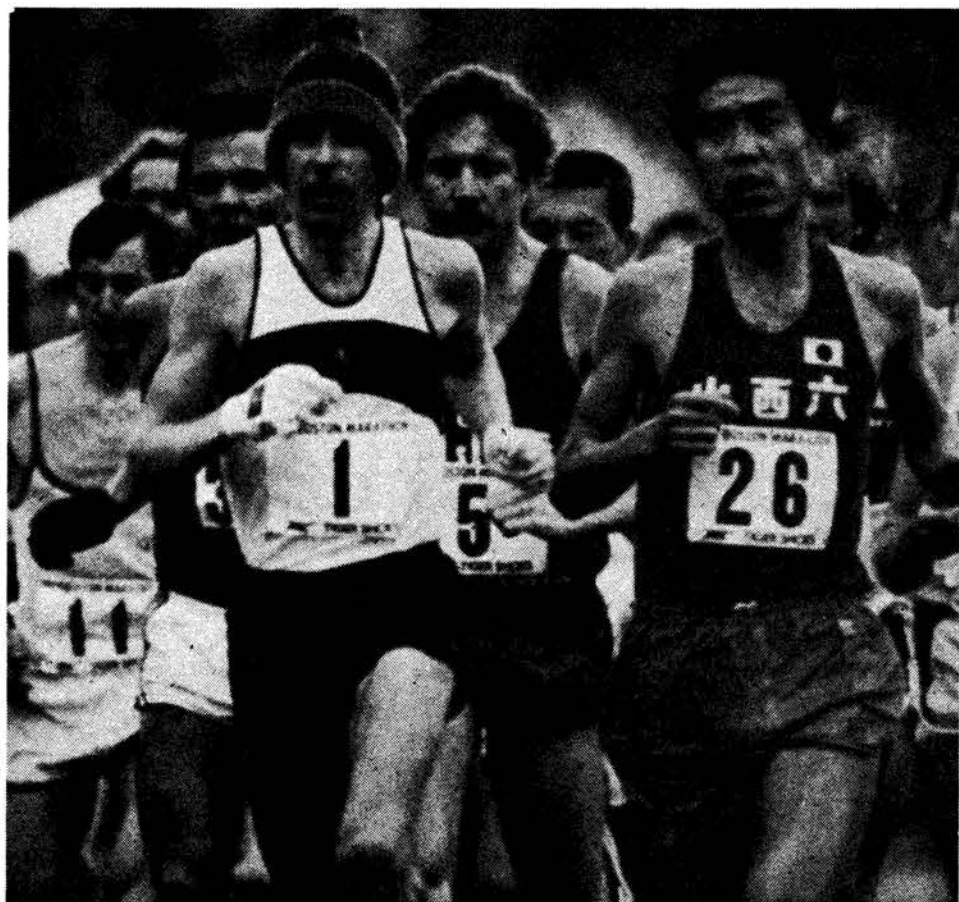
TEOFILO STEVENSON

Militant, the national media have not publicized the antiboycott picket by members of the women's volleyball team here on April 5."

Another demonstration at the USOC meeting, he added, was covered by European media but not the U.S. networks.

Nier expressed particular concern about the threat of legal prosecution for exercising the right to travel. He said any travel curb would flatly contradict court rulings won by opponents of such restriction who successfully challenged the government's 1960s ban on travel to Cuba.

Nier said opponents of the boycott are planning further protests and possible legal action.



Champion marathon runner Bill Rodgers (No. 1) is one of scores of prominent athletes who have spoken out against Carter's boycott of Olympics. Rodgers condemned U.S. Olympic Committee for buckling under administration pressure.

Int'l teams resist pressure

"We were listing countries that would boycott that didn't even have an Olympic team."

That admission by a White House aide, quoted in the April 13 *New York Times*, indicates how Washington is using lies in the effort to stampede the U.S. Olympic Committee and other countries into boycotting the Moscow Olympics.

According to the April 14 *Christian Science Monitor*, the Olympic Committees of only seven countries have voted to boycott. They include such devoted friends of human rights as the government-controlled committees in Chile, Paraguay, Honduras, and Saudi Arabia.

Olympic committees from forty countries have agreed to compete in Moscow.

Among close U.S. allies, Britain, Canada, and Australia are listed as supporting the boycott. But only the governments endorsed.

The British, Canadian, and Australian Olympic Committees all say the teams are going. And public opinion is behind them.

The Olympic Committees of France and New Zealand say they will be in Moscow this summer. The

governments of these countries have yet to endorse the boycott.

The Irish government says it won't back a boycott. Not many Irish can be found who are more outraged by the Soviet role in Afghanistan than by the British occupation of Northern Ireland.

The only European country whose Olympic committee has so far endorsed Carter's boycott demand is Norway.

Only a small number of countries from Asia, Africa, and Latin America endorsed the boycott. And the Puerto Rican Olympic Committee defied Washington by announcing it will have its team in Moscow.

Here, the decision of the U.S. Olympic Committee to bow to Carter was scored by the acclaimed Olympic marathon runner, Bill Rodgers. "In England they have an Olympics committee with guts. In America, we don't have sports authorities who are responsible to the athletes. I think the athletes in the United States should stand up and organize to force the Olympic Committee out. I would like to see the International Olympic Committee fire them."

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Millions in Iran defy Carter

By Janice Lynn

In response to President Carter's latest threats against Iran, massive nationwide demonstrations took place there April 11.

Reports from Iran indicate that at least 1.5 million people turned out in Tehran. Hundreds of thousands more participated in demonstrations in other cities throughout the country.

In their united and militant spirit and the massive size of the turnout, these anti-imperialist demonstrations were comparable only to the huge outpourings in early 1979 that toppled the shah's regime.

In the Azerbaijani city of Ardebil, almost the entire population of about 100,000 participated in the demonstration. In northern Gilan province, demonstrations took place in cities throughout the region.

Although reports of the demonstrations in Kurdistan were not available, the Kurdish Democratic Party had declared the Kurdish people's solidarity with other sections of the Iranian population in the struggle against Carter's moves.

The main theme of the April 11 mobilizations was to reaffirm the need to build the "army of 20 million" to counter Washington's threats. This was proposed several months ago by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and since then military training has begun.

"Khomeini, the army of 20 million is awaiting your orders," marchers chanted.

The overwhelming majority at the Tehran demonstration were from the working-class districts of south Tehran. Many peasants arrived in truckloads from the surrounding country-

side. There were high school and university students as well. Among the most militant demonstrators were the tremendous number of Iranian women who participated.

Slogans at the demonstration defiantly denounced Washington's economic boycott, indicating the Iranian people's readiness to fast every day, if necessary. Marchers hailed the break of diplomatic relations with Washington.

One of the most popular anti-Carter chants went: "You with the weapon of your navy, We with the weapon of our conviction, Fight with us, you faithless Carter."

Some slogans denounced the recent threats by Iraq: "Down with Saddam Hussein! Long live the people of Iraq!"

At the rally at Tehran University, Iranian President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr addressed part of his remarks to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Why should our Phantoms face your MIGs?" Bani-Sadr asked. "Shouldn't your MIGs and our Phantoms rather be directed toward Israel, which is attacking south Lebanon?" The crowd roared its approval of this defense of the Palestinian struggle.

Because the march was so huge, thousands who couldn't get to the rally site marched to the U.S. Embassy. There they gave a rousing welcome to Iranian diplomats who had just arrived after being expelled from the United States.

Several days earlier, the militant students occupying the embassy had released further proof of secret U.S. government spying. They revealed sophisticated espionage equipment used to monitor computers and listen to radio communications.

HKE women prisoners freed

The anti-imperialist struggle in Iran scored a victory April 14 with the release of the two remaining imprisoned members of the Revolutionary Workers Party (HKE), Mahsa Hashemi and Fatima Fallahi.

"We are very happy that we are freed," said the two women socialists upon their release from Evin Prison in Tehran. "Because now we can join the struggles of our people against U.S. imperialism—the enemy of progress and humanity. We owe our freedom to the anti-imperialist fighters and the supporters of the Iranian revolution inside and outside the country."

The two women had been imprisoned along with 12 other HKE members last June on charges of expressing their socialist views. But since the deepening of the Iranian revolution spurred by the struggle centered on the occupation of the U.S. Embassy, the HKE militants have all been released.

The students also discovered that a computer building had been disguised as a supply depot, and that aerial photography by a specially equipped U.S. C-12 plane was being organized out of the embassy.

The demonstrators reaffirmed their solidarity with the militant students in the "spy nest" and the demand for return of the shah.

From Intercontinental Press/Inprecor

Iran socialists hit threats

The Iranian Revolutionary Workers Party (HKE) urged a massive turnout for the April 11 anti-imperialist demonstration in Tehran. Below are major excerpts from the statement the HKE distributed prior to and at the demonstration.

U.S. imperialism, due to the antiwar sentiment of the American people and people all over the world, has not been able to directly intervene militarily against our revolution. Now, in the provocations by Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime, it has found new hope for smashing our revolution.

Saddam Hussein's regime—with the expulsion of thousands of Iranians and Shi'ite people from that country, the arrest of Ayatollah [Mohammad Bagher] Sadr, and the intensification of the propaganda war against Iran—has fallen into the trap of the murderous imperialist agitation against Iran.

Unlike the regime of Saddam Hussein, the absolute majority of Iraqi people, the oppressed Kurdish people there, and all the working people of Iraq, are strong supporters of the Iranian revolution. They want to have their share in the sacred struggle of the Iranian people against U.S. imperialism. This is the main reason for the poisonous agitation of the Iraqi regime against Iran.

To answer the new threats and moves of U.S. imperialism, essential anti-imperialist measures must be taken.

The U.S. imperialists confiscated billions of dollars and cut off diplomatic relations with us. To answer this action, we must confiscate all

capital and holdings of the United States in Iran, nationalize U.S. companies to the last nail in their shoes, and put them under the control of workers shoras [committees].

All military ties to the U.S. imperialists must be cut and all military treaties made during the regime of the fallen monarchy must be exposed and annulled.

To mobilize the entire population of the country against imperialism, immediate measures must be taken to recognize the rights of all oppressed nationalities in Iran. The fratricide and bloodshed in Kurdistan must be stopped.

Granting the demands of the millions of poor peasants, i.e. the realization of the demand that "the land belongs to the tillers," will mobilize this gigantic mass in unity with the toiling masses in the cities to fight against the U.S. warmaker.

These measures must be combined with the speedy and extensive preparations to build the army of 20 million. Brother *pasdars* [revolutionary guards] and the revolutionary personnel of the armed forces must, by all possible means, provide training and arming for the 20 million army.

In this fight, the shoras have heavy responsibilities to try to organize and extend the united shoras in the factories and workplaces in Iran, as the only way to guarantee the continuity of the anti-imperialist struggle, and widely involve the masses in the struggle.

The HKE declares its support and solidarity with the anti-imperialist unity march Friday and pledges to put all its resources into the service of making the march as massive as possible.



Revolutionary guards march outside U.S. Embassy in December. New demonstrations call for building 'army of 20 million.'

White House trips over its lies on Afghanistan

The following article by Lars-Erik Nelson appeared in the April 5 New York 'Daily News.'

Washington (News Bureau)—The Carter Administration's increasingly shrill campaign for a worldwide boycott of the Moscow Summer Olympic Games was undermined slightly yesterday when U.S. officials reported that some of America's charges against the Russians might not be true.

Specifically, officials said, they knew of no basis for a widely reported accusation by Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher last week that the Russians or their Afghan henchmen were executing 50 political prisoners a night.

If anything, one official said, the number of executions in Afghani-

stan has decreased since Soviet troops entered Afghanistan in late December and "put an end to the excesses" of ousted—and slain—Prime Minister Hafizullah Amin.

Government specialists also said they were skeptical of reports that the Russians had used lethal nerve gas against the Afghans.

The exaggeration of Russia's misdeeds, one official said, did not diminish the illegality of the Soviet invasion. And most government officials agreed that 85,000 Soviet troops are still in Afghanistan trying to suppress an insurrection by Islamic fundamentalists.

But one official conceded that the failure of the United States to attract broader support for a boycott of the Summer Olympics had lent a new shrillness to the Carter administra-

tion's rhetoric.

U.S. spokesmen reported that 30 countries had given official assurances that they would not participate in the Moscow Games. But these assurances do not speak for the private Olympic committees in each country, and it is not yet clear whether any countries, except possibly Saudi Arabia, actually will boycott the Moscow Games.

State Department spokesman Hodding Carter 3d suggested that failure to boycott the Moscow Olympics could threaten international security. "The United States has said, through its President, that there must be a meaningful and sharp response to the events in Afghanistan. In not responding adequately to what is done in Afghanistan, we raise the very real risk that another

act of aggression is equally tolerable."

Aware that a large number of foreign countries, even allies, were not taking that threat as seriously as the United States, one official said, "It's true that we have raised our voices, perhaps too much."

Among the past inconsistencies or exaggerations in the U.S. propaganda drive have been:

- The assertion that the Afghan army, numbered at 40,000, is crumbling. They still say there are 40,000 troops involved.

- The assertion that Soviet troops in Afghanistan are astride the traditional invasion routes to Tehran. They are not. They are bogged down in Eastern mountain passes. And Iran has not been invaded from Afghanistan.

Steel contract approved: no help for jobless

By Stu Singer

By a vote of 333-42 the new three-year contract for workers in the basic steel industry was ratified in Pittsburgh April 15. The vote was taken among United Steelworker local presidents, the only body that gets to vote on the contract.

The contract directly covers about 350,000 steel workers, many of whom are now laid off. The contracts of about 200,000 other USWA members generally follow the pattern set in basic steel.

The new agreement is similar to the one signed in 1977. It includes hourly wage gains averaging twenty cents each year. It has the same cost-of-living allowance formula.

There are increases in job-class increments, shift differentials, supplemental unemployment benefits (SUB), and sickness and accident (S & A) pay.

Workers will get two forty-dollar payments over the life of the contract to pay for steel-toed safety shoes.

These benefits do not do much good for steelworkers without jobs. The union

did not win any protection against layoffs and plant closings.

No progress was made in winning the proposal made by the conference of local presidents last December to fight for a shorter workweek without loss of pay to provide more jobs.

The new contract does include much-needed improvement in pensions for retired steelworkers. But it comes out of the pocket of working union members, not from the companies.

The contract summary distributed to the local presidents says: "It was not possible to convince the Companies, in their present economic condition, to absorb the full cost of the substantial gains for active employees achieved in these negotiations plus the full cost of substantial pension improvements for already retired employees."

The scheduled thirty-two-cent an hour COLA increase for May 1 will be applied to pensions and not hourly pay.

Negotiations for the union on this contract were led by Vice-president Joseph Odorich. Union President Lloyd McBride underwent emergency surgery April 2, right in the middle of negotiations, and he has been hospitalized since.

Two important questions expected to be covered in negotiations have not yet been announced. One concerns the future of the Experimental Negotiating Agreement. The ENA prohibition on industry-wide strikes is opposed by many union activists. Some steel company officials have recently been critical of its guaranteed 3 percent a year wage hikes.

The other important issue concerns company proposals to remove more steelworkers from coverage under this contract.

Coming issues of the *Militant* will report more details about the contract and reactions to it from steelworkers around the country.

Draft snags in Congress while protests continue

By August Nimitz

President Carter's efforts to get Congress to implement draft registration ran into further snags April 1 when the House of Representatives delayed a vote to appropriate \$4.8 million to reactivate the Selective Service System, the agency that would administer draft registration.

While the White House, according to the April 11 *Wall Street Journal*, "expects House approval soon . . . a Senate filibuster could doom the proposal. Many on Capitol Hill recall administration opposition to draft registration in 1979. One staffer says, 'It's kind of hard to send up here to support registration the same people who were arguing against it last year.'"

These roadblocks in Congress show that public opposition to draft registration has given the capitalist legislators second thoughts about Carter's plans.

Aiming to expand the widespread opposition to the draft, activists have continued to organize local protest activities.

At Reed College in Portland, Oregon, about 200 people from throughout the region attended the "Northwest Student Conference Against the Draft" April 12-13. Featured speakers included filmmaker

Saul Landau and Sidney Lens, co-director of the Mobilization for Survival.

A statewide rally against the draft and to commemorate the 1970 Kent State and Jackson State murders of student protesters will be held on May 3 in Salem, Oregon, at the state capitol building.

The Chicago Committee Against Registration and the Draft (CARD) sponsored a "Public Meeting to Build the Local Anti-Draft Movement" on April 12. More than eighty people attended to hear various speakers, including one who reported on West Coast actions, and to participate in workshops. The labor outreach workshop decided to conduct antidraft educationals in local industrial unions and seek the endorsement of local labor leaders for these activities.

Plans were also made to help build the May 4 "Remember Kent State" rally to be held at Kent State University.

Midwest CARD has also called a conference for May 3 in Chicago.

A debate on the draft took place April 7 at the University of Toledo. Speakers included Toby Emmerich, the Socialist Workers Party congressional candidate for District 9, and Mike Ferner, Vietnam War veteran.

...ERA

Continued from front page

individuals from many organizations will go to the capitol in Springfield.

Labor organizations supporting May 10 include the national AFL-CIO: CLUW; Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; American Postal Workers; Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks; Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Communications Workers of America; United Electrical Workers; American Federation of Teachers; International Union of Electrical Workers; United Auto Workers; United Food and Commercial Workers; United Steelworkers; United Transportation Union; and others.

Labor, civil rights, women's and religious organizations had representatives at the news conference. They included Rev. Willie Barrow of Operation PUSH; Addie Wyatt, vice-president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and vice-president of the United Food and Commercial Workers union; Clara Day, trustee and business representative, Teamsters Joint Council 25; and others.

The importance of ERA for working people was the focus of the news conference. "The theme of our campaign is fifty-nine cents," said Smeal. "There is almost no way a family does not face discrimination through a female member, and economics now make equal rights more important than ever. For women today, it is a daily battle trying to stretch an inflated dollar when, in reality, it is only fifty-nine cents. Today, more than ever before, women need the economic protections that ERA will bring them."

Clara Day also emphasized this in an interview with the *Militant*. "There are two reasons for labor's stake in the ERA," she said. "First, larger and larger numbers of females are in American unions. Second, the women's movement and the labor movement are political allies with a common



enemy. The same people who are against ERA are against increases in the minimum wage.

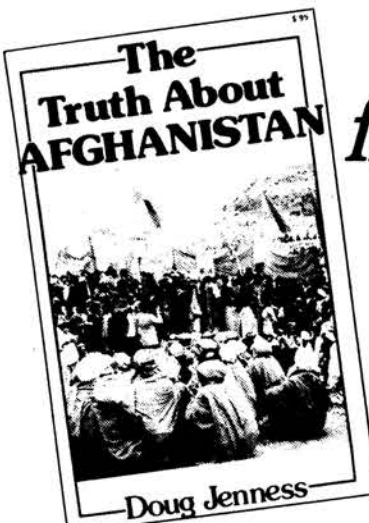
"ERA will be good for labor," she continued. "The divisions between men and women in the work force have made it more difficult for the labor movement to organize people. The differences in wages between men and women have caused divisions that have also made it difficult for the labor movement."

"Our goal is to reach out to all of our membership to educate them and to show them that the ERA is an issue that should be supported by all workers."

Union participation in building April 26 and May 10 continues to grow. "It's time to march," begins a letter sent out by Robert Johnston, director of UAW Region 4. The letter went to all local presidents, recording secretaries, Community Action Program (CAP) chairs, and chairs of local and area women's committees in Region 4.

"If you believe in social and economic justice,"

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 - What have been its achievements?
 - Who are the "Muslim rebels"?
 - How has the U.S. government intervened?
 - What is the role of the Soviet Union?
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 - Are we moving toward war?
 - What does this mean for American workers and youth?
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the letter continued, "make preparations at once to be in Chicago, Saturday, May 10."

A member of Region 4's organizing staff has been assigned to aid locals in that region in organizing for the march.

At a Region 4 conference held April 12 and 13, leaflets on the labor conference were passed out.

UAW Region 10 in Milwaukee voted to print up ERA commemorative T-shirts to sell to members, and UAW Local 1866 voted to carry its own banner.

United Steelworkers District 31 is printing thousands of May 10 leaflets for its locals to distribute.

USWA Local 65 voted to send any union member who wants to attend the April 26 labor conference and to give them five dollars for the registration fee and fifteen dollars for expenses.

USWA Local 2937 in Indianapolis voted to send a delegation to the labor conference.

Several local chairpersons from UTU and BRAC in Chicago are organizing to build a rail union contingent for the march.

And the Milwaukee County Labor Council voted to endorse May 10.

The NOW Great Lakes Regional Conference held April 12 and 13 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor put a big focus on May 10 and the Illinois ERA drive.

National NOW Secretary Sandra Roth in her keynote address referred to May 10 as "our prime target."

Illinois State President Sheila Stoll-Clark in an ERA update report told everyone, "If you have four buses, get eight. If you have eight, get sixteen."

She made a big push for the April 23 student rally at the capitol building in Springfield.

Stoll also announced that Phyllis Schlafly of Stop ERA had called an anti-ERA action in Springfield May 6.

The ERA battle is heating up. As Eleanor Smeal told the April 15 news conference, "The eyes of the nation are on Illinois because it holds the fate and future of 115 million American women and their families."

Black United Front discusses labor solidarity

By Stu Singer

NEW YORK—An April 10 forum organized by the Black United Front voiced much-needed support for the transit workers. It also posed important questions about the relation of the unions to the Black community and to politics.

The BUF is a Brooklyn-based organization that has led protests against police killings of Blacks and Puerto Ricans.

The two most prominent Black opposition leaders in the Transport Workers Union, Arnold Cherry and Henry Lewis, were scheduled to speak at the

forum. However, due to the intensive negotiations then in progress, they could not attend. Lewis is a member of the Black United Front and heads the group's labor committee.

The speakers were Joe Carnegie, a former activist in the TWU; Bill Caffee, a bus driver in Nassau County (just east of New York City); and Black United Front chairperson Rev. Herbert Daughtry.

After a lively discussion from the audience of more than 100 people, which included many transit workers, the meeting ended with agreement on a support statement.

Carnegie explained how the Transit Authority was established in 1953, supposedly to deal with the problem of deficits. Since then the deficits have increased.

He pointed out that under the authority there have been four fare hikes, the bus system has been cut back, and the maintenance program shifted from preventive to break down repair. This is ruining the system.

"They don't know what's running on that track. You take your life in your hands every time you go down there."

The union is now about half Black and Hispanic. Carnegie said: "They hate the fact that a few Blacks and Hispanics can stop this city."

Carnegie had an answer to the claim there is "no money" for city workers and services: "There's not going to be any solution to transit, schools, or other things we need until we can deal with that military budget. We can't afford it anymore."

"We're part of the working class," Carnegie said. "We're sure not part of the ruling class. And the white workers are in this with us."

"I fought Mike Quill [TWU president during the 1966 strike] for years. But I remember feeling proud when I heard him say about the judge who ordered him to jail because of the strike, 'That judge in his black robes should drop dead.' Quill was speaking like a worker then."

"The Black community is not going to let the unions be destroyed. We've got nothing left but to fight. The union is struggling for all of us, for every one of us."

Daughtry said, "Over twenty of our people have been killed by police since June 1979. We've worked with the para-professionals [school aides], the hospital workers. We've marched with District 37 [American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees]. Taken our people over the bridge to protest at City Hall."

"But there is still isolation. We need

solidarity. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the TWU would move against police killings after this strike?"

Daughtry visited Grenada to participate in the celebration of the first anniversary of the revolution on that Caribbean island. He was enthusiastic: "I've been traveling around. I've been in countries where buses and medical care are free. Where there are different priorities. The public utilities don't belong to anybody but the lord. They are for us. We ought to control these things."

In the discussion that followed, people returned to the theme of solidarity between union struggles and the Black community.

Daughtry asked: "Where are the unions when the police are killing our youth?"

"We hope that whatever settlement we get in the transit strike, it will not lead to retiring. We hope it will lead to refueling us to get involved in the total community struggle."

Most of the people at the forum, including all the transit workers who spoke, were Black.

An older transit worker said that "whatever we get will help the rest of the workers in the city to get more."

Another older transit worker: "We are people too. We pay taxes. We go to the grocery store. My take-home pay is less than \$200. I have five people to take care of."

A lot of the discussion hinged around politics. Two older transit workers ended their remarks by urging people to register and vote. But there were no proposals on who to vote for.

Especially in the Black community, few miss the hypocrisy of Democratic Mayor Koch claiming to pity the strike hardships for the poor when he has led the attack on services for the poor.

Political questions are posed in everyone's mind by this strike—the same questions that have led unionists in California and elsewhere to begin discussing an independent labor party.

High sales get out truth about NY transit strike

By Peter Seidman

New York and New Jersey socialists sold 732 copies of the *Militant* headlined: "Transit strikers: 'We're not slaves'—All workers have stake in their fight." In addition, we sold 126 copies of *Perspectiva Mundial*.

These results—achieved despite one day of torrential rain and while heavily involved in campaign efforts to help put the Socialist Workers Party on the ballot in Massachusetts—set an outstanding example.

Members of the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance in the New York-New Jersey area made this extra effort to get out the truth about the transit workers' strike. A big push to sell the *Militant* and *PM* was one of the best ways we could answer the barrage of lies in the big-business media aimed at demoralizing the strikers and isolating them from potential allies.

Nearly fifty papers were sold to picketing members of the Transport Workers Union; at least sixteen strikers bought introductory subscriptions.

The main emphasis was on sales on the streets of New York and at plant gates and on the job. Auto workers at Ford's Metuchen, New Jersey, plant bought fifty *Militants*. Twenty-five were sold at the General Motors plant in Tarrytown, New York. Another twenty were sold in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Top salesperson—with seventy-two papers—was Bill Henry, a member of the YSA who works at the Navy Yard.

* * *

The scoreboard on this page reports the fourth week of our eight-week spring circulation drive. During the first half of the drive we've averaged 83 percent of our weekly national goal. *Perspectiva Mundial* sales have averaged 92 percent.

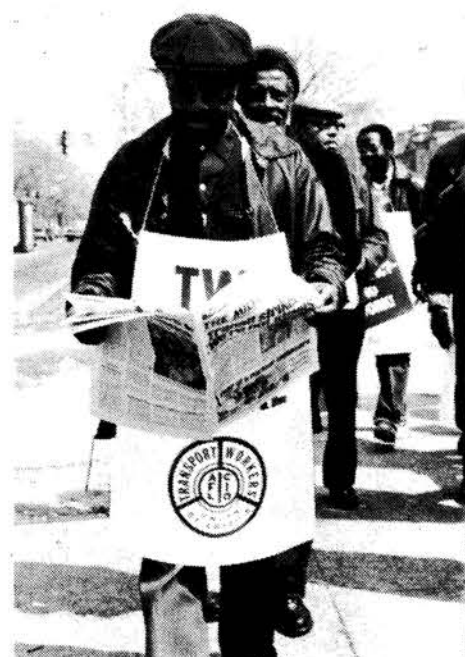
These results are modest, but about in line with what we could realistically expect to do this spring. Many areas are petitioning to put the SWP on the ballot. The extraordinary amount of time and effort required in these ballot drives cuts drastically into their sales.

In the first weeks of the drive, these SWP branches have been petitioning: Newark, Louisville, Cincinnati, Salt Lake City, Boston, Phoenix, New York, Albany, Detroit, Kansas City and St. Louis. Other areas have pitched in. Still others will soon begin major petitioning efforts.

The demands of organizing petitioning are also the most likely cause for the decline in our industrial sales to 11.5 percent, down from 16.6 percent last fall. The biggest part of the drop is in plant gate sales; on-the-job sales have held steadier.

Socialists have also spent a lot of time this spring helping to organize big turnouts for national demonstrations against Ku Klux Klan violence, against the draft, against nuclear power, and for the Equal Rights Amendment.

These actions bring us in touch with



Transit worker pickets in Brooklyn
Militant/Lou Howort

many unionists, students, and other activists who will be interested in the *Militant* and *PM*. But the fast pace of activity sometimes cuts across our ability to organize consistent sales.

The strong point of the spring drive has been our ability to reach out with the *Militant* and *PM* around a number of big developments in the class struggle. Not only the outstanding case of New York-New Jersey, but also to strikers in Chicago, Kansas City, West Virginia, Texas, Louisiana, and elsewhere. And, as we've reported before, we've sold to thousands of demonstrators in Washington, D.C., and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

In the remaining weeks of the drive, we should strive to organize consistent sales wherever petitioning is not going on. And we should try to devote special attention to getting the *Militant* and *PM* into the hands of the many people we are meeting in antidraft, antinuclear, and pro-ERA activity.

Selling subscriptions to these activists is the best way for them to learn about socialist ideas while keeping up with the movements they are particularly interested in.

PM sales will be spurred now that it has published the SWP campaign platform and has begun publishing Andrew Pulley's "How I Became a Socialist" (first time in Spanish).

Subscription sales on the job also offer important possibilities. And they are an area least affected by the demands of petitioning.

Attention to such opportunities for sales can help us turn around the current lag in subscriptions. Most important, the *Militant* and *PM* can bring hundreds of the young workers and students who have become involved in the wide range of protests and strikes this spring closer to joining the SWP and YSA.

Sales scoreboard

	MILITANT		PM		TOTALS			YS		Ttl. % Ind.	Subscriptions	
Branch	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold		Goal	Sold
NY/NJ District	375	732	100	126	475	858	180.6	500	48	3.9	125	30
Denver	86	111	14	6	100	117	117.0	75	11	6.6	20	2
San Antonio	60	68	25	21	85	89	104.7	50	57	3.6	25	0
Iron Range	70	73	0	0	70	73	104.2	75	25	12.6	35	12
San Diego	120	124	20	22	140	146	104.2	150	60	25.2	40	10
Seattle	140	144	5	6	145	150	103.4	130	79	14.3	30	8
Birmingham	115	118	0	0	115	118	102.6	80	62	9.0	30	4
Salt Lake City	110	113	7	7	117	120	102.5	25	16	4.8	20	2
Houston	80	68	10	24	90	92	102.2	40	8	12.0	25	3
Atlanta	100	100	0	0	100	100	100.0	60	43	3.2	25	6
Indianapolis	75	75	0	0	75	75	100.0	100	61	19.7	15	12
Dallas	50	59	30	17	80	76	95.0	115	31	6.6	25	4
Los Angeles	240	206	35	54	275	260	94.5	100	27	23.4	70	13
Baltimore	90	83	0	0	90	83	92.2	60	56	21.0	35	10
Portland	85	77	0	1	85	78	91.7	30	9	0.0	20	2
Cleveland	80	80	10	1	90	81	90.0	30	18	10.1	15	6
Miami	70	70	10	1	80	71	88.7	60	5	36.6	15	14
Tidewater	80	70	0	0	80	70	87.5	100	36	23.8	25	3
Philadelphia	135	114	25	25	160	139	86.8	100	49	20.1	60	11
Gary	65	43	5	9	70	52	74.2	30	15	28.0	25	1
Washington, D.C.	100	72	25	18	125	90	72.0	150	27	10.2	25	4
Twin Cities	175	125	0	0	175	125	71.4	100	20	4.8	80	17
Tacoma	80	55	0	1	80	56	70.0	65	17	26.7	20	0
Oakland/East Bay	90	60	10	5	100	65	65.0	100	15	12.3	0	2
Toledo	60	38	0	0	60	38	63.3	50	0	0.0	15	0
San Francisco	140	82	40	27	180	109	60.5	90	34	4.8	0	11
Albuquerque	105	71	25	4	130	75	57.6	80	0	20.0	30	6
Louisville	80	45	0	1	80	46	57.5	75	11	21.1	25	1
Cincinnati	80	41	0	0	80	41	51.2	40	0	9.7	15	4
Milwaukee	90	41	10	10	100	51	51.0	145	0	29.4	35	4
Pittsburgh	185	78	0	0	185	78	42.1	100	121	33.3	50	5
Piedmont	90	34	0	0	90	34	37.7	85	28	15.7	20	10
Phoenix	100	41	25	0	125	41	32.8	90	6	12.7	25	9
New Orleans	75	26	5	0	80	26	32.5	75	10	**	40	5
Chicago	215	58	35	3	250	61	24.4	125	**	40.9	50	8
Kansas City*	100	11	7	1	107	12	11.2	60	19	**	35	3
Miscellaneous									89			79
TOTALS	4651	3406	490	390	5141	3796	73.8	4100	1113	12.8	1385	321

NOT REPORTING: Albany, Boston*, Detroit*, Morgantown, San Jose, St. Louis.*

*Petitioning to put the SWP on the ballot.

**Information not available.

Ttl. % Ind. indicates week's percentage of Militant, PM, and Young Socialist sales reported at plantgates and to co-workers on the job.

Covers sales of issue thirteen of the Militant, the second week of sales of issue six of PM, and the second week of sales for the April YS.

Transit workers face big fines

Contract vote in question as NY strike ends

By Stu Singer

NEW YORK—The eleven-day transit strike here ended around 6 p.m. on April 11.

The strike involved subway workers, bus drivers, and mechanics organized in the Transport Workers Union, with 31,000 members, and the Amalgamated Transit Union, with about 2,000. Both work under the same contract terms.

The TWU executive board deadlocked in a 22-22 secret ballot vote on the contract. Union President John Lawe then ordered the members back to work.

A mail referendum on the contract will be conducted in the next few weeks. If the membership rejects the contract, Lawe said he would go back to the bargaining table, but the strike would not necessarily resume.

The two-year contract is supposed to provide a 9 percent wage hike the first year and 8 percent the second. There is also a limited one-time cost-of-living adjustment. (The union originally demanded 30 percent and full cost-of-living protection.)

Transit workers hired since 1978 will receive the ninety-one cents in cost-of-living raises that have been denied them. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, a state agency, will pay \$5 million into the workers' medical insurance plan to keep it operating in the face of skyrocketing medical costs.

The MTA agreed to work with the TWU in changing inequities in pensions. Pension terms are worse for workers hired after 1976.

Givebacks

The proposed contract includes a number of givebacks—elimination of gains the union won in the past.

New workers will start at cut-rate wages (reported but not confirmed to be 75 percent of regular pay) and will not reach full wages for two and a half years. Twenty minutes a day of break time was lost.

Other givebacks include eliminating overtime for workers who, due to illness, did not work forty hours; loss of two hours paid time off on election day; and combining jobs of some cleaners and laborers.

Other givebacks management demanded at first were dropped. These included use of part-time workers during rush hours, more job combinations, and elimination of premium pay for night and weekend work.



Crowded, dangerous, dirty subways run again. Fare hike coming.

The transit workers faced an all-out attack by the rulers of New York and their political and news media mouthpieces.

A court fined the striking unions \$1 million and threatened more. Each worker was fined a full day's pay for each working day on strike under New York's antilabor Taylor Law, which prohibits public worker strikes. Strikers were reminded of these penalties every hour on the hour. The MTA announced it would begin deducting these fines from paychecks April 30.

The capitalist politicians and news media tried to whip up other working people against the strikers, who were portrayed as overpaid, underworked, and irresponsible.

There was confusion among other New York workers, especially those who make even less than the transit workers, about the strike issues and who was to blame for the hardships they suffered during the strike. But public sentiment was not against the strike, and many workers were sympathetic.

Solidarity not organized

The New York labor officialdom, however, did not actively support the transit workers. This made the strike less effective.

The commuter rail lines, the Long Island Railroad and the New Jersey

PATH continued to operate except for a one-day stoppage on the LIRR. PATH engineers also refused to run a special train in New York City for one day.

Failure to shut down all New York City area public transit hurt all the unions involved. Both LIRR and PATH unions are still negotiating their own contracts.

Other unionists operated the buses, limousines, taxis, helicopters, and boats that were hired by private companies to get their employees to and from work each day. Threatened strikes or slowdowns by bridge and tunnel toll collectors, whose contracts were also being negotiated, did not happen.

Part of the media smear campaign against the union was to play up divisions between largely Black and Puerto Rican oppositionists and TWU President John Lawe. In fact, the members were united behind their demands and solidly for the strike.

The tie vote in the executive board does represent sharp differences within the union leadership. On April 14, opposition board members filed suit to force a new executive board vote. They claim that one member of the board, who says he would have voted against the contract, was kept away from the meeting by "chicanery."

Who won?

Assessments of the strike by capitalist politicians and the news media generally indicate satisfaction with the settlement.

The *New York Times* April 12 editorial said: "Was the strike worth it? . . . Because of contract changes achieved, the answer may well turn out to be yes."

"The terms . . . do not differ significantly from the proposal almost agreed

on immediately before the strike."

But Mayor Koch denounced the settlement for giving the unions too much. He said: "The city won the battle in the street, the MTA lost it at the bargaining table."

Many questions remain. How much will the fifty-cent transit fare be increased? And who will workers in New York blame? The decision to raise fares was made before the strike, but it was held off to make it appear forced by the union demands.

How will the transit settlement affect contract bargaining for the 235,000 city workers whose contracts expire June 30?

Koch's stand against the transit settlement is aimed at backing his claim the city has no money. City union leaders say the transit settlement is a model for city worker contracts. It remains to be seen whether the example of the transit strike will inspire city workers to fight harder.

How will the transit workers vote on the contract?

Interviews by *Militant* reporters indicate mixed feelings.

The issues raised by the New York transit strike are not settled. Every effort to defend wages and working conditions runs up against the capitalist ruling class with its news media and political apparatus. Workers are being battered with the deepening economic crisis.

The 1980 transit strike comes five years after the austerity drive began against workers in New York. This strike did not block that austerity drive.

New ideas and new leaders are developing in this situation. They will draw on this strike experience for both positive and negative lessons for future combat.



'No contract, no work' is union slogan; but leaders sent membership back to work without contract approval.

Who won? Transit workers discuss results

By Robert Dees

NEW YORK—I spent the first Monday after the strike riding the subways and talking to transit workers.

Some refused to talk until they saw that the *Militant* supported their strike. They were angry at the incessant media attacks on their union and their demands.

Here is some of what token clerks, conductors, and motormen told me:

What do you think of the settlement?
"I don't know. I think we could have gotten a better contract, but frankly I'm glad to be back at work. Two weeks was enough. This way I'll be able to catch up with my bills."

How are you going to vote on the contract?

"I don't know. I don't think we're going to get a better contract."

* * *

Was the strike worth it?

"It was worth it because we were going to lose a lot in benefits that I think we saved by going on strike. I think the strike was instigated by Mayor Koch."

Do you think Koch represents working people?

"No. Big business. I would like Mayor Koch to take a ride for eight hours on the subway with a crew of transit workers and see what we really go through."

* * *

What do you think of the Taylor Law?

"It's designed to sock it to the working people. The MTA should have been fined too. Once politicians get in office they raise themselves thousands of dollars. But you ask for ten cents and they scream."

Do you think other working people in New York supported you?

"I don't know about that, honestly."

* * *

What do you think about the settlement?

"Everybody lost."

Who do you think is responsible for this loss?

"Rockefeller, bank presidents, Koch, Carey, Jimmy Carter."

How are you going to vote on the contract?

"I haven't made my mind up. First I have to see what happens with the

penalties. They should never have gone on strike without having a strike vote. Then they shouldn't have decided to go back without having another vote. We don't know anything until they send flyers around and let us know. And they haven't done that."

* * *

What do you think of the settlement?

"It stinks."

Who do you think is responsible?

"The union. [TWU President] John Lawe. He should never have ordered us back to work. We should have stayed out at least another week or two."

How are you going to vote?

"Vote it down. Isn't going to do any good, though. It'll probably still pass. But I'm not going to vote for it."

"This job is going to hell. It was no good in the first place and now it's going to get worse."

* * *

Do you think the strike was worth it?

"No. Not for what we got. If you figure it out, after the penalties and everything else, all we get is 3 percent."

What do you think of the givebacks

in the settlement?

"A lot of the seven givebacks have nothing to do with me, per se, because they're like coffee time, wash-up time, stuff like that. I don't get that. I get fifteen minutes before leaving when I have to count all the money."

* * *

What do you think of the Taylor Law?

"I think it's bad. It scares a lot of people who might want to support the strike more, or might want to fight more. It makes them afraid because a lot of people have families. Losing two days' pay for every day you stay out is kind of heavy."

* * *

How are you going to vote on the contract?

"No. Two weeks walk out for 8 to 9 percent? That's nothing. You can't even live on that."

"I think racism has a lot to do with it. Because you've got mostly Blacks in here, and the leadership is selling us down everytime. Other unions get more than we do and they have more whites in their membership."

Solidarity key to strike victory

How Kansas City fire fighters won

By Nancy Cole

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—This city's employers and politicians are still reeling from the beating given them by the fire fighters union last month.

The six-day walkout—which included the unprecedented jailing of seventy-one fire fighters—sparked the greatest outpouring of labor and community solidarity since the movement that defeated the Missouri "right to work" referendum in 1978.

The big-business press appears stunned by the implications.

"The firemen won this dispute hands down," editorialized the *Kansas City Times* March 24. "Unless a miracle occurs—and none is expected—they are in the driver's seat from now on."

Kansas City Star business and financial editor Jerry Heaster concluded: "Granted, the firefighters' strike wasn't sparked by wage demands this time around. But the connection can be made easily by any labor group. It's only a short jump in reasoning to figure out that if you can get one thing by means of a strike, you can get another thing, too."

City officials and employers scrambled to pin the blame on each other after their defeat. But now that the self-criticism stage is over, the city rulers have moved on to a new stage in their drive against Fire Fighters Local 42.

On March 27, special prosecutor John Gibson went to court to try to revoke the suspension of fifteen-day sentences against three Local 42 officers and five other fire fighters. They had been sentenced in February for the union's earlier job action in December. The court hearing on that motion is scheduled for April 22.

Racial divisions incited

The city council has hatched a vindictive campaign to portray the union as racist. Some 18 percent of Local 42's 900 members are Black, a figure much closer proportionately to the Black population than in most other fire fighting forces around the country.

But nine out of the ten rookies (without union protection) who scabbed during the strike were Black. The city council has now seized on this to try to turn the Black community—which had supported the strike—against the victorious union.

Sensational charges accuse the union leadership of organizing a racist harassment campaign against these Black rookies, including cutting off their life-support respirators on the job and making death threats against their families.

In an emergency session April 11, the city council decreed that any fire fighter suspected of these bogus charges would be subjected to a lie detector test.

In addition, the council is talking about rescinding the union dues check-off agreed to in the contract—a move widely recognized as an effort to bankrupt Local 42.

If the city carries through on any of



Kansas City fire fighters on their way to jail

these threats, James Toliver, a shift vice-president of Local 42, told the *Militant*, "We might very well end up on the streets again."

The confrontation here had been brewing for a year before it exploded into the six-day work stoppage March 17 through 22.

The biggest issue was the eight-hour shift instituted by the Kansas City Fire Department in 1977. Before then fire fighters worked twenty-four hours and then took forty-eight hours off. The move to the eight-hour, non-sleeping shift was for "increased productivity," the city said. The beds were removed from the firehouses and sold.

The new system meant working with more "floaters," which undercut team work. "When you're fighting fires, you want to know the person you're working with," Toliver explained.

Eventually the eight-hour shift led to cuts in the sizes of teams dispatched to fight fires, because the city wanted to reduce overtime costs.

So the union demanded an end to the eight-hour shift when contract talks opened in March 1979. Impatient with city stalling, the fire fighters union finally began a job action on December 21 by refusing to work overtime.

Police were sent into the firehouses to take up the slack, and on December 27, Gov. Joseph Teasdale called out the National Guard.

Before the job action ended on January 1, forty-two fire fighters were fired.

Firings upheld

Meanwhile the city had given in on the eight-hour shift, agreeing to a forty-eight-hour week consisting of two ten-hour days, followed by a day off and then two fourteen-hour nights,

followed by two days off. This would cut down on floaters and restore crew sizes to full strength.

But an appeals board upheld the firings of the forty-two. The union then appealed to City Manager Robert Kipp.

On March 17, Kipp, without informing the union of his decision, held a news conference to say that he supported the firings.

"The men were ready to walk out at 1 p.m." (after Kipp's announcement), Local 42 President John Germann later said. "It was all we could do to hold them off until 6."

A hastily called meeting of shop stewards heard reports that union members were determined to take action. Germann told the press, "The strike was on, like it or not."

"If they don't come back, we don't come back," said a picketing fire fighter, expressing the sentiments of the majority. On the first night of the strike, Local 42 leaders met with other union officials to appeal for help.

Every evening of the walkout Local 42 held strike meetings at the United Auto Workers Local 93 hall. This was right across the street from Local 42's headquarters, which had been damaged by fire the week before.

Hundreds of fire fighters and other supporters attended these rallies to receive news, as well as encouragement.

Union solidarity

By the second day of the strike, Local 42 reported that up to fifty unions had already contributed to the fire fighters. This included locals of the United Auto Workers, Communications Workers, Pipe Fitters, and other locals of the Fire Fighters.

On March 19, sixteen strikers were fined \$300 each and sentenced to twenty days in jail. As they were being led out of the courtroom, other fire fighters rushed to phones to call union stewards. Soon 250 strikers had converged on the courthouse.

"If one of us goes to jail," said Local 42 Secretary-treasurer Robert Palmer, "we all go to jail. We want to serve our twenty days now."

In all, seventy-one were jailed. It was reported to be the first massive jailing of fire fighters in this country.

For the duration of their imprisonment, a lone striker who had been acquitted picketed within sight of the jailed fire fighters with a sign, "Free the Hostages."

That night, 400 attended the strike rally. The next day, 500 supporters

rallied at city hall, and then later 250 packed city council chambers.

On March 21, the *Kansas City Star* published a poll that found that 57 percent of the public sympathized with the fire fighters and supported reinstatement of the forty-two. The city administration's scare campaign was backfiring.

The Greater Kansas City Coordinating Bargaining Council, representing 6,000 teachers, issued a statement sympathetic to the fire fighter, as did the 3,000-member Local 500 of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Earl Wheeler, first vice-president of the Greater Kansas City Labor Council, said, "Just as organized labor banded together to soundly defeat right-to-work, so shall we stand together in this fight with the city's top bureaucrats."

Plant-gate collections were organized. Unionists walked the picket lines.

Community groups, including the Black Ministerial Alliance, came out in support of the fire fighters.

Victory

On March 22, the sixth night of the strike, the city council caved in and agreed to rehire the forty-two. Governor Teasdale threw in a pardon for the seventy-one in jail.

Three hours later at the UAW hall, the fire fighters voted approval of the contract. The pay offer was 15 percent over two years with a 5 percent longevity increase for those not at the top pay level.

The city's only gain was a hedge against future strikes—a private fire-fighting force at the airport, and the creation of a new management category, a fire commander, who could be expected to scab during any future job actions.

The next day the seventy-one prisoners were released in time to attend a victory rally, where "Solidarity Forever" and other union songs were sung.

Local 42 General Vice-president Louie Wright said upon his release from jail, "A true union will not sacrifice one to save the majority. But the majority will sacrifice to save one."

Pointing out that public employees are forbidden to strike in Missouri, the *Kansas City Times* moaned, "There are no ambiguities, loopholes, or exceptions. Yet once again the law meant nothing. Apparently, if you scream loud enough—and raise enough hell—the law no longer applies."



Andrew Pulley (left) talks at fire station with James Toliver of Fire Fighters Local 42

Pulley campaigns in Missouri—helps kick off petition drive

By Nancy Cole

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Socialist Workers presidential candidate Andrew Pulley petitioned in downtown Kansas City April 12 to help kick off the drive to get the party on the Missouri ballot.

The day before, the *Kansas City Times*, the city's morning daily, ran an editorial supporting the Socialist Workers Party's right to appear on the ballot.

"The Socialist Workers contend they are being discriminated against because of their minority-party status," the *Times* said. "That may or may not be true, but election officials exist to encourage participation in democracy and not to throw up roadblocks in front of anyone who is outside the mainstream of the two-party system."

On Sunday, the *Kansas City Star*, the afternoon daily, ran a three-column picture of Pulley signing up a supporter of his right to be on the ballot. Alongside was a story on the ballot drive and Pulley's campaign platform.

In setting out to collect well over the required 18,000 signatures, the socialists are up against a record of undemo-

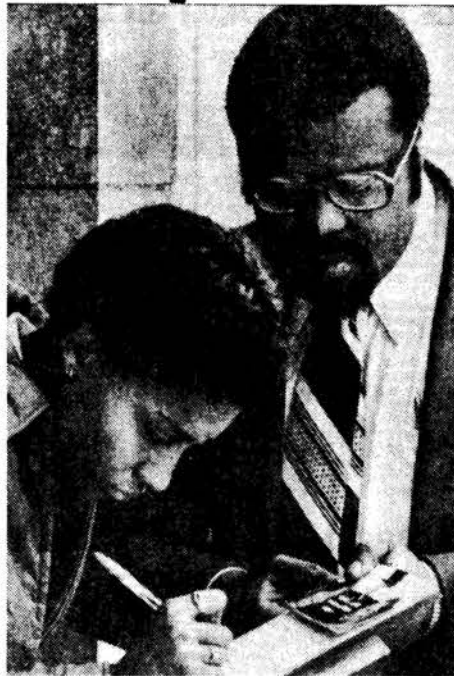


Photo from 'Kansas City Star' shows Pulley signing up Lela Smith to support party's right to spot on Missouri ballot.

long been told to identify with as fellow "uniformed services"—acting to break their strike.

On a visit to a fire station here, Pulley talked with James Toliver, a vice-president of Fire Fighters Local 42. The city's "intent was to break the union," Toliver explained.

Toliver believes the union won because it had the support of the community, and had started "raising hell with the city council."

"The rally down at city hall had a lot to do with winning support so fast," he told Pulley.

Moving on to discussion of the Chicago strike, Toliver asked how it was that fire fighters there never seemed to have trouble when the late Richard Daley was mayor.

Money for bankers

Pulley explained it wasn't that Daley was any friend of working people, just that in years past the capitalist economic crunch was not as acute as today. "Now," he said, "all the city's money goes to the banks instead of to fire fighters and the schools. When the city says it has no money, it only means none for social services."

In both strikes, Democratic and Re-

publican politicians right up to Gov. Joseph Teasdale did all in their power to break the fire fighters.

"The elected officials said it was an illegal strike," said Toliver.

But there were politicians who stood with the fire fighters—and here in Kansas City it was Socialist Workers Party candidate Pettit and her supporters.

At the campaign rally here April 12, Martin Anderson, SWP candidate for governor and a steelworker from St. Louis, contrasted the SWP candidates to his main opponent, Governor Teasdale. "Pettit was walking the picket lines during the fire fighters' strike while Teasdale was walking through them."

Pulley hailed the ability of the Chicago and Kansas City strikers to triumph in spite of antilabor laws that prohibit public employees from striking. "Any law that denies working people the democratic right to refuse to work, the democratic right to strike, deserves to be broken," he declared.

To wipe these antilabor laws off the books, he said, the unions should launch an independent labor party to fight politically against the Democratic and Republican parties, the parties of big business.

Current strike experiences, Pulley said, are driving home the lesson that "if your so-called friends are stabbing you in the back, they're not your friends at all. Labor should stop supporting these phonies now."

\$2,200 raised

In response to an appeal by Pettit for funds for the socialist campaign, those at the rally contributed more than \$2,200.

Four of the more than fifty people at the rally had decided to attend after reading the story on Pulley in the *Kansas City Star* that day, which had given the address.

They included a postal worker and two teachers from Warrensburg, one hour's drive away. One was a Cuban who left his country in 1963.

He was a lawyer then and recalls the pressures on the middle class that prompted them to leave their homeland. At the time, he says, he didn't realize the criminal role of the United States in Cuba and throughout the world. "If I could go back in history, I would not have left," he said.

Help put SWP on the ballot

Your help is needed to get socialist candidates on the ballot in Missouri. If you would like to help, contact the Missouri petitioning office in either Kansas City, at 4715A Troost, telephone (816) 753-0404, or St. Louis, at 6223 Delmar Blvd., telephone (314) 725-1570.

cratic measures by the Secretary of State's office.

Despite the collection of tens of thousands of signatures in both 1974 and 1976, the party was denied ballot status in those elections.

Auto workers sign up

On April 11, Pulley campaigned outside General Motors' Leeds plant. The wet, miserably cold weather didn't encourage long discussions with auto workers outside. But inside, the campaigning "made a big difference," said Martha Pettit, a Leeds worker and SWP candidate for U.S. Senate.

"People were reading the campaign brochures all night—and really reading every word. I went down the line during the lunch break and signed up fourteen people on a ballot petition. Only three people refused."

In St. Louis, the first fifty signatures collected were from laid-off auto workers. Two socialists signed up people waiting to collect their Supplemental Unemployment Benefits at the GM plant there.

They explained that the SWP is campaigning to shorten the workweek with no cut in pay so that everyone can have a job. Socialist presidential candidate Andrew Pulley is himself a laid-off steelworker. Unlike the Democratic and Republican office-seekers, he knows firsthand the misery the giant corporations' profit drive inflicts on workers and their families.

By the end of the first weekend of the ballot drive, more than 1,500 signatures had been collected across Missouri.

Example of fire fighters

Campaigning here, Pulley pointed to the victorious strikes by fire fighters in Kansas City and in Chicago as examples of how working people can stand up to the antilabor drive by government and big business. In both cases, active union solidarity and support from the Black community were key, he said.

The fire fighters learned a lot about who their friends and enemies really are. They saw cops—whom they have

Miner greets St. Louis rally

By Chuck Petrin

ST. LOUIS—A campaign rally here March 30 launched the Socialist Workers ballot drive in this end of Missouri. A highlight of the rally was greetings given by Barbara Albon.

Albon, twenty-five years old, is a member of United Mine Workers Local 1246 in Sesser, Illinois.

She explained that her first introduction to the SWP's ideas came when she read the pamphlet, *How I Became a Socialist*, by SWP presidential candidate Andrew Pulley.

Albon told the fifty campaign supporters at the rally:

"Andrew and Matilde are what we need today—for sure. The Socialist Workers Party makes a lot of sense to me—as a woman and a miner."

With people like Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann running the government, she said, the top priority at the workplace would be safety instead of production. With this kind of government, people could learn to work with each other instead of against.

"I am very excited about the campaign this year of the Socialist



Militant/Antonio Vindell
BARBARA ALBON

Workers Party and what it means to workers everywhere. I feel I no longer have to hold back what I truly feel about the inequities of this country."

The rally raised contributions totaling \$1,500.



Hear the
Socialist
Workers
candidates



DETROIT Campaign Dinner and Rally

Speaker:

Matilde Zimmermann, SWP candidate for vice-president
Sunday, April 20

5:30 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. rally
6404 Woodward Avenue

Donation: \$4, rally only \$2
For more information call
(313) 875-5322

ALBUQUERQUE Campaign Rally

Speaker:

Andrew Pulley, SWP candidate for president
Sunday, April 20, 7 p.m.

Albuquerque Convention Center
Taos Room

For more information call
(505) 842-0954

Andrew Pulley candidate for president

April 18-19 Louisville
April 20-22 Albuquerque
April 24-27 Phoenix

Matilde Zimmermann candidate for vice-president

April 18-19 Morgantown, W. Va.
April 20-22 Detroit
April 28-29 Winston-Salem, N.C.

For more information call the Socialist Workers Party branch nearest you. See the directory on page 23 for phone numbers and addresses.

Pulley &
Zimmermann
in 1980!

Mi. socialists launch major petition drive

By Susan Apstein

DETROIT—In spite of the rain, socialist campaign supporters hit the streets on the first major day of petitioning here and collected a total of 2,488 signatures. This effort on April 12 put the Michigan petition drive on schedule with a total of 3,535 signatures collected so far.

The Michigan Socialist Workers campaign is organizing a three-week drive to collect well over the 18,000 signatures required to put the party on the ballot.

In addition to its presidential slate of Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann, the SWP is running Bill Arth and Martha Dowling for U.S. Congress from the 14th and 16th districts. Andrew Walden, a student at Cass Technical High School and leader of the Young Socialist Alliance, is running for a seat on Detroit's Central School Board.

The first day of petitioning indicated that Michigan workers are enthusiastic about putting a working-class party on the ballot. The single most common remark we heard: the Democrats and Republicans just don't represent our interests. Many added, we need to find a party that does.

One retiree from the Ford River Rouge complex commented, "We need more parties. We have to have more to choose from."

A young Black worker said he wished "someone would start a labor party."

When one socialist explained that SWP candidates are campaigning for a labor party based on the unions, another Black worker responded, "This is just exactly what this country needs. We need to start sticking together. Black and white have to stop fighting each other for the crumbs."

Michigan workers have been hard hit by the capitalist economic crisis. Official figures show statewide unemployment at over 12 percent. Many who talked with us were interested in our candi-

Your help is needed

The Socialist Workers Party is appealing for volunteers to aid in the massive effort to get socialist candidates on the ballot in Michigan. If you can help, contact the Michigan Petitioning Center at 6406 Woodward Avenue in Detroit. Or call (313) 875-5322.

dates' program to give everyone a job by cutting the workweek to thirty hours with no reduction in pay.

People are also fed up with inflation. One signer commented, "I just spent twenty bucks on two bags of groceries. That tells me we need a change."

Quite a few young people asked about the SWP's position on the draft. When he heard that our candidates are against registration and the draft, one high school student said, "That's what I want to hear!" He and his three friends signed immediately.

Many were surprised to hear of a Black steel-worker running for president, and said they thought it was about time. One man added, "We need someone like him [Pulley] to run for president. Politicians and working people are so far apart in their thinking that they'll never get back together. We need a brother in there."

We met an eighty-nine year old woman who had worked for General Motors for thirty years. She had also helped to organize the United Auto Workers.

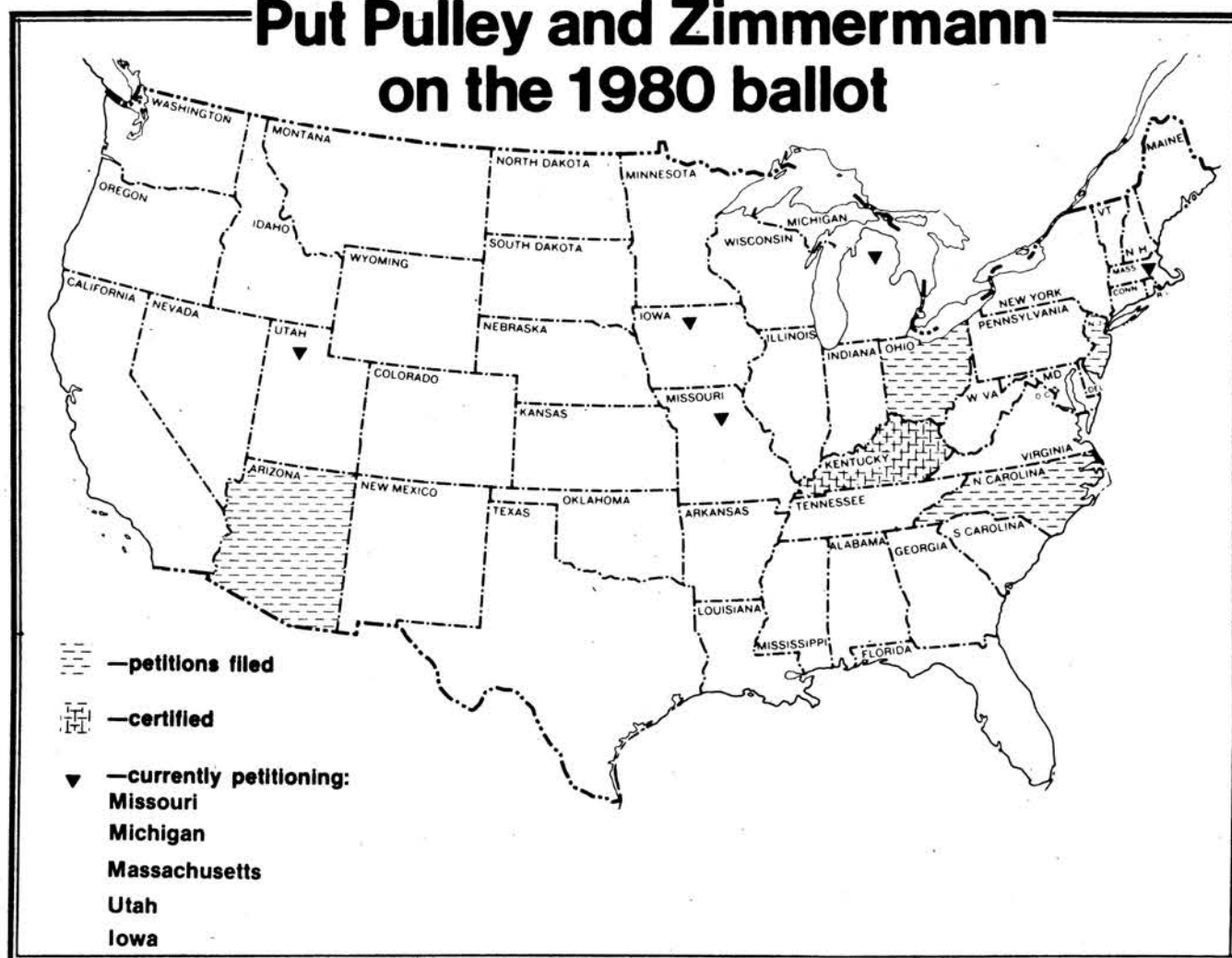
"I thought all my life that working people should be in office," she told us. "But you need more than workers in office. They should be socialists. Socialists built the UAW. They did a good job there. They would do a good job in office for all working people. I hope your candidate wins for my sake and yours, too."

Members of the Young Socialist Alliance are playing a big role in the petitioning. Carol Dumbrowski collected thirty signatures in forty minutes her first time out. She said the response she encountered "showed me that people are really ready for a change."

David Zev Rosenfeld is taking the petition drive into his high school.

Leon Mack, who works at the Ford Rouge assembly plant, joined the YSA three months ago. He told me how he is taking advantage of the petition drive to get out the word on the Socialist Workers Party. While petitioning, for example, Mack spoke with a laid off Chrysler worker about unemployment and invited him to the Michigan SWP campaign rally April 20.

Put Pulley and Zimmermann on the 1980 ballot



Martha Dowling, Socialist Workers candidate for congress in the 16th district, pointed out: "We're doing more than getting on the ballot. We're out there meeting thousands of people and introducing them to our campaign."

Several people, after reading the socialist candidates' platform, have already asked to be put on the mailing list.

Bill Arth, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in the 14th district, explained that the petitioning effort is the beginning of the SWP's fight to win a place on the Michigan ballot.

Said Arth, "This state imposes conditions that aim to make it impossible for parties other than the Democrats and Republicans to get on the ballot. After filing the petitions we collect during this drive, we're required to get about 5,000 votes in the August 5 primary in order to exercise what should be our automatic right to be on the ballot in November."

"Under these conditions, it's not surprising that no party has ever been able to meet this requirement."

"We are preparing to challenge this law. The overwhelming support we're getting in this petition drive will help in that fight."

Members and supporters of the SWP have gathered over 18,000 signatures in North Carolina. The party would be required to pay more than \$900 under this unjust law.

Meanwhile, state officials are trying to stall on the case. April 23—over a month after the suit was filed—has been set as the first hearing date. This places the hearing just a few weeks before the state's May 15 deadline for filing petitions.

The delay is clearly a move by North Carolina authorities to try to put off a decision until it is too late for the SWP to get on the ballot in this year's election.

Progress in other drives

Massachusetts

In the past week, socialist campaigners have collected 16,500 more signatures to put the Socialist Workers presidential ticket on the Massachusetts ballot. This brings the total collected so far in Massachusetts to more than 45,000.

The response to the socialist presidential ticket has been so enthusiastic that the SWP decided last week to petition to put Nelson Gonzalez on the ballot as well. Gonzalez is the Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in the Sixth District.

Campaign supporters have already collected more than 2,000 of the 3,600 required signatures for Gonzalez. Petitioners report that some of the most enthusiastic responses have come from the North Shore area, where the big General Electric plant in Lynn is located. Gonzalez is a machinist at the plant.

New Jersey

On April 11, the SWP filed 2,600 signatures to put Pulley and Zimmermann on the New Jersey ballot. The SWP is also running Chris Hildebrand for Congress in the Tenth District, and Jon Britton for Congress in the Eleventh District.

The 2,600 signatures are more than three times the requirement to qualify for the ballot.

Utah

An April 5 banquet and rally in Salt Lake City celebrated the successful effort to collect 600 signatures to put the SWP on the ballot in Utah.

Socialist Workers presidential candidate Andrew Pulley was featured speaker at the rally. Socialist senatorial candidate Pam Burchett and Dave Hurst, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in the Second District, also spoke.

Hurst denounced the government's plan to spend billions of dollars for the proposed MX missile "subway" system in the Utah-Nevada desert. "We're all for using money from the military budget to create jobs, but the MX isn't exactly what we had in mind," Hurst said. "With that money we could build more schools, hospitals, and libraries, instead of closing them down."

Chavis backs SWP rights in N. Carolina

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.—Rev. Ben Chavis has joined a growing list of supporters of the SWP's suit against North Carolina's undemocratic filing fee. Chavis, a defendant in the Wilmington 10 frame-up case, is this state's most prominent civil rights leader.

The SWP suit, filed on March 17, is aimed at overturning a state requirement that all "third parties" trying to gain ballot status pay five cents for each of the 10,000 or more signatures of registered voters required by state law. Similar laws in other states have been ruled unconstitutional.



REV. BEN CHAVIS

'Best decision of my life'

Campaign supporters join Milw. YSA

By Lynn Rashkind

"Six months ago I joined the YSA after I heard Andrew Pulley speak to a rally like this and it was the best decision of my life." That's what Young Socialist Alliance member Debby Thompson told the Milwaukee Socialist Workers campaign rally.

Fifty people attended the April 4 banquet and rally. A collection raised \$1,515 for the campaign and six new supporters signed up as volunteers. The rally heard speeches from Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Matilde Zimmermann and Sue Hagen, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate from Wisconsin.

James Scott, a high school student, also spoke. Scott is a leader of the Coalition to Save North Division High School. The coalition includes students, parents, and teachers.

They are fighting an attempt by the Milwaukee School Board to cut off the Black community's access to the new \$23 million school. The predominantly Black school includes some of the best educational facilities in the city.

North Division has been targeted by Milwaukee officials in a vindictive campaign they are carrying out against Black schools. This campaign started after a federal judge found that the Milwaukee Board of Education had deliberately established and maintained a segregated school system that provided inferior education to Blacks.

The school board's newly proposed "voluntary integration" plan includes transforming North Division into a specialty school, forcing all of North Division's students to transfer to other schools.

"The school board is putting the burden of desegregation on the Black community," said Scott. "We say enough is enough!"

Following the program, a young railroad worker told Matilde Zimmermann: "What you said in your speech—that's just what I've been thinking for the last few months."

Several other young people wanted to find out more about the Young Socialist Alliance. One twenty-one year old asked to attend the next meeting of the Milwaukee YSA.

Milwaukee YSA organizer Theresa Delgadillo told the *Militant*, "We see this campaign as one of the main ways



James Scott, leader of Black high school struggle, and Debby Kay Thompson, who recently joined the Young Socialist Alliance, speak at Milwaukee Socialist Workers Party campaign rally.



Militant/David McDonald

we're winning young people to the YSA." She pointed out that six of the seventeen members of the Milwaukee YSA have joined since January. Two of them were introduced to the YSA's ideas by the Socialist Workers campaign.

Each YSA chapter meeting discusses the progress of the campaign, Delga-

dillo explained. Campaign supporters have been staffing a weekly table at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and gotten a good response. The campaign's "No Draft!" button is a popular item on the table.

"There's a lot of interest in politics on the campus," said Delgadillo. "Matilde Zimmermann spoke to about fifty

students in the concourse of the UWM during her tour here."

Jim Ruffin, a twenty-two year old Black veteran, decided to join the YSA following the April 4 campaign rally. He explained later why he made this decision:

"When I joined the army the morality and judicial system and treatment of personnel made me ask some questions. There's a lot of mental intimidation in the army. This type of thing made me question more."

"I became interested in the political scene, how the government was affecting society. After talking to a YSA member, I got more of a perspective on government foreign policy and how it was affecting us."

Ruffin joined the YSA because "it includes a variety of people working for betterment of all people."

"By myself, I wouldn't be as effective as a combined group would be."

"The benefit is the organization—there is a plan for getting the message across to people."

Don't want to fight for Exxon?

Don't just get angry when Carter says young people should give their lives to defend Exxon's billions. Join the fight to stop him.

The Young Socialist Alliance is fighting against the draft, against Washington's plans for new Vietnams. We're organizing to build a better world—a society based on human needs, not on protecting the profits of the rich.

Join us!

- ☐ Add my name to the list of Young Socialists for Pulley and Zimmermann.
- ☐ Send me Andrew Pulley's brochure, How to stop the draft—4¢ a copy.
- ☐ Send me the campaign poster "No draft"—3¢ a copy.
- ☐ Send me the YSPZ antidraft button—50¢ each, 35¢ each for 10 or more.
- ☐ Send me a one-year subscription to the *Young Socialist* newspaper. Enclosed is \$1.

☐ I want to join the Young Socialist Alliance.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Union/School/org. _____

Send to: Socialist Workers Presidential Campaign Committee, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014

A copy of our report is filed with the Federal Election Commission and is available for purchase from the Federal Election Commission, Washington, D.C.

A federal court ruling allows us not to disclose the names of contributors in order to protect their First Amendment rights.

Join the YSA!



Milw. Journal: 'Some lessons in plain talk'

What do American working people think about the Democratic and Republican candidates for president?

'Milwaukee Journal' reporter Michael Bauman followed some of these politicians as they campaigned for the Wisconsin primary.

The results were reported in the April 4 'Journal.' Here are some excerpts from the article, titled 'Candidates get some lessons in plain talk: People's voice wasn't kind.'

As the high-powered candidates and their media entourages overran Wisconsin for this week's presidential primary, you could find hard evidence of the way average people feel about the process and the polls. Here are a few examples:

Gov. Edmund G. Brown, Jr., who would be better off in Wisconsin if he were known as Jerry, is campaigning on a Saturday night in Kuglitsch's West Milwaukee bowling alley.

Before he goes downstairs to make a speech, Brown will work the bar briefly, mingling with the patrons, handing out brochures. He runs into four guys who work at Allen-Bradley,

and he tells them, basically, that he not only wants their vote, he deserves it.

Two of the guys tell him that isn't likely, and Brown rises to the bait. He asks them who else they could possibly support.

As they go down the list, the men at the bar don't need any coaxing to admit that each of the other candidates has serious flaws. So after Brown has been assured that, for instance, they won't support John Anderson because he is "a turkey," Brown suggests again they ought to go with him. Who else, he asks.

For evidence, he refers to his brochure. Right there on the brochure it says Jerry Brown has "the strongest labor record in America."

One of the men at the bar laughs. "I'll bet I can find someone in America with a stronger labor record—how about the Socialist Workers Party?"

Jerry Brown, getting the point that he may do better elsewhere moves on, asking the men to at least keep an open mind.

The guys at the bar go on to talk about how, even if it were true that Jerry Brown did have a strong labor record, by the time he was elected president he would have sold them out anyway, like the rest of the politicians.

None of the pols, they say, knows about working class people or wants to do anything for them.

* * *

George Bush is touring the Pabst brewery, trailed by the media mob of cameras, correspondents, reporters.

In the brewery yard, a guy who has been standing next to a truck rushes up to Bush, shakes his hand excitedly, tells him how great it is to meet him.

Bush graciously thanks the man for taking time to come over. The man tells George Bush: "This is probably the only time in my life when a guy like me will get a chance to talk to somebody like you."

For just a moment, this almost adoring statement does something strange to George Bush. It knocks his head back.

His head literally, noticeably, snaps away from the man, an involuntary response accompanied by a look of distress, deeper, really, than a frown. It is as if George Bush, born into the whole Eastern-patrician-Ivy-League-money-power way of life, George Bush, who has made the oil money and run the CIA and represented his country around the world, realized at that moment just how far apart he and the guy at Pabst are.

And in that moment he must realize it is millions of guys like this worker at the brewery that he needs to be elected.

Gradually, George Bush recovers—the smile returns, the head gets back to the proper social-political distance from the worker. He thanks the man again. He is even a little more gracious now. . . .

* * *

A black cab driver, driving a reporter to the Sheraton Mayfair, asks the reporter what is up. The reporter says that Ronald Reagan is up, and the cabbie chuckles the way people chuckle when you tell them you have a hangover.

The reporter leaves his tape recorder in the cab briefly, and the cabbie laughs again. "Ronald Reagan must have you nervous, man," he says. Ronald Reagan has a lot of people nervous, man, the reporter responds.

The cabbie says he would like the reporter to give Ronald Reagan a message for him. The reporter bites and asks what the message is.

The cabbie says, "Tell him to be outta town by sundown," and tilts back his head and roars.

Ronald Reagan departs Mitchell Field that day at approximately 3 p.m.

How Nicaragua is organizing battle against illiteracy

By Lorraine Thiebaud

MANAGUA—Thousands of young Nicaraguans donned the blue-and-green uniforms of the People's Literacy Army and gathered in town squares throughout the country on March 23, ready to be dispatched to their posts in the "cultural insurrection" against illiteracy.

The Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) had called for a nationwide festival to send off the 65,000 *brigadistas*. These young men and women will live for the next five months in remote areas of the countryside, teaching peasants, rural workers, and their families to read and write.

Here in the capital, tens of thousands joined in a rally and music festival held in the Plaza of the Revolution. Among the crowd were activists from the Sandinista Defense Committees, members of the union-organized Workers Literacy Militias, and others who will remain in the city to give classes to urban illiterates.

Many at the rally compared the enthusiasm for the literacy campaign with the jubilation that greeted the FSLN fighters when they entered the capital last July 19, having led the mass insurrection that toppled the Somoza dictatorship.

Speeches by government junta member Sergio Ramírez, FSLN Commander of the Revolution

FSLN founder Carlos Fonseca Amador had insisted "and also, teach them to read."

"In fulfilling this responsibility to make our people literate," Arce said, "we are preparing our workers, our peasants so that they can exercise people's power, the power they conquered with the weapons of the Sandinista army and the Sandinista People's Militias."

Possible with revolution

Vice-minister of Education Fernando Cardenal, director of the literacy campaign, explained how the drive is an indispensable complement to the 1980 economic reactivation plan.

"How can a *campesino* [farm worker or peasant] who can't read the instructions on a pack of pesticides participate effectively in production?"

Eradicating illiteracy, Cardenal pointed out, is a crucial political task, one that can be carried out only in the course of a social revolution. As evidence, he offered the fact that the literacy programs the staff examined in planning the campaign—those attempted, for example, in Peru, Panama, Guatemala, and even in Nicaragua under Somoza—had all failed. The sole success was the literacy drive carried out in revolutionary Cuba in 1961.

Overcoming the many obstacles to the literacy campaign has required meticulous planning and political education. Parents traumatized by the still-fresh experiences of war are concerned about the health and safety of their children who are going to the countryside as brigadistas. Special fears have been expressed about daughters working five months away from home.

Such fears and hesitations have been exploited by the reactionary forces, whose class interests have always required keeping the masses ignorant. Rumors about the literacy campaign and propaganda charging that it is "anti-Christian" or aimed at "indoctrinating" or "domesticating" the peasantry have had to be countered daily on television, radio and in the pages of the FSLN daily *Barricada*.

'Dawn of the people'

The textbook of the campaign is entitled *Dawn of the People*. It is divided into twenty-three chapters that teach:

- the history of General Sandino's anti-imperialist struggle;
- the history of the FSLN and the fight against the Somoza dictatorship;
- the need to organize worker and peasant power through their own mass organizations;
- the importance of increasing production and deepening agrarian reform;
- the struggle to bring health care, education, and decent housing to all Nicaraguans;
- the liberation of women;
- the integration of the Atlantic Coast region with the rest of the country; and
- the international significance of the revolution.

The political content of *Dawn of the People* has come in for especially heavy criticism by reactionary forces. Government junta member Sergio Ramírez gave them an uncompromising answer in his speech at the March 23 rally here.

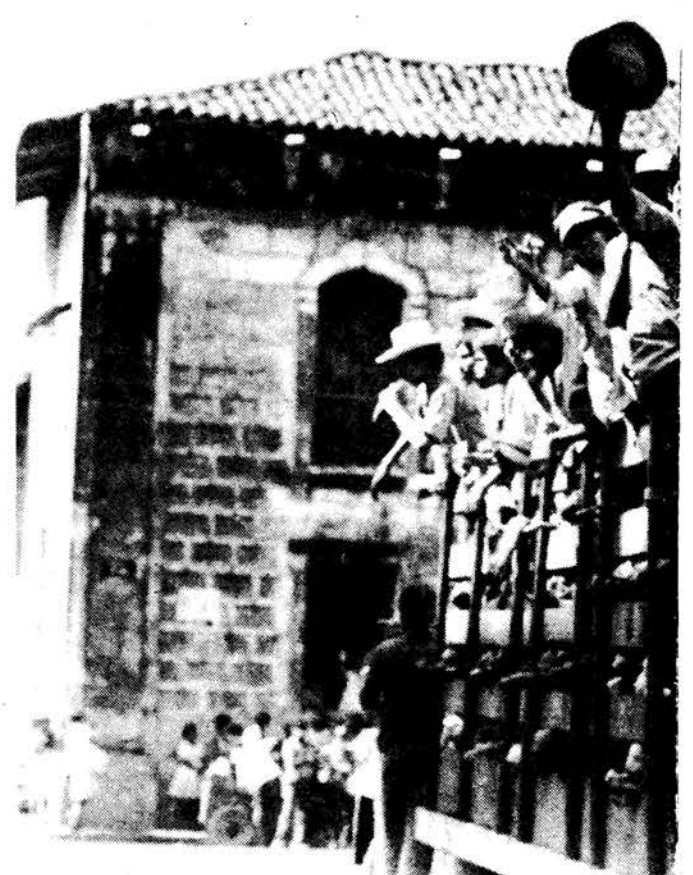
"This isn't a campaign in the abstract. This isn't a campaign without consequences. This is a campaign that will end in the burial of oppression and injustice. Because if before our peasants and illiterate workers felt oppression and domination for so many centuries, now they're going to know the letters from which those words are written. And they will also know with what letters are written justice, dignity, liberation, and revolution.

"We say this clearly. These are the words of our textbook. . . . In place of egotism we are going to write solidarity. In place of exploitation, justice. In place of oppression, liberation."

Mobilizing the masses

The war for literacy will be fought in much the same way as the war for liberation against Somoza—through mobilization of the working masses in their own organizations, under the leadership of the FSLN.

Literacy Commissions have been formed to oversee the campaign at the national, provincial, and



Above: young members of the Literacy Brigades depart

Tax-deductible contributions for Nicaragua's literacy campaign can be sent through Humanitarian Aid for Nicaraguan Democracy (HAND), 1322 Eighteenth Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Bayardo Arce, and literacy crusade Director Fr. Fernando Cardenal were followed by entertainment. Thousands danced in the plaza, joined by FSLN commanders Arce, Jaime Wheelock, and Luis Carrión. Several busloads of teachers bound for the remote Atlantic Coast region made their way slowly through the cheering crowd.

When the revolution against Somoza's tyranny triumphed last year, some 65 percent of the Nicaraguan people could not read or write. The proportion of illiterates was even higher in the countryside. The high priority given to the literacy campaign is one sign of how the FSLN-led government is putting the needs of the workers and peasants first. Fully 62 percent of the government budget this year is targeted for education, health, and housing, compared to 17 percent in Somoza's 1978 budget.

Showdown with capitalists

The mobilization of Nicaragua's youth for the literacy drive comes as the FSLN, the government, and the mass worker and peasant organizations are preparing for showdown battles against capitalist forces—in the United States and inside Nicaragua—that want to halt and roll back the revolution. Washington, after supplying the bombs and bullets Somoza used to devastate the country, refuses to provide urgently needed reconstruction aid. Local capitalists are sabotaging production, refusing to invest so that economic activity can be revived.

The revolutionary leadership in Nicaragua has responded by expropriating more privately held land, encouraging workers to seize control of factory production, and launching a volunteer militia. The Sandinistas see the literacy campaign as central to educating and mobilizing the workers and peasants to carry out these advances, and to defend them against capitalist counterrevolution.

Speaking for the National Directorate of the FSLN, Commander Arce told the literacy workers assembled in the Plaza of the Revolution on March 23 that they were not only going out to teach reading and writing but were also launching a battle "against imperialism, against dictatorial domination, against the bourgeois power interested only in business deals, a power that kept our workers and peasants in ignorance so as to better exploit and oppress them."

Arce reminded the brigadistas that when the Sandinistas had first begun to organize peasants in the mountains and give them military training,

Cuba's international

As Nicaragua's literacy campaign gets under way, 1,200 Cuban teachers are involved in a separate educational effort that has already made a big impact in some of the most remote areas of the Nicaraguan countryside.

The Cuban teachers, all volunteers, began arriving in Nicaragua last November for a two-year stay. The Nicaraguan Ministry of Education assigned them to places with the greatest shortage of teachers. Some of these isolated rural schools could be reached only by rafts, rowboats, canoes, mules, or oxen.

The Cubans have already been instrumental in opening 558 new schools. They are teaching more than 50,000 primary school students during the day and several thousand rural workers and housewives in the evening.

The Cuban teachers live in the homes of the peasants; they receive no pay. In addition to teaching, they have participated in building schools and health centers, picking coffee, organizing cultural and sports activities, and aiding in vaccination and other health campaigns of the Nicaraguan government.

For the literacy crusade itself, Cuba provided

nizing y

local levels. They are made up of representatives from the trade unions, Rural Workers Association, Association of Nicaraguan Women, July 19 Sandinista Youth, and Sandinista Defense Committees. They also include delegates from government bodies, such as the Nicaraguan Institute of Agrarian Reform (INRA), the Ministries of Education, Culture, and Social Welfare, and the Sandinista People's Army.

In the cities and towns the Sandinista Workers Federation is taking responsibility for organizing the Workers Literacy Militias, which will teach at workplaces. The unions have called for and won paid time off for workers to organize these literacy classes.

The Sandinista Defense Committees and the Women's Association will concentrate on teaching housewives and the unemployed. Those involved in this aspect of the campaign are called the People's Literacy Volunteers. The latter plus the Worker's Literacy Militias make up about 70,000 volunteer teachers for the urban areas.

People's Literacy Army

To carry out the crusade in the countryside the Nicaraguan youth, who played such a decisive role in toppling the U.S.-backed dictatorship, have again been called upon to lead the way. At the beginning of March, most classes were suspended and high school and university students were recruited into the People's Literacy Army (EPA).

Participation is completely voluntary and some

tion is predominantly Indian or Black, materials have been prepared for teaching in English and in the Indian languages of Sumo and Miskito.

There are several international brigades—made up of volunteers from Venezuela, Spain, the Dominican Republic, and even a few from the United States. But the emphasis of the literacy campaign is distinctly national.

Campesinos eager to learn

Since word of the literacy crusade spread to the countryside last October, the estimated 400,000 illiterate campesinos have eagerly awaited the arrival of the young teachers they are to feed and house for the next five months.

The Rural Workers Association (ATC) arranged for the reception and allocation of the brigadistas. Since the brigadistas are being sent into areas where food is most scarce, the ATC is working closely with the Ministry of Domestic Trade to organize supplemental food distribution.

The ATC hopes that as a result of the campaign every peasant will not only read and write but will also join the ATC.

All the mass organizations and government ministries have been mobilized to maintain the army of 65,000 youth in the countryside. The Ministry of Health and the Women's Association have seen to the vaccination of all brigadistas against tetanus and have trained 7,000 in the use of first aid kits.

INRA, the Sandinista People's Army, and the air force have prepared an emergency medical and

'Our peasants and workers will know with what letters are written justice, dignity, liberation, and revolution. These are the words of our textbook. In place of egotism we are going to write solidarity. In place of exploitation, justice. In place of oppression, liberation.'

Sergio Ramírez, Government of National Reconstruction junta member

50 percent of eligible youth have enlisted. Some failed to get the required parental permission and many others are indispensable to the support of their families.

University students taking medical, engineering, and agricultural courses have been asked to complete their studies and then serve as reinforcements in June, since the rapid training of physicians and skilled technicians is also essential to Nicaragua's reconstruction.

The organization of the EPA is modeled on that of the Sandinista army during the insurrection. The squad, the smallest unit, is made up of twenty-eight volunteers with two in command. Squad members are all of the same age and sex and usually come from the same school. Four squads make up a column and two or three columns make up a brigade. The brigade is responsible for covering a given community or area. The brigades are further organized into six regional fronts, each named for a martyr of the revolution.

Squad, column, and brigade leaders have been chosen from among exemplary members of the July 19 Sandinista Youth. They are responsible for overall organization. By regularly visiting the squads living among the widely scattered peasant dwellings, they will form a communications network, control statistics, distribute materials, and deal with problems that arise.

EPA members are at least twelve years old and have completed the sixth grade. They undergo ten days of intensive preparation, including regular physical exercise. Along with educational materials, each brigadista is issued one shirt, one pair of jeans, boots, backpack, hammock, diary, and sometimes a lantern. They receive no pay, and are expected to join in agricultural and household labor.

Special brigades

Special training brigades have been formed to accomplish important secondary goals. The Ministry of Health has prepared 11,000 brigadistas to detect and treat malaria. A journalists brigade, armed with tape recorders, will collect oral histories of the insurrection.

Likewise, a mobile brigade organized by the Ministry of Culture will compile the stories, customs, songs, dances, and costumes of the Nicaraguan countryside while promoting artistic and recreational activity among both brigadistas and peasants.

The Ministry of Social Welfare has initiated squads of handicapped persons to teach other handicapped and a brigade of blind persons that will teach others to read braille.

For the Atlantic Coast region, where the popula-

evacuation plan. An emergency medical system, tied into a radio communications network, will operate twenty-four hours a day in all provinces. Parents will be able to call into the system to get in touch with their children.

Biweekly newspaper

The first issue of *Brigadista*, a biweekly newspaper published by the July 19 Sandinista Youth, came out March 24.

Defense of the brigadistas against terrorist attacks by counterrevolutionaries is being organized by the Sandinista army, police, and air force, in collaboration with the ATC.

Getting the thousands of brigadistas into the remote parts of Nicaragua was the responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation and the drivers' unions. The week of March 24-30 found brigadistas traveling in buses, dumptrucks, and jeeps, as well as on mules, bicycles, carts, and on foot.

Since the brigadistas may not abandon their posts, their families are encouraged to visit them and learn about rural life as well.

Because of the especially high rate of illiteracy among women, the Association of Nicaraguan Women (AMNLAE) has made support to the literacy crusade one of its central tasks. AMNLAE militants helped to formulate the chapter on women's liberation in the textbook.

The AMNLAE has been able in many areas to set up child care, communal cooking, and in some cases communal laundries to facilitate women's full participation as volunteer teachers and as students.

Meetings have also been held for mothers of the young women brigadistas to aid them in understanding the transformation of women's role that is taking place in Nicaragua.

Aid still needed

The cost of the national literacy campaign is estimated at \$20 million. By March 20, only \$1.5 million had been received in donations from abroad. The largest contributions have come from the World Council of Churches and from charitable institutions in West Germany. On March 22, a special government mission to Europe returned with pledges for a further \$12 million.

Funding within Nicaragua has come primarily from the government and from donations of a day's pay by Nicaraguan workers. "Literacy bonds" and a special lottery are bringing in extra funds.

For supporters of the Nicaraguan revolution in the United States and around the world, organizing material aid to the literacy drive is one of the best possible ways to make known the gains of the revolution and to back up the Nicaraguan workers and peasants in the battles ahead.



om León, Nicaragua

Militant photos by Fred Murphy

onalist example

the inspiring example of its own 1961 literacy drive and the help of seven experienced teachers and Raúl Ferrer, Cuban vice-minister of education, in planning the campaign.

In contrast to the self-sacrificing example set by Cuba, the U.S. Congress has not voted a cent to help Nicaragua wipe out illiteracy. In fact, the stingy \$75 million U.S. loan (now frozen by Congress) included the vindictive restriction that no funds "may be used for assistance for any school or other educational instrumentality which would house, employ, or be made available to Cuban personnel."

Another point about Cuba's participation should be noted. The imperialist press has gone wild over 10,000 Cubans who want to desert their country. But it has never reported that 29,000 Cuban teachers—that is, three times the total number of people camped out at the Peruvian Embassy in Havana—volunteered to spend two years away from their homes and families doing unpaid work in rural Nicaragua.

Their revolutionary enthusiasm is a true reflection of the Cuban people's dedication to their country's internationalist foreign policy.

Carter exploits emigres to smear Cuba

By Harry Ring

"Our heart goes out to the almost 10,000 freedom-loving Cubans," declared President Carter April 9.

But he'll let less than half of them into the United States.

The White House announced April 14 that up to 3,500 of those now seeking to leave Cuba will be admitted here.

Officials said Cubans at the Peruvian Embassy in Havana would be flown to a staging ground in Costa Rica. There they would be screened by U.S. officials to determine if they meet Washington's current refugee standards.

First priority will be given to former political prisoners and relatives of people already here. For the rest, it will be a matter of proving they face persecution if returned to Cuba.

In addition, Peru has agreed to accept 1,000, Spain 500, and Costa Rica 300.

That means several thousand of the Cubans who went to the Peruvian Embassy will simply be left behind.

Carter's "heart goes out to them." But not many of his visas.

Washington and the capitalist media depict the events in Havana as some kind of explosion behind the "sugar cane curtain." People were so determined to leave, the story went, that the "totalitarian" Castro government could not contain them.

Open-door policy

True, some people have wanted to leave Cuba for the United States for some time. Not nearly as many as try to cross the border from Mexico every day in search of a higher living standard. Or the Haitians who risk their lives by boat. Or the Central Americans who make their way across several borders trying to get here.

The obstacle facing those Cubans who do want to leave, however, is not their government. It has had an open-door policy ever since the revolution triumphed in 1959. Their problem has been that the United States wouldn't take them.

By refusing to accept those who want to leave Cuba, the U.S. government bears major responsibility for the

events at the Peruvian Embassy.

The provocation was touched off when six people stole a bus and crashed it through the embassy gate April 1, resulting in the death of a Cuban soldier. *Why did they crash the gate?*

Cuba, Peru, and other Latin American countries have an accord under which their respective embassies may grant asylum, and safe conduct out of the country, to those they decide are political refugees.

Of course, a political refugee is not simply a fugitive from criminal justice. Or a person who just wants to leave. It is someone who faces jeopardy for their political beliefs.

Thus, a Cuban could peacefully walk into the embassy of Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, or some other country. But he or she would have no assurance of being accepted as a political refugee. No assurance of a visa to enter that country.

But in recent months Peru and some other countries have signaled that those who entered their embassies in Cuba by force would—by virtue of that fact—be accepted as political refugees!

This twisted the right of political asylum into a license to kill. And it aimed to embarrass Cuba through the violent incidents that would invariably be provoked.

Guard withdrawn

Peru refused to turn over to Cuban authorities the six who crashed through in the bus April 1. Cuba responded that it could not continue, under these circumstances, to protect the embassy. It withdrew its guards and announced that anyone who wanted to leave could apply at the Peruvian Embassy.

That's not simply the Cuban version of what happened.

An Agence France-Presse dispatch in the April 9 *Newark Star-Ledger* acknowledged that "the possibility of obtaining political refugee status . . . from these diplomatic missions has been responsible for the spate of Cubans attempting to crash their way into the Peruvian and Venezuelan embassies. . . ."

Cuban government's position

An editorial in the April 7 issue of the Cuban daily, *Granma*, responded to the provocation at the Peruvian Embassy.

Commenting on Peru's acceptance of those who stole a bus and crashed into their embassy as "political refugees," *Granma* declared:

"Why such an absurd policy of granting visas to those who penetrate by force without any justification, while refusing visas to those who go peacefully to request them?"

The editorial spelled out Cuba's stand on those who wish to emigrate:

"1. Cuba is not opposed to anyone who so desires travelling legally to Venezuela or Peru, so long as they obtain authorization from those countries.

"2. Nor does Cuba oppose anyone going to any other country with the authorization of the corresponding government.

"3. Those who penetrated embassies by force will not be allowed to leave.

"4. Those who penetrated the Peruvian Embassy after the withdrawal of the Cuban guards are not considered the authors of an act of force. Therefore, they are absolutely free to return to their homes and to leave and enter the embassy as many times as they wish. The Cuban authorities will not take any measures against them. They may



Fidel Castro has repeatedly explained that struggle for socialism is voluntary—any who wish to leave Cuba are free to do so.

also travel to Peru, or to any other country that grants them visas. That is their own affair and that of the country that wants to receive them."

The editorial also commented, "We respect the right of Peru, Venezuela, and any other country to offer asylum to whomever they deem pertinent, and to choose who should and should not receive it. But for that it is not necessary to pass over the blood of Cuban soldiers."

The editorial added, "For Peru, we gave 100,000 blood donations after the 1970 earthquake there. But we are not ready to offer needlessly the blood of one single soldier to protect infamous delinquents."

"This is Cuba's position."

The dispatch added that the Colombian Embassy was also receiving calls from Cubans seeking asylum. But, the paper explains, "paradoxically, Colombia will only accept those would-be refugees who crash their way into its compound."

Meanwhile, despite the provocation, Cuba has done its utmost to resolve the problem. The U.S. press has had to admit that Cuba is issuing passports and exit visas to all those who entered

the Peruvian Embassy, except for the six responsible for the soldier's death.

Fear of revolution

Those Latin American governments that have been party to this provocation are playing Washington's game. Like Washington, they fear the rising revolutionary tide in Central America. The victory of the Nicaraguan revolution and the continuing struggle in El Salvador are too close for their comfort. And they fear and hate Cuba's solidarity with these revolutionary battles.

With the present provocations, they are trying to exploit the harsh problems which U.S. imperialism has inflicted on the Cuban revolution.

Certainly, the crowd of visa-seekers at the Peruvian Embassy confirms that not every Cuban is a partisan of the revolution. And they are attracted to what they perceive as the "good life" in the United States.

How could it be otherwise? For twenty-one years, Cuba has fought to overcome a legacy of colonial poverty.

Despite the U.S. blockade, revolutionary Cuba has outstripped every other Latin American country in economic and social progress.

But could anyone expect that in twenty-one years, a small country impoverished by centuries of colonial domination could economically match the world's most powerful industrial nation?

What is noteworthy is that despite the hardships imposed by historical conditions and the U.S. blockade, the vast majority of Cubans support the Castro government and are striving to advance the revolution. Ten million choose to stay.

In their smear-Cuba frenzy, the U.S. media neglect to ask what it means that there is no crackdown against the disaffected minority that wants to leave.

It's a strange kind of "totalitarian" regime which declares: Our revolution is voluntary. You don't want to be part of it, you're free to leave.

If Washington will let you.



Cubans in Miami demonstrate support for those at Peruvian Embassy in Havana seeking to emigrate. Right-wing exile terrorist groups, following Carter's lead, have tried to whip up anti-Castro frenzy around this issue. They hope to regain support and legitimacy they have lost in Cuban community in recent years. Those genuinely interested in family reunification and freedom to travel should direct their protests at a different target. Revolutionary Cuba has open-door emigration policy; it is U.S. government that will admit only a fraction of those who want to enter this country.

Detroit mayor hails parley on Palestine

By Jo Carol Stallworth
DETROIT—U.S. Rep. John Conyers, Jr. spoke and Detroit Mayor Coleman Young sent his "well wishes and support" to a March 29 conference here on "Palestinian Human Rights and the American People."

A high point of the meeting was the report by Issa Hanna, a Palestinian-American student, who gave an account of his imprisonment in Israel last year when he went there to visit his parents. He was detained at the airport after he refused to sign a paper in Hebrew.

"The first day, you don't know where you are," he said, describing the prison conditions. "You start hearing groans of people in pain. When is it going to be your turn, you wonder."

"And then they push you into a cell . . . There is no roof. The light shines in. It is freezing, and you cannot sleep. . . ."

"Others are being made to stand outside, handcuffed and blindfolded, day and night. You can hear them crying."

"Then they taunt the prisoners. They ask, 'Why do you want to live here and suffer through this?' 'What is your wife doing now?'"

"They beat you so it doesn't show. They threaten to choke you, threaten to castrate you. It is popular to give you cold showers and make you stand outside. Some prisoners throw up blood as a result."

Hanna received tremendous applause when he stated that despite the hardships and fear he realized, being in jail with other Palestinians, that it was an honor to go to jail for his people.

Also speaking at the conference

was Mona Younis, who recounted "An Arab-American Perspective" of her recent trip to the occupied West Bank. There is an "all-pervasive military presence," she said, making Palestinians "prisoners in their own land."

She continually heard accounts of confiscation of Arab land by Israel, and of the arrest and torture of Palestinians. Palestinians support the PLO and reject the Camp David accords, she added.

Israel Shahak, president of the Israeli League of Human and Civil Rights, described the illegal Israeli settlement policies and Israeli complicity in human rights violations around the world. Afterwards, in recognition of his efforts on behalf of Palestinian human rights, he was presented with an inscribed pin by Maryanne Mahaffey, on behalf of the Detroit City Council.

Rev. Daniel Aldridge, an aide to Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, spoke on the importance of drawing Blacks into the movement for Palestinian human rights. "The rootlessness of the Palestinians is clear to us, who were taken from our coastal shores," he said.

Greetings were read from Bassam Shakaa and Muhammed Milhem, the Palestinian mayors of Nablus and Halhoul, in the occupied West Bank. They had been scheduled to speak, but were denied visas by the Begin government.

There were other speakers and exhibits as well. Sponsor of the highly successful conference was the Palestine Human Rights Committee. More than 100 people attended.



Israeli soldiers guard Arab prisoners in occupied Arab lands.

W. Va. miners forced to end strike

By Pat O'Brien

MORGANTOWN, W. Va.—Striking coal miners reluctantly returned to work April 14 in the face of mounting attacks by Consolidation Coal, U.S. District Court Judge Robert Maxwell, and the police.

Some 3,500 union miners stayed off the job for a month in sympathy with eleven fired miners from United Mine Workers Local 4060 in northern West Virginia.

The embittered miners de-

cided to go back to work after being told that heavy fines levied against the local, its officers, and rank-and-file members by Judge Maxwell for disobeying a back-to-work order would be dropped if they returned.

It was also reported that no further disciplinary action would be taken against the miners who picketed during the work stoppage. However, eleven fired miners from Local 4060 would not be rehired.

Ga. Blacks march for rights; face KKK racists down

By Lea Bockman

WRIGHTSVILLE, Ga.—Singing "We Shall Overcome" and chanting, "We're fired up, had enough," some 400 people marched to the courthouse of this small central Georgia town April 12.

The civil rights protesters were surrounded by state troopers, ordered to Wrightsville on April 9 by Gov. George Busbee.

Some 125 jeering Ku Klux Klanners, many of them robed and brandishing clubs, held a counter-rally nearby.

Despite harassment whipped up by white supremacist J. B. Stoner and Klan leader Bill Wilkinson, the antiracist gathering went off peacefully.

Stoner, who is under indictment for a 1958 racist bombing in Alabama, screamed for "sending those jungle animals back to Africa."

Black leaders called for justice.

John Martin told reporters, "We are demanding an end to segregation here. We want Blacks hired in the courthouse, the post office, the sheriff's department and the bank and

businesses. We want Blacks on the city council and the board of education."

"We want sidewalks paved and street lights put in the Black community. City officials have refused to even meet with us."

Martin heads the Johnson County League, an affiliate of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Speakers at the rally included national SCLC head Dr. Joseph Lowery and the Rev. E. J. Wilson, pastor of the Neeler Chapel AME Church in Wrightsville.

The April 12 protest also demanded the removal of Sheriff Roland Attaway, who has run Wrightsville for nineteen years.

Attaway and his deputies led the attack April 8 on a march by some eighty Blacks. Swinging clubs and chains, the racist mob injured more than fifteen Blacks. Even Justice Department observers were beaten.

Attaway has also been accused of beating Black prison-

ers, intimidating voters, and acting as a bill collector for white merchants.

After the April 8 attack, Black parents reported that armed white parents—including members of the racist mob—had shown up at school. Black children face continual harassment, including racist taunts, exploding firecrackers, and discriminatory suspensions and expulsions.

On April 13 the Federal Bureau of Investigation announced the opening of an investigation into civil rights violations in Wrightsville.

The fact that civil rights activists from all over Georgia converged in Wrightsville for the rally has helped inspire this community's fight for civil rights. As a twenty-six-year-old Black woman told the *Militant*, "I believe now we will get changes in Wrightsville. All we want is equal rights."

Back at the Neeler AME Church after the rally, John Martin stated, "We will have rallies in front of the jailhouse until officials come out and our demands are met."

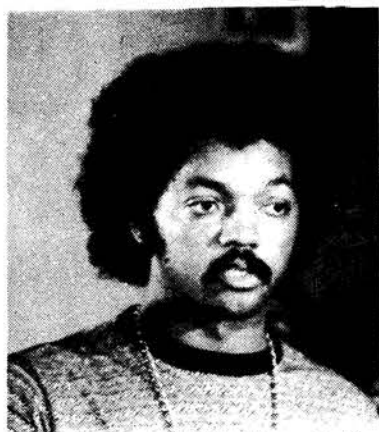
Jesse Jackson calls May 17 march on D.C. for jobs

Rev. Jesse Jackson, the Chicago civil rights leader who heads Operation PUSH, has called for a "national pilgrimage for jobs, peace, and justice" in Washington, D.C., on May 17.

Speaking in Washington April 9, Jackson declared, "Five days ago, we commemorated the twelfth anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a result of a conspiracy. Twelve years later, another conspiracy is operative—the conspiracy by the White House, the Congress, and both political parties to kill his dream."

"This conspiracy to kill his dream for full employment for all Americans, peace, and justice has taken place in the name of fiscal responsibility, fighting inflation, and balancing the budget," Jackson continued.

"We are opposed to balanc-



Militant/Terry Quilico
JESSE JACKSON

ing the budget at the expense of the young, poor, the elderly, and minorities and the unorganized American worker—while the special interests, the giant corporations and banks, are asked to sacrifice nothing."

A leaflet issued by organizers of the march declared that it stands for "peace as opposed to

registration for the draft" and supports "much needed social programs now being gutted, as opposed to increased military spending."

It adds: "We must say no to nuclear power and big oil company ripoffs."

Jackson said the organizers are "appealing to the church, labor, youth, students, and those concerned about our future . . . to march on May 17." He predicted that thousands, particularly youth, would attend.

Present plans call for the march participants to assemble at the White House at 9 a.m., and then march to the Capitol for a rally.

Buttons, posters, and sample leaflets are reported to be available from the May 17 National Mobilization Headquarters, 930 East Fiftieth Street, Chicago, Illinois 60615. Telephone (312) 373-4100.

FBI steps up attack on Puerto Rican nationalists

By Gus Horowitz

The FBI raided apartments in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Jersey City, New Jersey, April 9, searching for evidence in its campaign against eleven Puerto Rican nationalists who had been arrested in Chicago April 4.

They are accused of being members of a terrorist group, the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional (FALN).

After the Milwaukee raid of an apartment said to be rented by Oscar López Rivera, the FBI claimed to have found literature proving a tie between the eleven and the FALN. The nature of the literature was not described.

The police in the past have said that the possession of

ordinary literature for Puerto Rican independence showed FALN ties.

The cops announced a manhunt for López Rivera, describing him as "armed and dangerous"—police code words meaning "shoot on sight."

In Jersey City the raided apartment was said to have been rented under assumed names by Carlos and Maria Torres, two of the eleven arrested, and the alleged leaders of the FALN.

Cartons of documents and personal effects were carted off. After studying them for several days, the FBI announced that they had found "dossiers" on 100 business executives. Such "dossiers" could only be a

"target list," the FBI alleged.

Also incriminating, in the FBI account, was a book on makeup techniques (it could be used for disguises) and *The Anarchists Cookbook*, a book that has been selling for years in bookstores.

FBI agents described the apartment as a bomb factory, even though they admitted they had found no high explosives.

The nature of the raids, and the sensationalist manner in which they were reported in the press—front page banner headlines in the Newark *Star-Ledger* and the Spanish-language *El Diario*—indicate that a major drive to victimize Puerto Rican nationalists is underway.

Labor party leads in fight

Uranium mining halted in British Columbia

By Jim Garrison

A recent victory for opponents of uranium mining in Canada's western province of British Columbia provides a powerful example of the role labor can play in the antinuclear movement.

In the face of growing opposition to its policies, the provincial government of British Columbia announced February 27 a seven-year moratorium on all uranium mining and exploration in the province.

The decision is a sharp reversal by the right-wing Social Credit Party government, well-known for its subservience to the natural resources companies that dominate British Columbia's economy.

The labor movement of British Columbia, including the New Democratic Party, Canada's labor party, has

strongly supported and helped to organize opposition to uranium mining.

NDP leader David Barrett hailed the government decision as a response to the massive public sentiment saying, "The government has read a poll, it's got scared and it's backed off."

Premier William Bennett in effect acknowledged this, saying, "The fears expressed by the people of this province related to uranium and the dangers involved in this exploration and mining are too real to ignore."

The decision follows a series of resolutions and actions taken by the labor movement and environmental organizations.

Opposition to nuclear development was an important feature of last September's provincial NDP convention. More than a dozen antinuclear resolu-

tions—far more than on any other topic—were submitted to the convention by constituency associations and affiliated union locals.

A resolution submitted by the 6,000-member Local 1-357 of the International Woodworkers of America passed the convention with near-unanimous approval. It called for a reaffirmation of the provincial NDP's opposition to nuclear power, uranium mining, and the U.S. Trident nuclear submarine program. The resolution also expressed "solidarity with the growing international movement against nuclear energy."

Further, the resolution urged the labor party's Environmental Policy Committee to "initiate peaceful actions such as petitions, rallies, etc., to mobilize working people against nuclear energy."

Antinuclear activist Dr. Fred Knelman, author of *Nuclear Energy: The Unforgiving Technology*, was a special guest speaker at the NDP convention. He urged the Canadian labor movement to follow Australian workers' example: "The miners refuse to mine the uranium and the transport workers refuse to move it!" Delegates responded with a standing ovation.

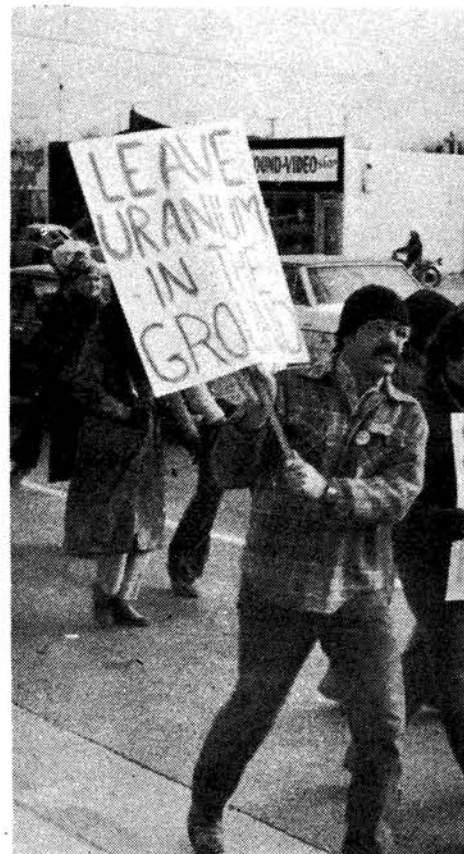
At the time of the last provincial elections in April 1979, the NDP issued a campaign brochure explaining its opposition to any nuclear development in British Columbia. Members pointed to the popularity of that brochure as evidence of broad opposition to nuclear power.

In the course of the fight against uranium mining, the British Columbia Federation of Labor issued a statement saying only the companies benefit from uranium mining "at the price of people, communities, and the environment."

The United Steelworkers and the Canadian Association of Industrial, Mechanical and Allied Workers, which represents miners in British Columbia, took firm positions against the opening of any mine.

The mining companies came out the losers in this fight. Provincial government sources listed 126 uranium claims and estimated that companies had sunk \$6.5 million in exploration last year alone.

Mining company executives were indignant at the moratorium. Rick



Militant/Lysle Gordon

Higgs, manager of the British Columbia and Yukon Chamber of Mines, expressed a typical reaction: "It puts us back in the days of ignorance and superstition. . . . Does one just listen to the babble of an ignorant mob?"

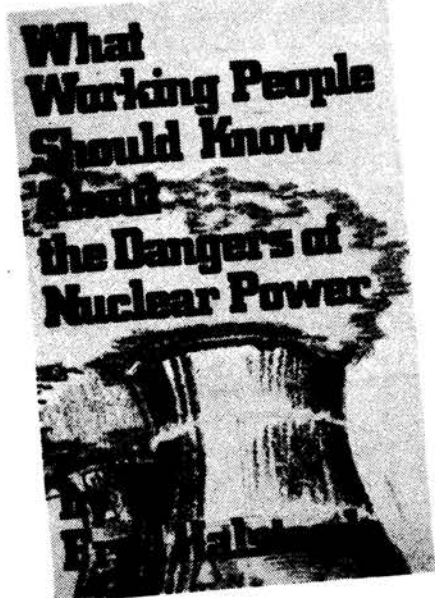
But there is nothing ignorant about opposition to uranium mining.

In a brief to the provincial commission on uranium mining, the United Steelworkers and the British Columbia Federation of Labor described the effects of uranium mining. A study of miners at Elliot Lake, Ontario, found that eighty-one had died from lung cancer since uranium mining began there in the mid-1950s.

In addition, the brief noted, "up to March 14, 1975, 446 present or former Elliot Lake mine and surface workers were identified as having lung disabilities in whole or in part as the direct result of dust exposure in the uranium industry."

The unions' brief also described the environmental damage in the Elliot Lake region, where "ten lakes are considered unrecoverable."

New from Pathfinder: a weapon in the anti-nuclear fight



What are the dangers of nuclear radiation? What caused the Three Mile Island nuclear accident? What are the alternatives to nuclear power? This pamphlet answers these and other questions about the problems and dangers of nuclear power.

Also included is a statement "What We Can Do To End Nuclear Power" by Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president.

40 pp., \$.95

Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Enclose \$.75 for postage.

...April 26

Continued from back page

area drinking water is also not known.

The disastrous consequences of nuclear radiation were explored at Citizens Hearings for Radiation Victims held April 11-14 in Washington, D.C. Their aim was to get out the truth to the American people and to demand aid from those government agencies responsible.

The hearings made clear that no one is immune to the dangers of radiation.

Some people testified from wheel chairs. Some scheduled to testify had recently died, so their families spoke in their behalf.

Among those testifying were veterans who were ordered to clean up debris after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bomb blasts in 1945 or who were assigned to nuclear test sites from 1946 to 1962.

More than 252,000 soldiers were involved in both of these operations.

A suit in their behalf was filed in federal district court in Washington, D.C., April 10. The suit seeks to overturn Veterans Administration rules that make it virtually impossible for radiation victims to receive benefits.

Meanwhile, building efforts continued across the country for the Washington march.

Hilda Mason, Washington, D.C., City Council member, was among the speakers at a meeting in southeast D.C. April 8 to build the antinuclear march in the Black community. Other speakers included Susanna Zapata from Avilanti and Fred Maylar of the Potomac Alliance. The program was sponsored by the April 26 Coalition.

Mason stated that nuclear power knows no color and is very much a Black issue. She urged people to attend

the march. Mason currently has a bill in the city council to prohibit the transportation of nuclear waste through Washington.

April 26 Coalition staffperson John Miller told the *Militant* that in addition to the miners from Pittsburgh, he knows of unionists coming from Connecticut and eastern Ohio. Thirty-five buses, including five free ones, have been reserved in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; thirty in Philadelphia, and twenty in its suburbs; several from Arkansas and Minneapolis; one from Texas; and others from as far away as Seattle.

A train of 1,500 people is coming from Boston!

And from Ohio, Mike Ferner, regional representative for the Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World, told the *Militant* that involvement in this year's action is much greater in the state than for last year's massive May 6 antinuclear march on Washington.

In Toledo, locals of the American Postal Workers; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Machinists; and Farm Labor Organizing Committee have endorsed. The Lima-Troy United Auto Workers Community Action Program (CAP) Council and the Amalgamated Meatcutters Local 626 are additional union endorsements in Ohio.

Buses are coming from Toledo, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and five from Oberlin. Vans are coming from Columbus, Bowling Green, and United Mine Workers District 6.

The morning after the march, April 27, there will be a meeting of trade unionists to discuss how labor can educate and organize against the nuclear danger. It has been called by Jerry Gordon, chair of the Labor Task Force of the Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World.

Georgia socialist testifies against nuclear waste haulage

By Becky Ellis

ATLANTA, Ga.—Janice Prescott, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Georgia, testified in favor of cities' and states' continued right to ban the transportation of nuclear waste through their environs.

Prescott, a railroad clerk, spoke here April 8 at U.S. Department of Transportation hearings on proposed regulations which would put nuclear waste transportation under control of federal agencies rather than local governments.

"The disposal of waste from nuclear power plants is an insurmountable problem," said the socialist candidate. "If we can prevent their transporting the waste, it will put up one more roadblock, literally, in the path of the profit-hungry corporations that go ahead with nuclear power even though it's clearly against the best interests of humanity. . . ."

"I can tell you that nuclear materials are shipped through this city almost every day, in trailer trucks on

flat cars, in box cars, in tank cars. Nuclear cargoes are deadly poisons known to cause cancer and genetic defects, and they remain dangerous for tens of thousands of years."

Prescott said rail and other transportation workers often are not informed about the dangers of their nuclear cargo. She also outlined the poor condition of railroad tracks in this country, which will continue to cause rail accidents.

"Rail companies," she stated, "operate with one objective in mind: increasing profits. They have no concern for the safety of the rail workers or the communities through which trains pass."

The socialist candidate called for the immediate shutdown of all nuclear facilities and for the expanded use of coal, which "can be mined and burned safely and cleanly."

Also testifying against the proposed new regulations were members of Georgians Against Nuclear Energy, American Friends Service Committee, and antinuclear activists from Athens, Georgia.

World Outlook

News, analysis, and discussion of international political events

Peru's left coalition breaks up

Blanco campaigns for workers' independence

By Will Reissner

On May 18 there will be national elections for Peru's first civilian government following twelve years of military rule. Voters will be faced with sixteen candidates for president.

The capitalist parties are divided between two major and nine other candidacies.

On the left, two electoral coalitions—the Revolutionary Left Alliance (ARI) and Left Unity (UI)—broke apart shortly before the registration deadline for slates. As a result, there will be five leftist slates.

Peru's discredited military regime began talking about the return to civilian rule four years ago. They hoped to turn the government over to a strong regime able to impose the measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund in return for loans. These measures involve driving down the wages of working people and imposing ever harsher austerity programs.

The military's plans hinged on the ability of the Alianza Popular Revolucionaria Americana (APRA) and its leader, Víctor Raúl Haya de la Torre, to win an overwhelming mandate in the elections. APRA, a capitalist party with a populist background, retains an important base of support among the masses, especially in northern Peru.

Regime isolated

The military's pledge to restore a civilian regime was prompted by its growing isolation and the hostility with which it is seen by Peru's impoverished masses.

Since the early 1970s, Peru has been in a deep economic crisis. Recently there has been some short-term improvement in the economy as a result of rising prices for copper and silver exports. But in the last half-decade, the purchasing power of Peru's workers, peasants, and urban poor has dropped 35 percent.

Massive general strikes in July 1977 and May 1978 shook the ruling military junta. Struggles were on the rise in the country's vital minefields, among industrial workers and public employees in the cities, as well as in the countryside.

On June 18, 1978, elections were held for a Constituent Assembly to draft a new constitution and election procedures. In those elections, APRA won slightly more than 35 percent of the vote and the Christian People's Party won some 26 percent.

But to the dismay of the generals, three left-wing slates received a total of 22 percent.

Two broad electoral coalitions—the Workers, Peasants, Students, and People's Front (FOCEP) and the Democratic People's Union (UDP)—had been established to run in the Constituent Assembly elections. In addition, the pro-Moscow Peruvian Communist Party (*Unidad*) ran its own campaign.

Hugo Blanco—the Peruvian Trotskyist and peasant leader who received the highest vote of any left candidate—headed the FOCEP slate. He and many other leftist candidates had spent years in jail and forced exile. Some, including Blanco, were again deported only weeks before the election.

Moreover, the regime denied voting rights to illiterates, who comprise some 35 percent of the population, as well as to Indians who don't speak Spanish. Given these undemocratic conditions, the 22 percent vote for the left-wing slates was impressive.



Campaign poster shows Hugo Blanco, socialist presidential candidate, appealing to the Peruvian masses: 'Join the PRT, fight with us for a workers government without bosses or generals.'

Following his election to the Constituent Assembly, Blanco used his seat there as a platform to defend workers and peasants struggles and to aid them in whatever ways possible.

May 18, 1980, elections

As 1980 opened, the military dictatorship's hopes for a strong bourgeois civilian regime were crumbling.

Following the death of Víctor Raúl Haya de la Torre in August 1979, APRA degenerated into feuding cliques struggling for power. In fact, APRA was only able to nail down its slate for the coming presidential and parliamentary elections at the last moment before the filing deadline.

Acción Popular (AP—People's Action), the party of former President Fernando Belaúnde Terry, was also embroiled in tremendous internal disagreements.

When the dust had settled, APRA had nominated Armando Villanueva, the AP had nominated Belaúnde, and nine other bourgeois candidates had also filed.

This makes it highly questionable that any bourgeois candidate will be able to win the 36 percent of the vote required for victory under the new constitution. If no candidate receives that amount, the president will be chosen by the parliament elected the same day.

Electoral coalitions

By mid-January the Peruvian left had coalesced around two electoral fronts for the May 18 elections.

Left Unity (UI) was a multiclass bloc made up of the Communist Party (*Unidad*); a small faction of FOCEP headed by attorney Genaro Ledesma, who had broken with FOCEP's call for political independence of the working-class movement; and the Revolutionary Socialist Party (PSR), a bourgeois nationalist group composed of leading officers from the military regime of General Velasco Alvarado in the late

1960s and early 1970s. The UI's ticket was headed by Ledesma for president.

The Revolutionary Left Alliance (ARI) was made up of a wide range of Trotskyist, centrist, and Maoist forces, and was backed by unions and other mass organizations influenced by those forces. Its presidential candidate was Hugo Blanco.

By the end of February, however, both of these fronts had shattered.

Formation of ARI

The original proposal for the establishment of a united working-class campaign came from Hugo Blanco's Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT), Peruvian section of the Fourth International.

The PRT called for setting up the broadest possible electoral front of workers organizations that both explicitly, and in practice, would be for the political independence of the working class from the capitalists and the military.

Such a front, the PRT maintained, would permit each member organization to put forward all its own political positions during the campaign.

The PRT's proposal won wide support for two reasons. One was the desire and the pressure of the mass of workers and peasants for unity and for a candidate who symbolized their struggles against the government, the landlords, and the other capitalists.

The second reason was the immense popularity of Hugo Blanco, the "natural candidate of the hungry" as he is described in the Peruvian media. Blanco is a popular symbol of intransigent defense of the interests of Peru's exploited.

In 1963, as a peasant-union organizer, Blanco was sentenced to death by a military court for his part in militant land occupations. Although a huge worldwide defense campaign prevented the military from carrying out the sentence, Blanco remained in pri-

son until freed under a general amnesty in 1970.

Since then, Blanco has been deported from his homeland three times by governments that oppose his work among the peasants and urban poor. In the last decade he has spent eight years in forced exile.

The establishment of ARI on January 18, 1980, was seen by the Peruvian masses as a big step forward. Members of the participating groups began to collaborate in united activities throughout Peru.

For example, on February 22 and 23 union elections took place in Chimbote, the country's most important mining center. Spontaneously, members of the various organizations in ARI got together to run a single slate in the union elections. As a result, the ARI slate got two-thirds of the vote in what had traditionally been a stronghold of APRA-led unionism.

While ARI's political basis was limited, given the programmatic differences among the component groups, the unity agreement specifically stipulated that "no bourgeois formation can participate in the alliance."

Hugo Blanco, as the presidential candidate and main spokesperson for ARI, consistently put forward the governmental slogan "For a workers government—without bosses or generals."

Maoist forces

This political thrust rankled the Maoist forces in Peru, who favor building a political alliance with the "progressive" national capitalists and "reformist" generals. Nonetheless, the pressure for working-class unity from the masses and Hugo Blanco's immense popularity convinced a number of the Maoist groups that they would risk total political isolation if they did not join ARI.

The largest of the Maoist groups, Patria Roja (Red Homeland) and its front, the Revolutionary Left Union (UNIR), had initially hoped to run a "Marxist-Leninist" (Maoist) slate. UNIR joined ARI only after the slate had already been established and involved some of the groups UNIR was after.

Within ARI, UNIR continually tried to blunt the front's thrust toward independent working-class political action. After the military dictatorship granted it legal status, UNIR tried to impose on the ARI coalition its program for a government that includes capitalist forces. UNIR did so despite the initial agreement that each group within ARI would be free to express its own ideas. The aim of UNIR was to turn ARI on the road of class-collaboration or, if this could not be done, to destroy it.

The other Maoist and centrist currents in ARI were unable to lead an effective fight against UNIR's offensive. The centrists, politically unclear on the question of working-class independence, tried to use the fights in ARI to increase their share of parliamentary candidates.

About-face by POMR

Within ARI only the PRT, and initially the Revolutionary Marxist Workers Party (POMR), consistently stuck by the political and organizational basis of ARI against UNIR's attack. However, a few days before the deadline for registering slates, POMR made an about-face.

POMR is the Peruvian affiliate of the international grouping called the Organizing Committee for Reconstruction.

Continued on page 19

Interview with former H-Block inmates

British impose inhuman prison conditions

The following interview was given to Gerry Foley, staff writer for *Intercontinental Press/Inprecor*, in Belfast on January 26 by Ned Brown and Fra McCann, former republican prisoners recently released from the H-Block of Long Kesh concentration camp.

The H-Block gets its name because it is built in the shape of an "H." It is in here that Irish prisoners jailed for political offenses alleged to have taken place after March 1, 1976, are kept.

The British colonial authorities decreed in 1976 that the situation in Northern Ireland had been "normalized" and that henceforth all persons convicted of offenses against "law and order" would be considered common criminals.

When the British authorities abolished political status for prisoners, however, they did not abolish the special juryless courts that were set up to try alleged terrorists. Since 1976, these "Diplock Courts" have sentenced many hundreds of young nationalists to long prison terms, most of them on the basis of statements extorted in the special interrogation centers such as

Defend political prisoners

An appeal has been issued by Irish political prisoners and their supporters for an end to violations of human rights in Northern Ireland by Britain. The demands include freedom of association among political prisoners, the right to organize educational and recreational activities, and the right not to do prison work or wear prison uniforms.

For more information contact the Ad Hoc Committee to Support Irish Political Prisoners, 1541 Drogan, Detroit, Michigan 48209.

In New York, a meeting in support of the Smash H-Block campaign in Ireland will be held at St. Gerard's Hall, 59th Street and 6th Avenue, Brooklyn, at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 19. Take the RR or N subway to 59th Street. A videotaped interview with released H-Block prisoners will be shown.

Castlereagh that have been set up to deal with "political offenders."

The nationalist prisoners who refuse to accept convict status are kept in the H-Block of Long Kesh. These are supposed to be special punitive cells for prisoners who refuse to conform to prison regulations, thereby losing all the "privileges" of regular inmates. Practically all the nationalist prisoners come under this category. So, they are obliged to stay in their cells almost continually with no clothing, except for a blanket, at best.

* * *

Fra McCann. I was arrested on November 17, 1976, charged with membership in the Irish Republican Army [IRA] and possession of a gun. On June 28, 1976, I was sentenced to three years in prison.

Had I conformed to prison rules, I would have been released after eighteen months. But because I was what they call a nonconforming prisoner, I served the full three years on the blanket.

Ned Brown. I was arrested on July 11, 1977, charged with throwing a blast bomb and membership in the IRA. On November 8, 1978, I was sentenced to two years. The court consisted of one judge. There was no jury. That is what a Diplock Court is.

Q. Why did the men in H-Block refuse to wash and clean out their cells?

Brown. The only sanitary facilities were a chamber pot and what they call a water gallon—it's a plastic container. It's supposed to be changed once a day.

Before the no-wash protest started, you got out in the mornings to wash yourself. But you had no time to do it in. For example, you had two minutes to take a shower in cold water.

The screws [guards] were coming and pulling men out of the showers because they had taken more than two minutes. Men were taken back to their cells with soap in their hair and with their bodies covered with soap. They were allowed only a couple of minutes as well to go up to the sink and have a wash.

Because of the brutality and the harassment that the men suffered, they decided that it would be best not to take showers.

They decided also not to take water into their cells. They were given only enough to be an inch deep in the basin, and two men had to wash in it. The basins were filthy, and the water was cold.

The screws were giving the water at the same time they were giving the breakfast, and at the same time they also wanted you to clean out your cell and to slop out.

And as we were bringing our chamber pots to the toilet, the screws were standing along the corridor and waiting on you coming and hitting the chamber pots, until they were more or less throwing the urine and excrement on the ground and all over the men.

Q. That is, the cleanup became mainly an occasion for the guards to harass the prisoners.

Brown. That's right. That's what it was.

McCann. The men decided that if the screws came around with a bucket, they would empty the chamber pots into it. But after the first two days, the screws stopped coming around. Therefore the pots were overflowing.

The only way the men could get rid of the urine and excrement was to put it into the boots of the prison uniform that is kept sitting in the cells and then empty it out the windows.

Then the screws started coming into the cells on searches. They kicked the chamber pots over the men's bedding.

The screws also threw excrement in the blankets, and then doubled them up and trampled on them. As a result, the blankets were filthy.

Then the screws took the boots away. So, the men decided that the only solution was to empty the urine out of the cell doors, so that the screws could squeegee it away down to the toilet drains. But the screws squeegeed the urine back under the doors. As a result, the mattresses were getting soaked again, since they lie directly on the floor.

With the excrement, the men threw it out of the windows. The screws came round at night with their shovels and lifted the excrement back in over the men when they were sleeping.

The men then decided that instead of throwing the excrement out, they would wipe it on the walls outside. The screws then came along with high-powered hoses and hosed down the walls outside.

While they were at it, they also hosed down the cells with the men in them. In some cases, the water was built up four or five inches in the cells, and everything was floating about, the

chamber pot, the mattress, the blankets, and all.

So, the men decided that the only solution was to wipe the excrement on the walls inside the cells. This brought on the wing moves, which now take place once a week in the H-Blocks.

McCann. There's four wings in H-Block. They keep three of the wings occupied at all times, and they have one empty. They move you to a clean wing, and then move in the machinery and clean the dirty wing up. Sometimes, they do cleaning while the men are still in their cells.

Once they came in with a very strong disinfectant. Men were clinging to the windows trying to get air. Some of them collapsed. It was virtually impossible to get enough air into your lungs. So, the men had to break the windows.

Now, the wing moves have become an occasion for beating and harassing the prisoners.

Humiliation and beatings

Brown. Wing moves are made every Monday morning. The screws come to the cell door. They take one prisoner out at a time.

You have a small towel around your waist. The two screws grab you by each arm, and a third screw grabs you by the back of the neck, and they run you up to the other wing.

In the bar of the "H," which is where the administration offices are, there is

a mirror about 5 by 11 inches sitting on the floor. Actually, it's on a sponge platform about four inches off the floor.

When you get there, they ask you to remove your towel. They then proceed to search your hair, search your ears, put their fingers into your mouth, lift your arms up, and search under your arms.

They then tell you to bend your legs and stand spread-eagled over the mirror. All our republican prisoners refuse to do this, because it is so humiliating.

Then the screws start slapping you about the face, punching you about the head, and kicking you on the backs of your legs. They try to force you to bend yourself.

Then, they grab you by the arms, and the two screws kick you behind your knees, so there is no way you can hold yourself up.

A screw comes behind you and raises the mirror into a position level with your back passage. Another screw holds a big flashlight. He shines the flashlight on the mirror.

Two screws pull the cheeks of your back passage open so that they can look up your anus. At different times, pens, fingers, and metal objects are used for this purpose.

Filth and disease

Q. Don't these filthy conditions lead to disease?

McCann. Not as much as you would



think. We suspect they gave us drugs with our food. Then, too, most of the prisoners are very young.

But many of the men suffer from worms. When the person living in the next cell to me was sleeping, I could see worms crawling out from his insides down his back passage. It's terrifying, this sort of thing, especially for him, lying in bed and having worms crawling over him.

We think that the worms are brought on by the kind of meat they give you. It is half-cooked bacon and liver.

Q. What's the medical treatment like?

Brown. Just before I was released, I broke out in a rash that covered the entire top half of my body. I went to the doctor. We called him "Dr. Mengele," after the famous Nazi concentration camp. They never tell you what is wrong with you. When I went in, he said that there was no medical explanation for the rash on my body.

People suffer from severe headaches. I myself got migraine headaches about twice a week. I went out to the doctor. I was told that if I could get the other men in the block to keep quiet, the headache would go away.

Many of the men in H-Block are still suffering from wounds they got in the struggle. There is one person in H-Block who has only one leg. He lost the other in an explosion before he went into prison. He had an artificial leg. But the screws broke it. So, now when he goes about, he more or less has to hold the leg on.

Four years' suffering

Many people are still suffering from gunshot wounds. I was in a cell with one. He was shot in August 1976 by the British army. The bullet smashed the bone in his leg. They were going to amputate, but his mother wouldn't give permission.

So, they joined the leg on again, which meant that it was a couple of inches short. The doctor prescribed medical boots for him. He had the boots for about five months. Then the screws came in and took the boots off him, because they said they were a

security risk. They took away his walking stick for the same reason.

Then there was Terry Kirby. Everything he ate, he vomited up. He was constantly losing weight. He was wasting away to nothing. And all they gave him was a kind of drug that puts you to sleep for about half an hour, and after that you wake up disoriented. They were just giving it to him to keep him quiet.

Nothing to read or study

Q. The Bible is the only reading material you have?

McCann. Yes. During the two and a half years I was on the blanket, I never saw a newspaper. They will not let you have anything to read or study.

Q. How do you keep yourselves sane then, if you are locked up all the time in a dark, cold, filthy cell?

McCann. Well, in the H-Block there are men who are fluent in Irish, the old language of our people. They teach Irish classes. You break a wing down into maybe three or four classes.

Every couple of months, the screws come around and paint the walls of the cells white. So, we take the bit of metal off the prison trousers and you can use it to write on the wall like a pencil. So, that's the way we study Irish.

Q. This protest has been going on now for about four years. Are there still people in who have been on it that long?

McCann. The longest one on the protest has been on it for about three years and four months. There are a lot that have been on it just over three years.

Political prisoners

Q. Are there people on the blanket protest who are not members of the republican movement?

McCann. Most of the prisoners on the protest were never connected with anything. They were picked up and brought into Castlereagh interrogation center and forced to make statements. The average age of the people on the blanket is seventeen to twenty-one.



An Phoblacht/Republican News

Members of National H-Block Committee lead march of 10,000 to center of the small town of Coalisland in Northern Ireland on February 16 in support of republican political prisoners. Other recent protests against H-Block include a march in Dublin on March 1, marking the fourth anniversary of the removal by British of political status for republican prisoners, and a march the next day in Belfast of several thousand in solidarity with more than 350 men 'on the blanket' in H-Blocks of Long Kesh and the thirty-two women republican prisoners at Armagh Jail, which has become known as 'women's H-Block.'

The determination of British authorities to break H-Block prisoners at all cost has convinced growing sections of the Irish masses that London has not altered its objective of holding them in subjection by brutality and terror. Recent H-Block protests show a new unity and determination on the part of oppressed Irish people to end British rule.

Brown. All the men on the blanket have republican views. They are not necessarily members of the IRA or Sinn Féin. It's just that their political views, their political beliefs, tell them that they are not criminals.

Q. The first man released from H-Block was Kieran Nugent. He tried to tell his story in America. The U.S. government deported him. What do you think about that?

Brown. We think the British government asked the American government to deport Kieran Nugent.

Q. Is there a general feeling on the part of the prisoners that the American

government is collaborating with the British.

McCann. Yes. They gave the RUC [Royal Ulster Constabulary] guns to shoot us dead with.

Brown. But 80 percent of the people in the Northern Irish ghettos support the H-Block men. About 50 percent do in the South, but that is growing very quickly.

We have sent former blanketmen and relatives to speak in many countries. The support is growing as people learn about the conditions.

But the situation is desperate. No one knows when men in H-Block will begin to die. It is important to make protests now to the British authorities.

...Peru

Continued from page 17

tion of the Fourth International. The OCRFI refused to participate in the 1963 reunification of the Fourth International and in 1979 encouraged a new split from the international by a group calling itself the Bolshevik Faction. The Socialist Workers Party (PST) in Peru, local affiliate of the Bolshevik Faction, as well as the POMR were part of this split.

The PST had refused from the beginning to participate in ARI. The POMR finally bent to this pressure and also pulled out of the coalition, without offering any serious public explanation.

The PRT was now the sole force fighting to keep ARI together on its original basis. Faced with the POMR's de facto withdrawal and the sabotage by UNIR, the PRT publicly announced that unless the ARI slates were fixed forty-eight hours before the final filing deadline (February 28), it would have no alternative but to run on its own.

This forty-eight-hour deadline was chosen because slates have to be filed in person in each one of the provincial capitals. Without at least that amount of time, Blanco and the PRT could have ended up without any ballot status at all due to the factional squabbles within ARI.

Finally, forty hours before the filing deadline, and following three days and nights of inconclusive round-the-clock

meetings in ARI, the PRT decided to run its own candidates, under its own name, and on its own program. This had become legally possible as a result of the battle that forced the dictatorship to legalize the PRT.

The PRT campaign is being run on the basis of political independence of the working class. It has opened its campaign to other forces that agree on this key question. However, only the POMR and PST, given the new situation, agreed to back the PRT campaign. They agreed to run under the PRT's name.

Blanco is the candidate for president, and the candidates for the two vice-presidencies are Ricardo Napuri of the POMR and Enrique Fernández of the PST.

The PRT pointed out in its newspaper *Combate Socialista* that the responsibility for the break-up of ARI lies "with the centrist and Maoist groups who were unable to reach an agreement regarding the division of parliamentary candidacies."

But *Combate Socialista* added that the PST and POMR "share a lesser responsibility for it. With them inside the alliance it might have been possible to create a relationship of forces favorable to maintaining the unity of ARI despite the hunger for parliamentary seats."

Break-up of the UI

UI, the other electoral bloc involving left-wing parties, broke up several days before ARI. The PSR and Communist

Party (*Unidad*) originally agreed to let Genaro Ledesma of FOCEP-Independiente to head the UI slate as presidential candidate.

They hoped that Ledesma's misuse of the FOCEP name would attract FOCEP supporters to UI. When that did not happen, they announced that FOCEP-Independiente did not deserve the large share of UI candidates it had originally been allotted. Ledesma then quit and announced his own candidacy on a FOCEP slate.

While this was the official reason for the breakup of UI, there was a more fundamental political reason—the desire by the class-collaborationist CP (*Unidad*) and PSR to make some possible short-term gains by throwing whatever parliamentary votes they get to one of the bourgeois candidates if the presidential election is thrown into parliament.

APRA has already been openly courting the CP (*Unidad*) and the PSR, calling them the "responsible left." Although the CP (*Unidad*) has not taken an official position on the question, it is clearly ready to throw its votes to APRA's Villanueva, as is the PSR.

Despite Ledesma's break with class independence, the CP (*Unidad*) did not feel he was a secure partner in carrying out this strategy. So, both the CP (*Unidad*) and the PSR decided to dump him and run Gen. Leonidas Rodríguez of the PSR for president.

Leonidas Rodríguez was one of the main figures in the first years of the

Velasco dictatorship. He was responsible for a number of repressive attacks on the workers movement. CP leader Jorge del Prado will run as a vice-presidential candidate.

What PRT campaign can do

The PRT is using its election campaign to aid and help unify the workers struggles against the dictatorship that are already taking place.

As *Combate Socialista* notes, "this election campaign must serve to educate the workers in a basic principle: the emancipation of the workers will be the job of the workers themselves. We can have no confidence in any bourgeois sector making the revolution, no matter how 'progressive' or 'democratic' they try to make themselves look. This is the meaning of working-class political independence, and that is why we are fighting for a workers government without generals or bosses."

The PRT is running a slate made up of workers in order to show that "in parliament as well, the best representatives of the workers are the workers themselves."

A major theme of the PRT campaign is that the struggle of the workers and peasants will not end when the elections are over, and that it is important to use the elections to lay the basis for the on-going struggles by building and consolidating the combat party of the working class throughout the country.

From *Intercontinental Press/Inprecor*

Questions on a trucker's plight

This week's column is by Rick Mitts, a trucker and member of Teamsters Local 543.

CINCINNATI—My wife Connie and I decided to become truck drivers a couple of years ago. Since we had no experience and because we also wanted to drive over the road as a team, the only way we could get started was to finance a late model used tractor that, together with interest, cost \$37,000. Eight hundred and thirty dollars a month for three years. Believe it or not that's a low payment. We also must pay the cost of insurance, taxes, maintenance, and, of course, diesel fuel.

Understandably, trucking companies appear to prefer "owner-operators" and the majority of trucks are individually financed and maintained. Even the big freight lines are setting up special divisions that utilize owner-operators to haul so-called special

commodities. Most owner-operators are nonunion. But even companies like the Ranger division of Ryder, which is unionized, has a sub-standard agreement.

Connie was recently forced to quit driving with me because things are getting bad on the road. Freight is scarce and the rates aren't even paying the cost of running the truck much less driver's wages. We are behind in our tractor payments and the finance company may soon be forced to repossess the truck. Although they don't want to because their lots are already full of repossessed trucks.

As far as I can see, our situation appears to be the rule. Every single one of the drivers I've talked to is in similar straits. I know the economy is in big trouble. I get to talk with farmers and implement dealers and they are really hurting bad too!

All of this raises some questions in my mind that

other readers of the *Militant* in similar situations may have considered and could shed some light on.

What I want to know is why the non-union trucking companies are apparently allowing "their" industry to go down the tubes. They must know perfectly well what's going on. I know our living standards are being lowered, but I thought the capitalists seek to pay workers at least a subsistence. With truckers and small farmers the rate of remuneration is falling further and further behind on living and operating costs.

It looks to me like the majority of us are on the verge of losing our livelihoods. How do the capitalists profit by this in the long run? For instance, it looks to me like the unionized segment of the trucking industry will get stronger if the independents and owner-operators are forced to give up.

Women in Revolt

Soviet feminists speak out

"Today's woman finds herself in an intolerable situation."

"We, the female half of humanity, have lost the experience of the past and are unable to create a new one."

"Feminism is progressive and the Women's Movement is an essential element in the world democratic movement."

"When what was formerly secret becomes known, there is light!"

These lines on women's quest for liberation were written by women in the Soviet Union and appeared in a feminist samizdat, or underground, publication entitled *Almanac: Women and Russia*.

This publication, the first of its kind, was recently smuggled to France. This column is based on information appearing in the March 21-27 issue of *Rouge*, the French Trotskyist weekly, and the April issue of *Ms. magazine*, which adapted an article from the February issue of *F*, a French feminist journal.

Women and Russia is a collection of more than a dozen articles, poems, and fiction on subjects from sexual relationships and religion to the conditions of childbirth. Many viewpoints are put forward. The women are grappling with these questions for the first time.

The writers reflect the political confusion common

among Soviet dissidents due to their isolation. One article asserts: "In the West, the woman question is on the road to being resolved, because Western women occupy positions of responsibility (S. Veil, M. Thatcher)."

These Soviet women would likely have a different opinion if they had access to news of the demonstrations for the Equal Rights Amendment, the fight to preserve our right to abortion, and the lack of child care.

One catches a glimpse of the anger Soviet women feel. They write on such subjects as the obstetricians who believe women's only "goal is the children," or husbands who leave the housework and children to women who also have jobs, or Communist Party members who tell women comrades that "there will never be a woman Mozart; God did not create women for that."

Natalia Malakhovskaya writes, "And if we look at the male contribution in the home, it is almost non-existent. Any man who even knows how to hammer a nail is considered a rarity. It is women who hammer out the nails of housework. Men gave women their hammers but hung on to the sickles."

The women write about the limited contraception. "There's only one brand of the pill," says Marina Netchaev, "and it is from Bulgaria. No one uses it because the side effects are so awful."

Suzanne Haig



Vera Golubeva describes the abortion center in Arkhangel'sk as "the butchery," with "common rooms where abortions are performed publicly without anesthesia."

Although 80 percent of Soviet women work, they tend to hold traditional jobs and earn less than men. Furthermore, they are expected to cook, do housework, shop, and take care of the children.

Few women are in positions of director in their work place. And women are scarcely represented in the top leadership of the Communist Party.

The writers of *Women and Russia* face repression. Already the KGB, the political police, have ordered them to stop publishing, confiscated some of their materials, and interrogated them. They need worldwide solidarity.

But Tatiana Mamonova, a chemist, painter, and poet who illustrated her poetry, in the journal, has replied defiantly: "We are not ashamed to openly state what we believe to whomever wants to listen, be that person a Russian, a foreigner, or an agent of the KGB."

The women plan to publish a second volume shortly.

The women's liberation movement in the Soviet Union can make a profound contribution to the struggle of Soviet workers and farmers for socialist democracy.

Capitalism Fouls Things Up

NL Industries—how it affects our lives

ALBANY—One hundred and fifty people attended a public speakout, "NL Industries—How It Affects Our Lives" here on March 7. The speakout, co-sponsored by the Capital District Anti-Nuclear Alliance and the Albany State University Coalition Against Nukes, was organized to give neighbors and workers affected by what the Albany County Health Department has termed the plant's "excessive" radiation emissions a chance to testify about the impact NL has had on their safety and well-being.

The NL Bearings Division (which before TMI was called the National Lead Nuclear Division) is located in a working-class neighborhood on the outskirts of Albany, and uses depleted Uranium 238 to make counterweights for aircraft. Since last fall when it became apparent even to the County Health Department that the plant was spewing thirty-eight times the so-called "normal background level" of radiation into the neighborhood, area residents have begun to realize that their increased medical complaints—ranging from unexplained stomach pains and nausea to deaths from cancer—might well be linked to NL's emissions. After much furor

in the local press and threats from the County Health Commissioner, the plant was closed on February 4, supposedly for retrofitting its inadequate emissions control equipment.

Two former residents who had moved from the contaminated area because of concern for their health testified at the speakout. Rosalie Silberstang said that, in her opinion, "NL should have to move out instead of the neighbors." Steve Redler, a former NL temporary employee, told of developing a painful rash on his legs after working in the plant only two days.

NL Industries sent several representatives. Robert Gallagher, radiological safety officer at the plant since January, read a prepared statement which denied all charges that NL had endangered the health of the community or its workers and declined to answer any questions. John Roper, National Safety Officer for NL, also declined to answer questions because of "pending litigation."

Earl Blash, a man who claimed to have designed the NL plant and worked there as chief engineer from 1956-75, said that the plant has "never injured anyone," that, at one time, the plant held "over \$17

million worth of enriched uranium" and that "people who live in Tibet, where the natural background radiation is the highest in the world, are the healthiest people in the world."

Although officials of the state and county health departments, OSHA, the State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Department of Labor were all repeatedly invited to testify, none chose to attend. Said Diane Shur, spokesperson for the Capital District Anti-Nuclear Alliance, "It's criminal that state and county health department officials did not attend. People who make fat profits off the nuclear industry are here to defend it and they don't care about sick people in the plant area. It's a shame we can't rely on state or county officials who apparently are working for NL instead of the people."

The Capital District Anti-Nuclear Alliance is demanding that the plant remain closed and that its laid-off workers not only be compensated for lost time, but be given other jobs at comparable salaries. In addition, the Alliance is demanding that affected neighbors and workers receive access to any required medical testing and treatment.

—Nelly Brown



Well, excuse me!—Prince Egon Von Furstenberg, whoever that might be, threw a black-tie bash in New York. Asked if the transit strike might cut into attendance, the prince responded, "The people I invite don't ride subways."

A real joshier—"His first interest is the hostages and their safe return. He's constantly interested in the hostages." —A spokesperson for the ex-shah of Iran.

Oh—The Jersey Central Power and Light Company said it will keep its Forked River nuclear plant going even though corroded pipes are leaking "small" amounts of radioactivity. There is, officials assure, no danger to the public. In addition, if the plant

stops the company must buy power from other utilities at \$500,000 a day.

Perfectly reasonable—There is now an oversupply of oil which will persist and grow in the days ahead, the experts say. And, they advise, because of the glut, the price of gas may only increase twenty-five cents a gallon this year as against fifty cents last year.

Cuts the caffeine—With federal approval, General Foods released 67,000 bags of coffee which had been contaminated with antimony trioxide, described by officials as "a fairly innocuous" substance used in making such items as glass and metals. It was assured that only "enormous quantities" could be dangerous.

No escalator to hell—A Norfolk, Virginia, bumper sticker advises: "Despite inflation, the wages of sin are still the same."

A lemon by any other name... —Chrysler compacts, the Volare and Aspen, were front-runners when it came to recalls for faulty brakes, stalling engines, etc. That's all being corrected in the new Chrysler Plymouth compact. How, basic redesign? Nope. The name. It will be the "Reliant."

It does glitter—Perhaps as a result of minimal direct contact with either metal, we referred last week to Texas tycoon Bunker Hunt dropping a couple of hundred million after cornering a pile of gold. It was, of course, merely silver.



Reading From Left to Right

Gus Horowitz



Antisocialism of a social democrat

Where would you expect to find an article by a professed socialist attacking a leading economist because the latter "considers socialism to be a real prospect for Western countries?"

In the *Wall Street Journal*, of course. The socialist is Carl Gershman. The economist is Robert Heilbroner. The date is March 27. And the article is a review of Heilbroner's new book, *Marxism: For and Against*. Gershman and Heilbroner are both social democrats, so it's a family quarrel.

The book's title is misleading, says Gershman, because Heilbroner "is 'for' Marxism much more than he is 'against' it." Not so Gershman. He's against, 100 percent. He abhors all of the wretched "attempts to rescue Marxism from its Communist 'deformation,' thereby restoring its credibility as a means of understanding and changing Western society."

Heilbroner, because he sees some good in Marxism, has a utopian view of the future, says Gershman: like the fellow-travellers of earlier decades, the utopian Heilbroner rationalizes a Brave New World in which material improvements (if there are any—Gershman won't even grant this) would be far outweighed by totalitarian police rule and cultural degradation.

Heilbroner is no Marxist, nor is he a revolutionist. And some of his arguments "for" Marxism do lend themselves to demagogic attack. But his willingness to discuss socialism as a real prospect and Marxism as a serious theory puts him a notch above Gershman.

Actually, Gershman is mistitled. He's not a socialist. It stretches terms even to call him a social democrat. He's not a mere fellow-traveller of capitalism, but a budding contributor to its leading financial daily. His choice of publisher tells a lot about the Social Democrats, USA, of which he is vice-chairman.

Gershman, who alluded to Huxley's *Brave New World*, would have done better to take an introspective look at Orwell's *1984*, particularly the part about doublethink. "Freedom is slavery" is just the right touch for the "socialist" whose highest calling is the defense of capitalism.

* * *

"Who Controls New Zealand Capitalism?" is the question taken up by Russell Johnson in the March 14 *Socialist Action Review*, the magazine supplement of the New Zealand Trotskyist newspaper, *Socialist Action*.

Johnson challenges the view, widely held in the labor movement of that country, that New Zealand is not an imperialist power in its own right, but is dominated by monopolies based in the United States, Britain, Australia, and Japan.

"In one form or another," he says, "this view is put forward by the leaders of the Labour Party and the Federation of Labour, as well as by the small Stalinist parties like the Socialist Unity Party, the Workers Communist League, and the Communist Party."

Johnson gives a short statistical and historical account to show the opposite. New Zealand is "an advanced capitalist nation," he says, "ruled by a small group of very rich local business families. This ruling class dominates the New Zealand state, with the government ruling in its interests, not those of the 'multinationals.' It has imperialist interests abroad.

"It is this class which is the main enemy of the New Zealand working class. Any view which fails to recognize this fact acts to divert workers away from a confrontation with New Zealand's home-grown capitalists. It educates workers in the spirit of collaboration with New Zealand businessmen."

This issue is not unique to New Zealand. The same views have been debated in Australia and Canada, where many in the labor movement have likewise portrayed their countries as being under foreign (chiefly U.S.) imperialist control. The error caused some who began as internationalists to end as patriots. Even in Europe, some years back, there were many illusions about "the American challenge" to indigenous capitalist rule. And the Maoists still promote a variant of this idea.

Readers interested in the nature of imperialism and the traps of nationalism in imperialist countries will find Johnson's article useful. To obtain a copy, send one dollar to cover postage and costs to *Socialist Action*; P.O. Box 3774; Auckland, New Zealand.

What's Going On

ARIZONA PHOENIX

MEET ANDREW PULLEY, SOCIALIST WORKERS CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT. A campaign evening with Andrew Pulley and Rob Roper. SWP candidate for Congress District 1, member of United Steelworkers Local 4102. Sun., April 27, 6 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. rally. 1243 E. McDowell. Donation: \$2 dinner. Ausp: SWP Campaign Committee. For more information call (602) 255-0450.

CAMPAIGN RALLY FOR ANDREW PULLEY. Speakers: Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president; others. Fri., April 25, noon. Arizona State University Mall. Ausp: Young Socialists for Pulley and Zimmermann. For more information call (602) 255-0450.

CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE FOR NICARAGUAN LITERACY CAMPAIGN. Los de Palacaguina, revolutionary folk group; Nicaraguan folk guitarists Otto de la Rocha and El Guadalupeño. Sun., April 27, 6 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 8th and Hope Streets. Tickets \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door. Ausp: Los Angeles Coalition for Nicaraguan Solidarity. For more information call (213) 254-9937.

OAKLAND

HEALTH AND SAFETY ON THE JOB. Speakers: Rainy Creighton, member United Transportation Union Local 100; Karen Mews, former worker at Livermore Lab. Sat., April 26, 7:30 p.m. 2864 Telegraph Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (415) 763-3792.

SAN FRANCISCO

THE CUBAN REVOLUTION TODAY. A slide presentation by three rail workers recently on tour in Cuba. Fri., April 25, 8 p.m. 3284 23rd St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (415) 824-1992.

NICARAGUAN CONCERT WITH LOS DE PALACAGUINA, a revolutionary folk music group. A benefit for the Nicaraguan Literacy Crusade. Sat., April 26, 7 p.m. Mission High School Auditorium, 18th & Dolores. Admission: \$4.50. (Tickets sold in advance at the Militant Bookstore, 3284 23rd St.). Ausp: Casa Nicaragua. For more information call (415) 824-9728.

ILLINOIS CHICAGO

SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN OPEN HOUSE. Meet Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president; Lee Artz, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate. Refreshments, music. Donation: \$1. Sat., April 26, 5 p.m. 434 S. Wabash, #700. Ausp: SWP Campaign. For more information call (312) 939-0737.

KENTUCKY LOUISVILLE

WHY WORKING WOMEN NEED THE ERA. Speakers: Nelle Horlander, Kentucky Coalition of Labor Union Women; Emily Gravens, president, United Auto Workers Local 1346; Ava Rose Barton, Machinists Local 681; Bettie Weyler, Ky. Education Association; Juanita Marshall, president, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Local 840; Sam De Shazer, Human Rights Commission; Martha Pickering, Pro-ERA Alliance; Emily Boone, vice-president, National Association of Social Workers; Pat Grogan, member, Steelworkers District 31 Women's Caucus; Rick Gantly, member, Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. Sun., April 20, 4-7 p.m. IAM Local 681, 824 S. 2nd St. Ausp: Louisville National Organization for Women. For more information call (502) 589-6959 or 634-3078.

OREGON PORTLAND

REPRESSION AND RESISTANCE IN EL SALVADOR. Speakers: Jim Callahan, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sun., April 27, 7:30 p.m. 711 NW Everett St. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (503) 222-7225.

TEXAS DALLAS

POLITICAL TERROR IN CENTRAL AMERICA. Speakers: Gene Lantz, active in Nicaragua Support Committee; others. Sat., April 26, 7 p.m. 5442 E. Grand. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (214) 826-4711.

UTAH

SALT LAKE CITY

CARTER'S PAIN AND DISCIPLINE ECONOMY: HOW WORKING PEOPLE CAN FIGHT BACK. Speakers: Gloria Compos, director, Utah Welfare Rights Organization; representative of Utahns Against Hunger; Dave Hurst, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, 2nd District, member United Steelworkers Local 4208. Sun., April 20, 7 p.m. 677 South Seventh East. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

NEW YORK LOWER MANHATTAN

NUCLEAR POWER: MIRACLE OR MENACE? Slide show. Thurs., April 24, 7:30 p.m. 108 E. 16th St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: N.Y. Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (212) 260-6400.

Victory at Bay of Pigs

The U.S. media is pulling all the stops in its gutter-style coverage of the Cubans at the Peruvian Embassy in Havana who want to leave their country. The April 10 New York Daily News, for instance, carried one "report" that Cubans are fleeing "starvation, poverty, back-breaking work done under threat of torture. . . ."

The campaign of lies has been going on almost since the beginning of the revolution. It reached one early crescendo during the U.S.-organized invasion of Cuba in April 1961—the infamous "Bay of Pigs."

Preparation for the invasion, with proper media accompaniment, had begun a year earlier. The Eisenhower administration allocated \$13 million for the operation and, in March 1960, began recruiting counterrevolutionary Cuban exiles for the invasion force. They were paid \$400 a month—not bad wages back then—plus family dependency allotments.

The CIA trained these mercenaries in secret camps in Florida, Guatemala, and Honduras.

It was not just a Republican operation. In the 1960 election campaign Democratic nominee John Kennedy berated the Republicans for their failure to be sufficiently aggressive against Cuba.

Kennedy was elected and the invasion preparations continued.

It became more and more difficult to keep it secret. But with the aid of the capitalist news media, the Kennedy administration did its best.

Where papers were not totally cooperative in covering up the invasion plans, they were leaned on in the name of "national security." The Cubans, Kennedy said, might find out.

The Cubans, of course, knew all about it. They stood before the United Nations, accused Washington of planning to invade, and gave the location of training camps and the addresses of mercenary recruitment offices.

The U.S. delegate, liberal Democrat Adlai Stevenson, dismissed the Cuban charges as "communist propaganda."

But the operation was hard to keep covered. The *Hispanic American Report*, a scholarly publication, told the story of the Guatemala training camps. The *Nation* magazine did a follow-up.

The lid could not be kept on anymore. The *New York Times*, which had previously agreed to an administration request to sit on the story, finally joined in the revelations.

But the government did not stop its lying denials, and the press did not let up with scare stories about "totalitarian" Cuba.

On April 14, 1961, more than 1,000 mercenaries sailed for Cuba from Nicaragua. Then dictator Luis Somoza saw them off personally, urging them to bring back hairs from Fidel's beard.

They didn't bring back anything.

As they approached the targeted invasion point on the morning of April 15, two



Front page of April 24, 1961, 'Militant.' Then, as now, we told the truth about U.S. imperialism's aggression against revolutionary Cuba.

U.S. B-26 bombers, painted over with Cuban Air Force markings, bombed four Cuban airfields.

Escorted almost to the beach by U.S. Navy craft, the invaders landed.

Stevenson stood in the UN and waved photos of the bombers, provided by Washington, and declared they were freedom-loving defectors from the Cuban air force.

The only problem was that one of them developed engine trouble, couldn't make it back to Nicaragua, and landed in Miami, blowing the "defector" story.

Meanwhile, back at the Bay of Pigs, the invasion force was in bad trouble.

CIA intelligence reports had assured that the Cuban people were gripped by massive discontent and the invasion would spark a nationwide uprising.

It did. The people rose up to smash the invaders.

In less than seventy-two hours, despite support by U.S. bombers, the invasion force was crushed.

U.S. ships tried to take the invaders back out, but Cuban artillery drove them off.

The surviving invaders were captured.

Later they were released and shipped back to Miami in exchange for a U.S. commitment to send \$62 million worth of medicine to Cuba. (Washington sent part, and reneged on the rest.)

The smashing of the invasion was a humiliating defeat for U.S. imperialism. Reeling under the blow, President Kennedy grimly declared his resolve to attack again—and why?

"I am determined," the "New Frontiersman" declared, "on our system's survival and success, regardless of the cost and regardless of the peril."

The *Militant*, of May 1, 1961, responded that Kennedy's threat was real, but added:

"This does not mean, though, that he will have a free hand to do as he will with Cuba. Smashing of the invasion showed the world that a deep-going social revolution is a mighty power that cannot be snuffed out at the whim of even a military colossus."

—Harry Ring

Cuba's health care

The *Militant's* series of articles on Cuba has been excellent—I hope there's more to come. I have one comment to add to Mariana Hernández's article on the Havana psychiatric hospital.

I visited the hospital about a year ago, and what impressed me most was the qualitative difference between occupational therapy in the Cuban workers state and its use, even in the best of cases, in the U.S.

In the context of capitalism, where all labor is alienated, work in a mental (or penal) institution is a caricature of work in society as a whole—only more degrading and exploitative.

In Cuba work is seen as a contribution to the collective effort to develop Cuba for the benefit of all. In this context, involving mental patients in the most important and rewarding activity of the country is clearly a big step toward their reintegration in society.

Steve Craine
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Racism in basketball

The city of Louisville has been in celebration since Monday evening, March 24, when University of Louisville's Darrel Griffith and teammates beat UCLA to win the NCAA basketball championship.

Since that victory, editorials have been written in major newspapers demanding that University of Kentucky break down and play U of L in a regular basketball series. Even the politicians are jumping on the bandwagon; the state senate passed a resolution to mandate UK to schedule U of L.

Why all the commotion? It's not just that Kentucky is basketball-crazy, which it is. UK's refusal to play U of L, its snobbery, has racial overtones that go back to the days when Adolph Rupp was coach. UK was always the "white" team in Kentucky. It didn't begin recruiting Black players until a full decade after U of L did. As late as two years ago UK had no more than one Black starter at any one time.

To this day, racist UK fans refer to the U of L team as the "Blackbirds" and accuse it of "undisciplined, playground" play.

Current UK coach Joe Hall was nowhere to be seen during the championship series in Indianapolis. Nor did he attend a coaches' meeting after the championship.

Courier-Journal sports writer Billy Reed noted this was highly unusual and speculated that it was because he was "embarrassed" by U of L's win. That makes Louisville's win all the more sweet.

Chris Rayson
Louisville, Kentucky

A different tune

Defense lawyers for the Klansmen and Nazis who murdered five anti-Klan demonstrators in Greensboro last November say they want a jury that opposes the death penalty because such a jury would be less "conservative,"

more "humane" and more "open-minded."

Irony, isn't it? The Klan and Nazis have always voiced their support for the death penalty, especially when it's to be used against Blacks and others who are oppressed.

Now they're singing a different tune. These thugs actually fear a jury of their peers.

Kate Daher
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

ARCO's victims

An article in the April 4 *Militant* on the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers strike carrying my byline appeared with an editorial change which is incorrect. The twenty-three strikers who received letters from ARCO charging them with undisciplined acts did not include myself.

Although charges were filed in court by ARCO alleging that seventy-five people, including myself, violated terms of an injunction on picketing activities secured by ARCO, we have been told that these charges will not be pursued.

The real victims of the strike are the twenty-three. On March 26 the ARCO group ratified a settlement that allowed the company to impose the following penalties on the twenty-three: two weeks suspension for six; one week suspension for four; and letters of reprimand filed on thirteen workers. The union reserved the right to file for restitution.

At no time were these or any other striking ARCO workers arrested or charged with misconduct by any legal authorities, of whom there were plenty around when the alleged "undisciplined acts" took place. These brothers and sisters raised the ire of management by their visibility during the strike, not by the trumped up charges for which several are now suspended.

Jana Pellusch
Houston, Texas

Shrill but valued

Your rhetoric is usually shrill and your arguments often much too simplistic. I have found your uncritical support of the Palestine Liberation Organization, even in its most terroristic extremes, especially offensive.

Nevertheless, I support the struggles of this infant socialism against the oppressive policies of the organs of the capitalist state. Your party, like all socialist movements in the USA, is a victim of the two-headed capitalist party.

I value the *Militant* as one alternative to the mass media. Enclosed is \$3 for ten issues. D.B.

St. Louis, Missouri

OCAW strike ends

Readers of the *Militant* may be interested in knowing the outcome of the local Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers strike here which was reported in the December 21 *Militant*.

Members of OCAW locals 5-6 and 5-194 voted two to one in February to end their five-

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month strike against Laclede Gas Company and to accept a contract proposed by a federal mediator. The union represents 1,500 construction, maintenance, service, and clerical workers.

Under the new terms, wages will increase 8 percent in the first year; pensions and other benefits will rise an additional .5 percent. Raises will be 8 and 9 percent respectively during the second and third years.

There were no provisions for a cost-of-living clause, the main issue in the strike for the oil workers.

Comment by workers on the contract terms was generally unfavorable. But after five months out of work and with winter almost over, the majority felt that it was necessary to settle for less than the goal.

Still outstanding is a company lawsuit charging two union leaders with inciting union members to commit sabotage during the strike. The union has filed a countersuit, charging the company with libel.

After the settlement, the company requested a rate increase of \$19 million a year. *Chuck Petrin*
St. Louis, Missouri

Wants united left

Again it seems that the left will lose the 1980 presidential elections because they don't want to win but are more interested in having the right line or ideology.

Unless the left can compromise and run one known candidate, who's known by even Joe Doe, they will suffer more problems.

Must we people get ulcers in trying to get the left to diversify? I'm not going to get an ulcer. Wake up!

Chris Markwell
Tarentum, Pennsylvania

Likes Nicaragua news

Thank you for your excellent coverage of the exciting developments in Nicaragua.

Articles in other newspapers here are extremely infrequent and consistently unfavorable. When two leading Sandinistas visited last week, not a single Dallas reporter would talk to them!

I don't know if this is happening in other cities, too, but you are performing a big service here in Dallas.

Gene Lantz
Dallas, Texas

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.

Learning About Socialism

Why unions lose ground

"How can they get away with imposing a contract like that on a powerful union like the transit workers, especially after what looked like a pretty effective strike?" That's the question some working people asked themselves in the wake of the settlement reached by officials of the Transport Workers Union with the New York City's Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

One answer to this, of course, is that the battle over the contract isn't finished yet. The transit workers themselves will have a few words to say.

But the same contrast between the fighting capacity of the workers and the potential power of the unions on one side, and the deteriorating terms of contracts on the other, has appeared in countless labor struggles in recent years.

To understand why union officials accept such giveback contracts means looking at how the trade-union bureaucracy thinks and functions.

Farrell Dobbs included the following observations about the union officialdom in the afterword to *Teamster Bureaucracy*. This is the fourth and last book in his series on the strike battles and organizing drives that built the Teamsters union in the 1930s; the role of Minneapolis Teamsters Local 544 with its revolutionary leadership; and how the incipient class-struggle wing of the labor movement was defeated by Roosevelt and the FBI as the U.S. rulers prepared to hurl the country into World War II. Dobbs was a leader of Local 544 and a longtime central leader of the Socialist Workers Party.

Teamster Bureaucracy is available at \$4.95 from Pathfinder Press and the offices listed below.

* * *

One of the major factors preventing effective struggle against economic and social deterioration has been accelerated degeneration of the labor officialdom since World War II.

So far as officials in the upper strata of the union bureaucracy are concerned personally, capitalism works fine. Huge salaries, expense accounts, and other emoluments enable them to maintain high living standards. Job security—for themselves—is implicit in their control over the workers' mass organizations, as is assurance of lavish pensions when they retire. For those reasons the union bureaucrats, like the bosses, consider anyone who wants to change the existing system an "irresponsible radical."

But there is one catch in this otherwise ideal situation for the labor skates. An illusion must be maintained that they are effectively representing the workers in collective bargaining. Without that false face their basic role as de facto agents of the bosses would be exposed, and a majority in the union ranks would begin looking for a way to do a housecleaning job on them. To avoid that danger they must get occasional concessions for the membership from the employers. . . . In that way, so long as the economy is on the upgrade, a relatively stable component within the union membership can be maintained for use in suppressing internal revolts.

If the bureaucracy mobilized the ranks for struggle to win

the needed concessions from the bosses, however, a climate would be created in which its control over the unions would be jeopardized. So another course has been taken. The top labor officials have supported the ruling class on most social and political policy questions, hoping to get in return at least minimal employer responses to the workers' economic demands.

These officials have gone a long way toward converting the trade unions into auxiliary instruments of repression acting in collusion with the capitalist authorities. Among the consequences has been the clamping of collective bargaining into an iron vise. One jaw consists of restrictions imposed upon organized labor by the bosses' government. The other takes the form of bureaucratic controls within the unions themselves. Through this combination of repressive forces the workers have been subjected to steadily intensifying exploitation at the hands of the capitalists.

An equally reprehensible situation exists concerning struggles by doubly oppressed layers of society, such as oppressed nationalities and women. Those movements are largely ignored, or at best given little more than lip service, by the trade union bureaucracy. If, however, the ruling class shows open hostility toward a particular oppositional tendency—as it did in the case of Malcolm X, for example—the labor fakers are quick to oppose that tendency as well.

In the sphere of capitalist foreign policy, especially, the top union officials play the role of lickspittles. That has been illustrated most fully in the criminal support given by George Meany and his cohorts to the brutal assault on the Vietnamese by the U.S. imperialists.

Up to now the labor bureaucrats have gotten away with this treachery. But new trends are developing that will undermine their control over the workers' movement. U.S. imperialism is falling into increasing difficulties at the center of the developing world capitalist crisis. Under these circumstances the labor bureaucracy's class-collaborationist practices will have less and less success in obtaining collective-bargaining concessions from the employers. And at the same time, the ruling class will move in devious ways—as in New York City's contrived financial crisis—to protect capitalist profits by driving down the workers' living standards.

As these trends persist and worsen, the workers are bound to become more combative, more disenchanted with official union policy, more rebellious. The top bureaucrats, whose domination over the unions will thus become threatened, are certain to react viciously. They will intensify the present use of red-baiting and violence against internal oppositions; and, parallel with such actions, their self-serving alliance with the employers and the capitalist government will be further tightened.

As that contradictory situation unfolds, opposition to the present official union policies can be organized on an expanding scale. Large numbers of workers can be brought, in stages, toward adoption of class-struggle program required to defend their interests—if the left-wing forces in their midst proceed with the necessary patience and astuteness.

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THE MILITANT

Pa. miners join antinuclear march All out April 26 in Washington!

By Suzanne Haig

"There will definitely be one bus of coal miners from District 5 at the April 26 march," announced Joe Jurczak, staff coordinator of the Coal Miners Political Action Committee of Pennsylvania, at a news conference held at the United Mine Workers office in Pittsburgh April 16.

The press conference, organized by the Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World, was called to build for the April 26 national antinuclear march in Washington, D.C.

Information on march & rally

The April 26 demonstration in Washington for a Non-Nuclear World will assemble at 10 a.m. at the Capitol Building. The march will proceed down Constitution Avenue to the Washington Monument. The rally is scheduled to take place on the mall beginning at about 1:30 p.m.

For more information on the national antinuclear activities, contact the Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World at 413 Eighth Street SE, Washington, D.C. 20003. Telephone (202) 544-5550.

In a statement released to the press, Jurczak said that coal is an immediate alternative to deadly nuclear power. "Expanding the use of coal-burning facilities would provide thousands of new jobs for construction and steel workers, as well as for coal miners who produce and railroad and trucking workers who haul coal."

Dr. Ernest Sternglass, professor of radiologic physics at the University of Pittsburgh, spoke on the rise in infant mortality downwind of Three Mile Island since the accident there.

A statement of support from officials of District 63 of the International Association of Machinists was read.

Three meetings of IAM locals in District 63 had heard a discussion on nuclear power and the April 26 march and voted to contribute \$125 for the action.

Representatives of the Service Employees International Union, Steel City National Organization for Women, and others attended.

Three buses are filled from the Pittsburgh area. Seven more, on order, are filling up.

The need to mobilize a massive turnout April 26 against nuclear power was evident from the latest action by the Government's Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The NRC gave the go-ahead for the release of more "low level" radiation from the crippled Three Mile Island reactor.

The release will occur when the containment building housing the reactor is opened to allow workers to enter the area for the first time since the near meltdown a year ago.



Residents of central Pennsylvania demonstrate in Harrisburg last month against ongoing threat from Three Mile Island reactor. Dozens of busloads from that area will join thousands of other antinuclear protesters in Washington April 26.

Militant photos by Kay Lewis

In addition, the NRC will permit the utility company that owns the reactor to regularly vent specified amounts of radiation without having to get commission approval.

These decisions are part of the drive by the government and the utility to step up the TMI "clean up" and move toward venting 57,000 curies of radioactive krypton gas, despite protests by area residents, who are fearful of

the dangers involved.

Meanwhile, residents of the area have even more reason to be concerned. Severely contaminated water has leaked into wells driven underneath the reactor to test the water.

Whether lying, incompetent, or both, the NRC reports that they do not know where the poisoned water is coming from. The extent of contamination of

Continued on page 16

Close down Rocky Flats weapons plant!

The following statement was released April 16 by Colorado Socialist Workers candidates Silvia Zapata, running for U.S. Senate, and Harold Sudmeyer, running for U.S. House of Representatives from the First District.

The Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant is a deadly health hazard to everyone who lives and works in the area. The bombs it produces pose a threat to the survival of all humanity. The facilities must be shut down immediately!

Located just sixteen miles from Denver, Rocky Flats manufactures plutonium "triggers" for thermonuclear weapons. These "triggers" are actually atomic bombs which, upon detonation, provide the necessary heat and pressure for exploding the hydrogen bomb. Parts for the neutron bomb—designed to kill people with minimal damage to property—are also made there.

Rocky Flats is owned by the U.S.

Department of Energy and managed—for substantial profit—by Rockwell International, one of the largest U.S. war contractors. Both Rockwell and Washington keep the plant's deadly activities shrouded in secrecy.

Rocky Flats' day-to-day operations are a nuclear nightmare.

- Containers of nuclear wastes have leaked, contaminating the water supply of nearby Broomfield.

- Filtration systems do not prevent all of the plutonium—one of the most deadly radioactive elements—from escaping into the air. These systems have often failed altogether.

- Numerous fires have occurred. In 1969, one of history's worst industrial fires released unknown amounts of plutonium into the atmosphere from Rocky Flats.

- Studies by the health director of Jefferson County, where the plant is located, show that communities downwind from the plant have abnormally high cancer rates.

- Workers at Rocky Flats are exposed to radiation daily. Railroad

crews bringing trains into the plant receive no protective clothing although they enter highly radioactive areas.

The government claims that the nuclear weapons built at Rocky Flats are needed for our defense.

This is utterly false.

These weapons are made for aggression. The U.S. government is pointing them at working people who are fighting to free themselves from exploitation and domination by giant U.S. corporations. These weapons are aimed at Iran, Nicaragua, and Afghanistan, and at countries where capitalism has been overthrown.

Only the U.S. has ever used nuclear weapons. It has repeatedly threatened to use them again.

American working people can defend our security only by actively opposing the capitalists' war plants and by fighting to remove these weapons from their hands.

This is why the April 19 protest rally at Rocky Flats is so important.

Actions like this and the upcoming national demonstration April 26 in

Washington, D.C., against nuclear power and nuclear weapons can involve the labor movement, students, women's organizations, and antinuclear groups. They are steps toward mobilizing the kind of power that can shut down Rocky Flats and the nuclear power plants for good.

Unlike the Democratic and Republican candidates, whose job is to defend the nuclear and munitions industries, the Socialist Workers Party puts the needs of working people before the profits of big business. We believe that all the plant's buildings and equipment are not worth risking one more case of cancer.

- Close down Rocky Flats immediately! Plant workers should be guaranteed retraining and new jobs at union scale with no loss in pay.

- Free health care for life for plant workers, their families, and all victims of contamination in the area.

- Release to the public all information about Rocky Flats contamination and its effects!