

# THE MILITANT

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

# IRAQ-IRAN WAR

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the fighting?

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Iranian civilians and soldiers surround anti-aircraft gun in mobilization against Iraqi regime's attacks.

## Racists attack busing in Los Angeles

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## Potatoes at \$3 a bag

Everybody has to eat. And the cost of that necessity is increasing daily, with predictions that inflation will escalate at a quicker pace toward the end of the year. For 1981, the Department of Agriculture says food prices will increase by 15 percent.

"No matter what happens to the economy," reports the *New York Times*, "prices at the supermarket are going to make customers nostalgic for the kind of prices that led to beef boycotts in the mid-1970's."

The cost of food will rise at a rate of more than 10 percent for the rest of 1980. In August, the increase was 2.3 percent—the highest monthly increase since July 1975! A weekly food bill for a New York City family of four in September surpassed \$100.

In 1975, a half gallon of milk cost 79 cents, today it's \$1.07. A ten pound bag of potatoes (a basic food staple) rose from \$1.59 in 1975 to \$2.98 in 1980. And a six ounce can of frozen orange juice was 28 cents five years ago, now it's 73 cents.

The inevitable question is asked: Who's to blame?

A common scapegoat is the working farmer. But the effects of inflation have devastated farmers. The share of the farmer's income from food sold in the supermarket dropped from 36.8 percent to 32.4 percent in the four-year period of 1974-78. Meanwhile, the cost of operating a farm has soared. Feed grain prices are 20 percent higher than in 1979. According to the Beef Industry Council, farmers lost as much as \$200 on each head of cattle between 1976-79. A farmer's investment in feeder cattle per head may be \$500-\$600 at sixteen to seventeen percent interest. The cost to the farmer for land, fuel, feeds, fertilizers, and equipment is increasing at the same rate—or faster—than overall prices. And interest on bank loans to farmers has nearly doubled in the last five years. Because of this summer's drought, farmers in one state alone will suffer a crop loss of \$800 million!

So, if the farmers are not making a profit, then who is?

As the Louisiana State University Agricultural Cooperative Extension Service explained: "There are some 32,000 food processing firms in the U.S. Yet, less than 50 percent control 73 percent of the market and receive over 75 percent of all food processing profits. Only four firms control 90 percent of the breakfast

food industry; four large firms control 65 percent of the sugar industry; four firms control 80 percent of all canned goods and Campbell's makes 90 percent of all soup. And if one had to guess who really makes the food policies of this country, these companies would be a good place to start."

Farmers and working people alike have a stake in confronting the capitalist food monopolies and demanding an end to their price gouging at our expense.

## Attacks on abortion

For the second time in less than six months the right to a safe, legal abortion for all women has taken it on the chin.

On June 30 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Hyde Amendment, which bans federal funding for all abortions except to save the woman's life or in the case of "promptly reported" rape or incest. On September 12 the court refused to review that decision.

Emboldened by that ruling, Congress moved quickly on October 1 to further restrict a woman's reproductive freedom.

Now a rape victim must report the crime within *seventy-two* hours or forfeit her right to a Medicaid abortion.

On top of this, Congress voted to let states determine for themselves whether to use any federal funds for abortion even when the mother's life is at stake.

The Hyde Amendment has already cut the number of federal Medicaid abortions from an estimated 300,000 in 1976 to only 2,421 in 1978.

The attacks on abortion are part of the larger campaign being waged to keep women in a second-class status in this country.

Big business and its three candidates—Carter, Reagan, and Anderson—have all closed ranks along with the Catholic church hierarchy against a woman's right to choose.

Reagan and the Republicans boldly make their reactionary anti-ERA, anti-abortion program clear. It goes hand in hand with their warmongering threats, and proposals for even more budget cutbacks in social services.

Carter has stated, "Since the beginning of my administration, I have personally opposed federal funding of abortion."

And Anderson recently explained, "Would I lead a drive, as president, to repeal the Hyde Amendment? No. I don't think I would. . . . It

seems to me the court has spoken on this."

Poll after poll shows, however, that the majority of working people in this country believe that women should have access to safe, legal abortions.

The unions have begun to come forward and stand side by side with women's rights groups in the struggle against sexual harassment on the job and for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Together with groups like the National Organization for Women and the Coalition of Labor Union Women, labor should fight for the repeal of the Hyde Amendment.

Let the voice of the majority be heard!

## The right to travel

Does the U.S. government have the authority to revoke passports on grounds of "national security"?

The Supreme Court has agreed to rule on a federal court decision ordering the government to return a revoked passport to Philip Agee, a former CIA agent.

Agee, who has been compelled to live abroad, has been hounded by U.S. government agencies because of his role in exposing the illegal activities of the CIA in bolstering right-wing forces in various countries.

Last December, the State Department ordered Agee's passport revoked on grounds that his activity was inimical to the "national security and foreign policy" of the United States.

Supporters of the government's right to restrict freedom of travel have offered the transparent argument that Agee was penalized not for what he thought, but for what he did.

Freedom to travel has long been under government attack. For nearly a decade U.S. citizens were denied the right to travel to Cuba and Vietnam—also on grounds of "national security."

If the government can establish this precedent, it may well try to bring many others who disagree with its foreign policy under the ban.

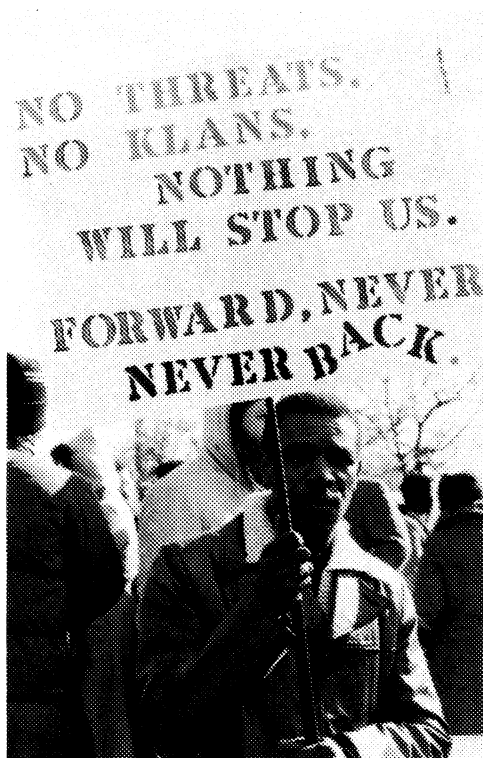
Black leaders who visit Palestinian refugee camps and meet with officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization could be targets. Or those, like Ramsey Clark, who challenge the government's lies about Iran.

The attempt to reverse Agee's right to a passport should be strongly opposed.

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11-18 International Socialist Review



## International Socialist Review

"Black America and the World Revolution": Maceo Dixon shows how the Black revolts of today in Miami, Chattanooga, and elsewhere have been shaped and affected by the changing moods of the American working people, and by revolutionary events in Iran, the Caribbean, and elsewhere. **Pages 11-18.**

## The Militant

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Published weekly by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone: Editorial Office, (212) 243-6392; Business Office, (212) 929-3486.

**Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.**

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. Subscriptions: U.S. \$24.00 a year, outside U.S. \$30.00. By first-class mail: U.S., Canada, and Mexico: \$60.00. Write for airmail rates to all other countries.

For subscriptions airfreighted to London and then posted to Britain and Ireland: £3.00 for ten issues, £6.00 for six months (twenty-four issues), £11.00 for one year (forty-eight issues). Posted from London to Continental Europe: £4.50 for ten issues, £10.00 for six months, £15.00 for one year. Send checks or international money order (payable to *Intercontinental Press* account) to Intercontinental Press (The Militant), P.O. Box 50, London N1 2XP, England.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.



# Busing under attack in L.A.

By Rebecca Finch

LOS ANGELES—With more than 550,000 students, the Los Angeles Unified School District is one of the largest in the country.

It is also one of the most segregated because of deliberate policies implemented by the Los Angeles School Board. In 1970, Superior Court Judge Alford Gitelson found the board guilty of deliberately fostering segregation in the location of new schools, drawing of attendance boundaries, and other matters.

In December 1979, the office of Civil Rights of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare included Los Angeles on a federal government list of the 100 worst school districts in the country in terms of civil rights violations.

The new Los Angeles mandatory busing plan, ordered this fall by Superior Court Judge Paul Egly, is seen by many here as a step toward eliminating segregation.

Egly is charged with overseeing the implementation of the 1976 California State Supreme Court order that mandates desegregation of the Los Angeles schools. This decision was the result of a thirteen-year court fight waged by the NAACP and other organizations against the school board. The board has poured tens of thousands of dollars into fighting the desegregation ruling.

In response to the court decision, the school board implemented a voluntary busing program aimed at eliminating overcrowding in inner-city schools rather than achieving desegregation. Under that plan, 18,600 students in 144

separate schools were bused. But over 99 percent of these were Black, Hispanic, and Asian students who were bused to white schools.

Egly ruled that the voluntary plan placed an unfair burden on minority children. He said white students also have to ride the buses in order to meet the desegregation mandate of the state supreme court.

Under the new plan, 23,200 children from 153 schools ride buses—15,200 of them are minority children and 8,000 white.

A majority of school board members have led racist protests against busing white children to minority schools. School board President Roberta Weintraub has urged white parents to sabotage busing by keeping their children out of school.

Despite the racist protest, support for the desegregation plan runs deep here. More than 300 supporters of busing turned out at the September school board meeting. They came in response to a call for demonstrations and picket lines by the Los Angeles *Sentinel*, the city's largest Black newspaper. The call was made after Weintraub was broadcast in a radio interview calling Rita Walters, a Black school board member who supports busing, a "bitch."

Black clergy and elected officials, including assembly member Maxine Waters and City council members David Cunningham and Gilbert Lindsay, led a rally outside the board meeting demanding that Weintraub resign.

Jewish community leaders sent a



**BOSTON**—Black students return to South Boston High School October 7 after racist attacks on them forced the cancellation of classes October 2. A fight involving twenty-five to fifty Black and white students resulted in assault charges against one white and nine Blacks. Racists in the South Boston community have organized a white student boycott. Black students have been subjected to racist attacks since a 1974 federal court decision ordered busing to desegregate city public schools.

letter to the board demanding that its members "address the desperate needs of a Los Angeles Unified School District with the urgency, competence, and dedication required or resign their positions."

Supporters of the busing plan point out that further steps will have to be taken to achieve genuine desegrega-

tion of the Los Angeles schools. Under the current plan about 60 percent of the district's students, who attend "racially isolated minority schools," will never be bused. These RIM schools are located in the most segregated sections of the city, like East Los Angeles and Watts, and face the worst conditions in the school system.

## Polish workers strike to enforce demands

By Gerry Foley

Solidarity, the new independent trade-union confederation in Poland, showed its growing power October 3 in a one-hour national strike called to counter the bureaucracy's attempts to block the spread of the free workers movement.

In Gdansk, the center of the confederation, the call was for a full work stoppage. It was massively followed.

"When sirens waited in the port at noon," *New York Times* correspondent John Darnton reported, "thousands walked off their jobs, buses and streetcars came to a halt and restaurants and shops closed their doors. Virtually the entire city shut down."

Radio and TV reports stressed the atmosphere of festivity and triumph in Gdansk.

In other cities throughout Poland, only selected plants and groups of workers were called out. Solidarity's directives were reportedly followed to the letter. The confederation's leaders said that the strike had gone exactly as planned.

### 'Tomorrow victory'

In the factories that were not called out, workers hoisted banners and bunting in the Polish national colors and hung out placards to show their support for the strike.

In Warsaw, Darnton reported "most buses pulled over to the curb and sat empty. Streetcars kept moving, as the new unions had urged them to, but many put their lights on. Flags were flying throughout the city and banners reading 'Solidarnosc' hung from factory windows."

In the steel center of Katowice in southwest Poland, the giant mills were shut down. Strikers' flags flew everywhere.

The organizer of the free union at the steelworks, Andrea Rozplochowski, was quoted in wire service dispatches as saying:

"It was beautiful, how the workers adorned their shops for the hour. The buildings had flags, people wore arm-bands, and when one o'clock struck, the sirens blared and normal work resumed."

At the Ursus tractor plant outside Warsaw, where the 16,000-strong work force led a national general strike in 1976, selected departments were shut down.

At a number of plants Solidarity organized demonstrations. At the Warsaw steel complex, marchers raised slogans such as "Today solidarity, tomorrow victory," "The radio and television must tell the truth," and "We want freedom of speech."

In this one-hour action, the independent union leaders showed their capacity to weld the new workers movement into a coherent, conscious, and disciplined fighting force on the national level.

### Careful organization

The strike was carefully organized to counter the government's claims that the free unions were undermining the economy. Workers were asked to remain on the job in the nerve centers of industry and social services.

"Our aim is not to do damage but to show our strength," explained Zbigniew Janus, union president at the Ursus plant.

Before the strike, Bogdan Lis, a member of the confederation coordinating committee, pointed out:

"The government should understand that our warning strike is in its interest. If we didn't call this strike, there would be a series of wildcat strikes throughout the country."

The leaders of the free trade unions and the main opposition group, the Committee for Social Self-Defense (KOR) have stressed that it is the government and the Communist Party that are responsible for the economic difficulties and the discontent of the

workers. The independent organizations, they say, are just trying to maintain order the only way possible—by organizing workers and masses to exercise direct control over the decisions that affect their lives.

It was apparently the discipline and organization of the strike that prompted a foreman at Ursus, where only a token action was held, to say, as Darnton reported: "We must have the beginning of a real, authentic workers' government."

The new unions have clearly succeeded in giving the masses of the Polish working people a calm confidence in their power and in their leadership. That is the picture that emerges from all the reports.

In the face of this political and organizational strength, the government has been routed once again. The press blackout about the activities of the free unions was broken during the strike itself. There was extensive TV, radio, and press coverage of the actions. Another wedge has been driven into the bureaucracy's totalitarian control of the mass media.

The strike also seems to have dealt a heavy setback to the bureaucracy's maneuvers to contain and wear down the free unions.

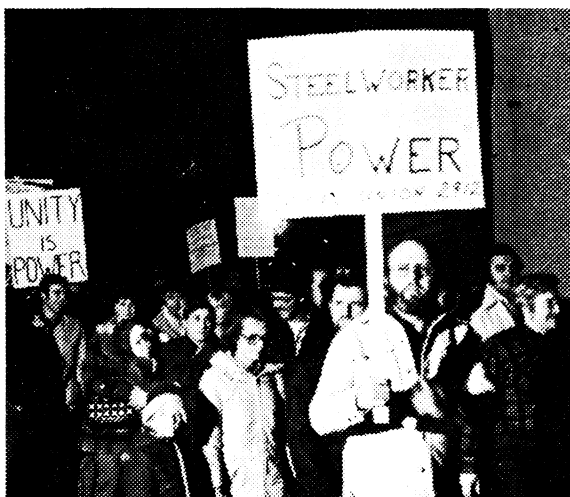
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# Puerto Rico detention camp protested

By Harry Ring

Washington's decision to establish a detention camp in Puerto Rico for Haitian refugees and Cuban immigrants has provoked wide opposition on the island.

To ram through the opening of the detention center, Carter even issued an executive order exempting the site—Fort Allen, an abandoned army airfield base—from Puerto Rican pollution-control regulations.

The slated opening of the detention camp represents a particularly grave threat to Haitian refugees fleeing the Duvalier dictatorship.

The United States government is presently under a federal court order not to deport Haitian refugees. Leaders of the Haitian community fear that shipping Haitians to Puerto Rico will be used, after the November elections, as a means of circumventing the order.

Rev. Gerard Jean-Juste, principal spokesperson for Miami's Haitian community, branded the move "unadulterated racism."

The first to be sent to Puerto Rico will be a reported 1,500 Haitians and several hundred Cubans now being held at an abandoned Miami-area missile site.

New arrivals in Florida will also be sent to Puerto Rico.

This will affect mainly Haitians. On September 26, Washington announced that Cuba had closed down the port of



Cuban immigrant children in Miami's Tent City

Mariel. It was from Mariel that a boatlift brought some 125,000 Cubans to Florida.

Initial announcements of the opening of the Puerto Rican camp suggested it would be merely a relocation center where arrivals would stay until jobs and homes were found for them.

This was exposed as a lie by a September 25 *Miami Herald* editorial that explained that those being sent to Puerto Rico would not join the island's population but would be held "in a self-contained . . . enclave."

A team from Puerto Rico's Depart-

ment of Health said that it would take up to six months to restore the area to the point where it could again properly accommodate 800 people. It is presently, they declared, "unfit for human use." Yet navy construction crews were instructed to have it ready in a two-week period.

Federal officials alleged that health and safety standards would be observed.

The worth of these assertions is indicated by a recent report on conditions at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, one of the detention areas for Cuban arrivals.

A group of state Public Defenders who visited the site October 4, declared that conditions for juveniles at the camp were "bestial."

A spokesperson said, "I have never seen any institution that matches this one for inhumanity."

They described a case of two sixteen-year-olds, a boy and a girl, who were handcuffed to a chain-link fence for the night in near-freezing weather by federal cops. They had allegedly thrown stones through a window.

The unilateral decision to establish the camp in Puerto Rico points up the true colonial status of the Puerto Rican "commonwealth."

The *Miami Herald* reported that Puerto Rico's Gov. Carlos Romero Barceló was "taken by surprise" by the September 23 White House announcement.

Héctor Meléndez, a spokesperson for the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, said that the situation "virtually prints as a manifesto that a colonial governor has no real power."

All of the ramifications of this ugly concentration camp plan underscores that it is never just those incarcerated who are the victims.

OCTOBER 9—A federal judge in Puerto Rico temporarily enjoined the U.S. government from building the detention camp there. The government said it would appeal.

## Canada clerks stage powerful strike

By Ernest Harsch

TORONTO—For more than a week, a strike by federal employees brought the day-to-day functioning of many government departments and agencies in Canada to a standstill.

It was one of the largest country-wide strikes in Canada in recent years. At its peak, more than 100,000 workers joined militant picket lines and participated in mass rallies and marches in Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Québec City, Vancouver, Winnipeg and numerous other cities.

During the night of October 7-8, a tentative settlement was reached be-

tween the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) and the government of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, covering nearly 50,000 federal clerks who have long been the lowest paid federal employees.

Although details of the settlement were not immediately announced, some union sources indicated that it included a 10 percent pay increase, retroactive for two years, plus a further 13 percent increase to go into effect later. However, the strikers' demand for a cost-of-living clause in their contract was not granted.

The settlement remains to be rati-

fied. Until then, at least some picket lines will be maintained.

While the strikers are only partially successful in winning their demands, they did display their organized strength—for the first time in the union's history.

The federal clerks—who were supported since October 5 by the more than 100,000 other PSAC members—shut down many government offices. Imports into the country were bogged down. In St. Johns, ships sat idle in the harbor as dockworkers stayed away from their jobs in solidarity with the clerks.

Postal services in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver were seriously disrupted. The Toronto International Airport was shut down October 6, and other airports were affected, when firefighters refused to cross the picket lines. Many customs employees did likewise, causing massive tie-ups at U.S. border crossings.

Picket lines by civilian personnel were set up at many military bases, including one of nearly 400 workers at the giant Borden base north of Toronto. According to the October 2 *Toronto Globe and Mail*, some soldiers refused to cross the lines.

Despite government victimization and threats, the workers displayed considerable determination. The picket lines, many of them composed largely of women, were very vocal and visible. Enthusiastic marches and rallies were staged.

The determination of the strikers was strengthened by the widespread support they received, both from other sectors of the labor movement and from the public in general. At an October 5 news conference, Dennis McDermott, the president of the Canadian Labour Congress, threatened to bring out the confederation's more than one million members in a series of rotating solidarity strikes, pledging to "invoke the kind of collective action we deem necessary to bring the government to heel."

One reason for the level of support for the strikers was the obvious justice of their demands. The wages of the federal clerks were as low as \$9,000 a year, much less than those of workers doing similar jobs in private industry. More than three quarters of the

Continued on page 24

## How 'Machinist' reported labor party decision

The following is excerpted from a report on the September 2-10 convention of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) that appeared in the October issue of the 'Machinist.'

The 2,061 delegates from 831 locals, by a nearly unanimous vote, agreed to support both the IAM Executive Council and the Machinists Non-partisan Political League (MNPL) Planning Committee and not endorse a Presidential candidate.

The motion of non-endorsement made by George Hyatt, IAM Local 480, Oak Ridge, TN, also called for "support of the Democratic Party platform which is the key to saving the Congress in November."

With lines of delegates at every microphone indicating support for the motion, the question was called for and the historic motion overwhelmingly adopted.

Realizing the dilemma Carter left them in by his failure to live up to his promises made at the Grand Lodge Convention four years ago, delegates adopted a resolution to explore the possibility of forming a third, pro-labor political party.

The resolution adopted read in part: that the IAM "join with other progressive groups in our society to determine the extent to which grass roots support might be developed for an independent pro-labor party dedicated to principles of social democracy."

IAM President William W. Winsinger later told delegates that, "Should it become necessary—and this is a great imponderable question of the moment—MNPL, working in conjunction with the IAM Legislative Department's newly formed grassroots lobbying and political action program, would prepare for the 'eventuality of creating an alternative political party, which will serve the needs of workers and trade unions, rather than catering to the lesser-of-two evils system that has boxed us in today.'"

## Black paper joins labor party discussion

As election day approaches, Blacks are discussing the fact that there's no choice between the Democratic and Republican candidates, and the need for an independent political alternative.

The same dilemma faces the labor movement. A growing number of unionists—Black and white—are thinking about the possibility of forming a labor party based on the unions.

In a 1979 Labor Day statement, California Labor Federation Executive Secretary-Treasurer John Henning said, "labor must consider the advantages of a separate political party" and proposed the labor movement discuss the idea. And most recently, during their September convention, the International Association of Machinists mandated the leadership to initiate a discussion on the possibility of forming a labor party. The IAM is the first international union to take such a position.

An important aspect in the labor party discussion is the role of Blacks. The overwhelming majority of Blacks are workers and make up a large proportion of the union ranks. In a September 27 editorial, the *Chicago Defender*—a daily and one of the most prominent Black publications—endorsed the labor party discussion and its importance to Blacks. The editorial, en-

titled "Labor in disarray," appears below.

\* \* \*

Labor is in disarray as the present election campaign mounts. The leaders of organized labor don't know which way to turn or who to believe. Neither does anyone else.

John F. Henning, executive secretary of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, last week advised a conference of state union leaders and rank-and-file representatives that they are a shrinking part of America's work force and they cannot reach political goals on their own.

Naturally, the black community is in some large part connected with the labor force and is also heavily and equally involved. Henning agreed with a call for a third party that had been made in May at the West Coast regional convention of the United Steelworkers of America.

The steelworkers' message contained the warning: "Many of our political enemies wear the Democratic cloak while aspiring to political office, and as soon as they are elected to office they show their true colors by trying to crush organized labor."

Yes, labor, black and white, has a great problem. Labor is divided and badly needs unification for the coming period.



## Kurds strike at Iraqi regime

# Iranian Arabs mobilize to defend revolution

By Fred Feldman

One factor in Iran's ability to stall the Iraqi invasion has been the support of the Arab nationality that makes up the majority of the population in Khuzestan province, where most of the fighting is going on. Khorramshahr, Abadan, Dezful, Ahwaz, and other cities threatened by the Iraqi assault are predominantly Arab.

U.S. "intelligence" agencies—the same people who predicted that Iran's defenses would crumble at a touch—also foresaw that the Arab and Kurdish minorities would use the occasion of an Iraqi invasion to strike against the Tehran government. The Khuzestan Arabs were expected to join forces with the Iraqi invaders, since the dominant nationality in Iraq is Arab. In Iran, Persians are the dominant nationality.

The Tehran government in Iran encouraged such assessments by falsely branding Arabs and Kurds who demanded national rights as Iraqi and imperialist agents.

In the first days of fighting, U.S. journalists did what they could to bolster the "intelligence" estimates. In the September 28 *New York Times*, John Kifner reported meeting with three soldiers, purporting to be Iranian Arabs, who were fighting with Iraqi forces. He passed along their claim that "the Arab population had risen to fight the Persians."

But the uprising never got off the printed page. And efforts to concoct it faded as the war continued.

As one observer in Jordan noted, "it doesn't take long to realize that there aren't any films of ethnic Arabs in Khuzestan greeting the Iraqi soldiers with flowers." (*Washington Post*, October 6).

In the October 6 *Christian Science Monitor*, Geoffrey Godsell pointed to predictions of Arab and Kurdish support to Iraq as another miscalculation. "This more diverse patchwork [of nationalities] within Iran suggests to an outsider that under pressure Iran would more readily disintegrate than Iraq. Yet the rallying within hitherto debilitated Iran against the Iraqi attacks of the past two weeks points in the opposite direction."

### Arabs in forefront

It certainly does. The Arab population of Khuzestan has been in the forefront of the fighting that has bogged down Iraqi forces.

The resistance of Arab civilians to the invasion has helped to block the Iraqi regime from capturing the port city of Khorramshahr. As we go to press, Baghdad's claims that the city



Iran's President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr visits resistance fighters in trench at Khorramshahr. His visit refuted first Iraqi claim to have taken city. Support for Iranian revolution by Arabs, who make up majority of city's people, helped fend off Iraqi invasion.

has fallen are contradicted by reporters at or near the scene.

"This vast, Soviet trained and equipped force," wrote Loren Jenkins about the Iraqi army in the October 8 *Washington Post*, "has only just barely lapped the western edges of the city it has been besieging since the third day of the war."

"Although the Iraqis claim to have taken the dockyards, along the banks of the Shatt-al-Arab, they only hold a western corner of them."

According to Iranian socialists, the army and revolutionary guards have distributed arms to many Arab civilians. Others are fighting bare-handed or with whatever comes to hand.

The October 1 issue of the Paris daily *Le Monde* confirmed that Khuzestan's Arabs responded to President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr's call for a mobilization against the counterrevolutionary drive by the Iraqi regime.

"The authorities of Khuzestan have admitted today what was unimaginable hardly a week ago," wrote Eric Rouleau. "They are cooperating with

certain leftist groups in the organization of groups of resistance fighters to whom arms are being distributed. One of the religious leaders of the Khuzestan Arabs, Ayatollah Shobier Khagani, despite his sympathies for the autonomist movement, has called in a commune broadcast over radio and television, for the Khuzestan Arabs to 'defend Islam and the country' against the Iraqis."

The Iraqi rulers have acknowledged the stand of the Arabs in their own way, with brutal shelling of the civilian population and looting of occupied segments of Khorramshahr.

### Kurds defend revolution

The Kurdish people, who were close to full scale war with the Tehran government at times in recent months because of government attempts to block demands for autonomy, appear to be centering their fire on the Iraqi regime.

That would be consistent with the stand of most Kurdish fighters in Iran.

They mobilized to support the takeover of the U.S. embassy in Tehran. Sheikh Hosseini, the best-known Kurdish leader, offered to fight any Iraqi invasion last April, at the time of Carter's unsuccessful raid against Iran.

A Kurdish group in Tehran issued a statement this week supporting Iran in the war.

Rouleau reports that the Kurdish Democratic Party, one of the largest groups, has called for opposition to the Iraqi attack. Rouleau claims to have seen signs of a cease-fire by Kurdish resistance fighters in Iran.

But the Iraqi Kurds, who have close links with their brothers and sisters in Iran, have taken the field against the Iraqi regime. A representative of the Kurdish Democratic Party said October 1 that a guerrilla initiative was underway in the countryside around the city of Mosul and a number of other communities near Iraq's northern border with Turkey.

And Kurdish resistance fighters in Turkey successfully bombed the main oil pipeline from Iraq in the first days of Iraq-Iran fighting.

The Kurds' offensive has Baghdad worried. Edward Cody asserted in the October 8 *Washington Post*: "Kurdish guerrillas have . . . been able to reoccupy some of the isolated outposts that the Iraqis took over at the end of the 1974-75 war against the late Gen. Mullah Mustafa Barzani's Pesh Merga guerrilla forces, the sources said, including Barzani's old headquarters at Haj Omran and Rawanduz."

"Iranian jets strafed and bombed Iraqi positions in Kurdistan before the Kurdish irregulars moved back in, an Arab source reported, suggesting that the guerrillas are working in cooperation with Iran. In this connection, he added, Tehran radio is claiming that Pesh Merga guerrillas are fighting Iraqi troops and are led by Massoud Barzani, son of the legendary Kurdish chieftain. . . ."

### Why Arabs & Kurds fight

The experts underestimated both the Iranian revolution and the determination of the oppressed nationalities to defend what they have gained through the revolution.

As long as the shah was secure on his throne, the Arabs and Kurds in Iran had no rights. It was the uprising of millions of Iran's workers, farmers, students, and common people against the monarchy that enabled the Kurds and Arabs to launch a new struggle for their rights.

As workers and farmers, the Kurds and Arabs also gained from the establishment of factory and village committees, wage increases, nationalizations, and the beginnings of land reform since the shah fell.

The Kurdish and Arab working people know that the defeat of the Iranian revolution would mean reversal of these gains.

The last thing these oppressed nationalities want is restoration of a regime like that of the shah. And this, even more than territorial gains, is the Iraqi regime's prime goal in the war. Nor do the Kurdish and Arab masses long for conquest by the brutal dictatorship of President Hussein. The Iranian Arabs are well-acquainted with the conditions faced by their brothers and sisters across the Shatt al-Arab, and the Kurds have fought Baghdad for decades.

The initial response of the Kurds and Arabs is an important lesson for all of Iran's working people. By attacking their fight for national rights, the Tehran government divided the revolutionary forces. By moving now to grant the Arabs and Kurds their full rights as nationalities, the Iranian revolution can construct an impenetrable barrier to the Iraqi regime's counterrevolutionary drive and speed the fall of the increasingly unpopular Hussein government.

## Jordan's King Hussein backs Iraqi war

During a twenty-four-hour October 5 trip to Baghdad, capital of Iraq, Jordan's King Hussein announced that he would give all-out support to the Iraqi regime of President Saddam Hussein in its invasion of Iran.

He ordered the mobilization of Jordanian trucks to convey food and equipment to Iraq. King Hussein suggested that direct military help may be coming.

The king is also allowing ships carrying arms and spare parts for the Iraqi army to unload at the port of Aqaba. "State Department spokesman John Trattner refused to identify the origins of any of these ships except to say that none had come from the Soviet Union," reported John Goshko in the October 8 *Washington Post*.

Perhaps to divert attention from Iraq's main supply sources in the war, the press has devoted many column inches to rumors about

Soviet ships unloading arms for Iraq at Aqaba.

Like other near-absolute monarchs in the Middle East, King Hussein fears that the Iranian revolution may inspire similar revolts unless the Iraqi rulers succeed in defeating it.

Efforts to create the appearance of a solid Arab front against Iran were punctured October 7. Criticism of the Iraqi invasion appeared in the official newspaper of Syrian President Hafez Assad's Baath Socialist Party.

"The purpose of the war," the paper declared, ". . . is to divert attention from the main struggle with Israel and give the United States and Zionist forces the alibi to interfere in the Gulf region with the blessing of Arab reactionary regimes."

The paper described Saddam Hussein as "an agent of imperialism and reaction who wants to play the role of the shah."

Secretary of State Edmund Muskie expressed mild concern at King Hussein's decision to drop the mask of neutrality. There was no indication that Washington will stop supplying weapons to Jordan, even though U.S. arms are likely to be used against the Iranian people.

"In June, the United States agreed to sell Jordan 100 advanced M60A3 tanks equipped with night-vision sights and to consider the sale of an additional 100 tanks at a later date," reported Goshko.

Goshko also detected signs that Washington is preparing the ground for a more open stand against Iran. He pointed to a speech by Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher "as a veiled warning that the United States might abandon its neutral stance if the war spreads to include important U.S. allies such as Saudi Arabia. . . ."

And Jordan?

—F.F.

## Why not coal?

# Nuclear power: no answer for working people

By Vivian Sahner

Nuclear power's special danger to health, safety, and even life itself can be summed up in one word: *radiation*.

The advocates of nuclear power will sometimes point to a nuclear power plant and say: "See, there's nothing coming out, no smoke, or haze, like you sometimes see at a coal-powered plant. Thus, nuclear power is cleaner than coal."

But nothing could be further from the truth. At very high levels, the invisible radiation can kill an animal or human being outright by destroying masses of cells in vital organs. But even the lowest levels can do serious damage that may not show up for years. There is no level of radiation that is completely safe.

Today there are 72 commercial reactors in the U.S. alone, plus roughly 200 military reactors. The nuclear industry and the government assure us that all this deadly radioactivity is, or can be, safely contained.

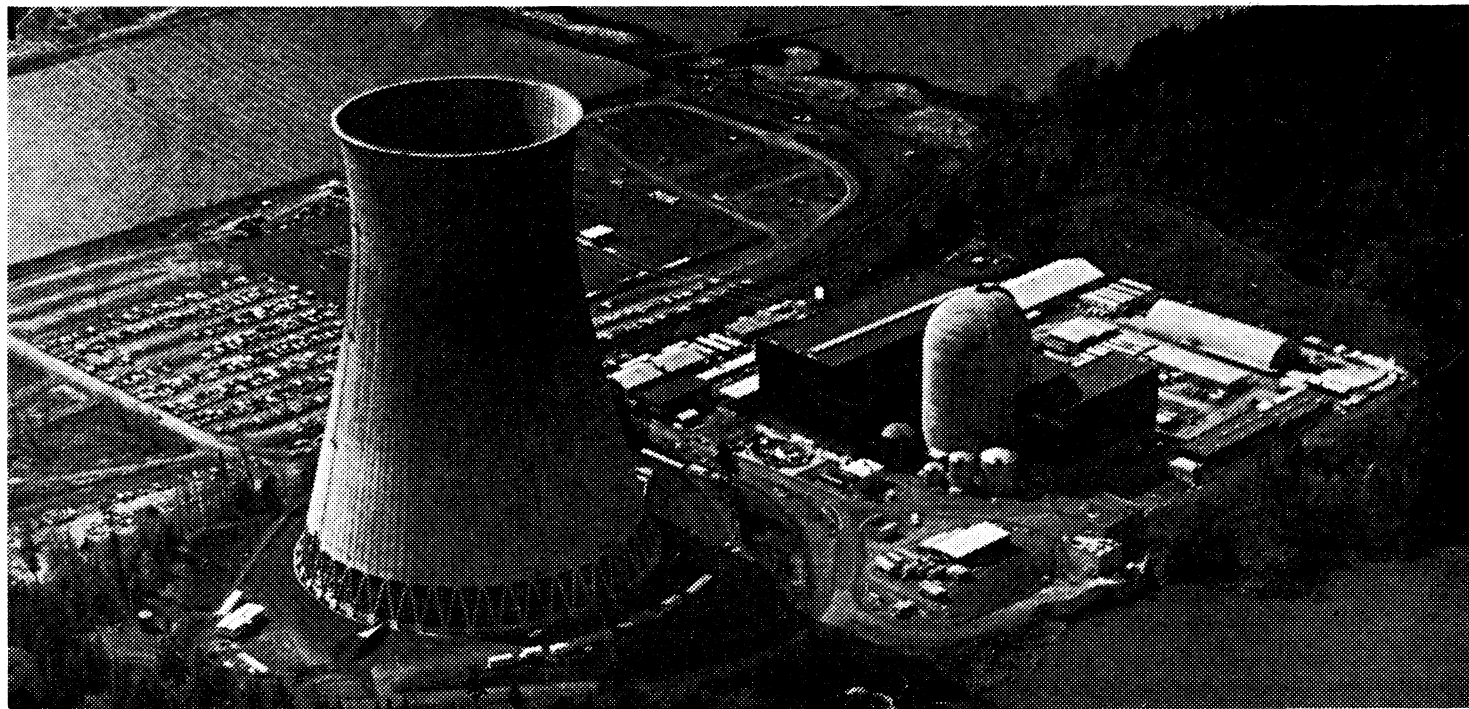
The truth is that it is impossible to perfectly contain such huge amounts of radioactive material. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has confirmed that more than 2,300 "incidents" occurred last year at nuclear power plants, but argue that they were not on the order of Three Mile Island. It raises the question: What are they waiting for—an entire state to be blown away?

Every step of the nuclear production cycle is dangerous. The mining of uranium, for example, which is used in both nuclear bombs and nuclear power plants, releases a certain amount of radioactive material. As a result, uranium miners die of cancer in disproportionate numbers.

After the uranium ore is milled, the leftover crushed rock is low-level radioactive waste. Out of ignorance, some of this material has been used as landfill or for building blocks.

In Grand Junction, Colorado, where 5,000 homes were built with these blocks, residents have an acute leukemia rate, twice the average for the state as a whole.

Inside a nuclear power plant, nuclear fuel is used to boil water, producing steam. The steam powers a turbine, which produces electricity through a



More than 2,300 'incidents' at nuclear power plants last year

generator.

It is extremely important that water circulate freely through the nuclear fuel rods inside the reactor, otherwise it will overheat, buckle, or even worse, melt down.

A meltdown is the nightmare of every nuclear reactor operator. According to a government report in 1965 the high-level radiation from such an accident could kill 45,000 people quickly and spread radiation strong enough to at least ruin crops over an area the size of Pennsylvania.

This study was suppressed and only became public eight years later when the Atomic Energy Commission was sued under the Freedom of Information Act.

The accident at Three Mile Island near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on March 28, 1979, proves that accidents like this can happen.

That accident began when a pump failed, interfering with the flow of the water coolant. Through a series of errors, the backup systems, which are supposed to rush cool water into the primary cooling system in such emergencies, failed to operate for several seconds.

That was too long. The coolant over-

heated, some of the fuel melted. More water was added, but for two hours operators in the plant did not realize that the water was escaping through a stuck valve.

After filling a high-level containment building, the water was automatically pumped to another building, which was neither watertight nor vapor tight. For over an hour radioactive water vapor escaped through the vents of this building and into the outside atmosphere.

For weeks after the accident, technicians, engineers, and scientists labored to prevent a further meltdown or other catastrophic development until the situation was brought under control.

Even if major accidents like this are avoided, operation of even one nuclear plant brings with it insurmountable problems and dangers. Eventually the entire reactor core becomes highly radioactive. So do the walls of the reactor and the water coolant.

For this reason, a nuclear power plant has a limited lifespan of about thirty years. After that it must be abandoned or dismantled.

The pervasive radioactivity in a nuclear power plant makes even routine maintenance a difficult task. In

some operations, workers receive the maximum allowable radiation dose in a matter of minutes.

Normal repair and maintenance operations are another way that radioactive material gets out of nuclear plants. Work clothes and tools must be treated as low-level but still dangerous radioactive waste.

Radioactive refuse of this type is usually put into drums and transported by rail or truck to a special guarded dump site. The railroad workers and truck drivers are exposed to radiation in this way. Almost every week there are news accounts of trains or trucks carrying radioactive material being involved in accidents.

There is another kind of waste that is much more highly radioactive. This high-level waste would kill people exposed to it for even a few seconds. High-level waste includes the used fuel rods and other parts of the reactor core, as well as the primary coolant.

Sections of the core must be replaced every year or so. It remains deadly radioactive for thousands of years.

The original plan was to remove these bundles of spent fuel to a permanent, government-operated storage

*Continued on page 23*

## What's needed to solve the energy crisis

By Suzanne Haig

The oil companies have begun to raise the specter of another oil shortage and price increase. Their latest excuse is the war between Iran and Iraq.

Since the war began, petroleum prices have climbed four dollars a barrel.

Then there's the oil glut. The companies had been saying they had a 100-day supply of oil. With the war, a new picture is emerging. Instead of 100

days, they now say there are *eight* days of "spare inventory" of oil.

This cannot but remind us of the gas lines and soaring prices of the 1979 "energy shortage." That was blamed on the Iranian revolution, which overthrew the shah.

Most Americans did not believe it. A 1979 poll by NBC News and the Associated Press found 71 percent answered "yes," in agreement with the statement, "The oil companies have created

the recent gasoline shortage to increase prices."

In fact a study by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union found that crude oil supplies in this country had *risen* by 107 million barrels in the previous fifteen months despite the temporary loss in Iranian oil.

In 1979, the oil companies hoarded oil to justify the gas price gouge. They helped Carter and Congress push through price decontrol, roll back anti-pollution safeguards, and push for more nuclear power after the accident at Three Mile Island.

The transportation, allocation, refining, and marketing of oil remains firmly in the hands of the giant U.S. oil companies. It is these companies that drive up the price of oil to boost their own profits.

Oil company profits remain exceptionally high. Twenty petroleum companies increased their profits 34 percent, from \$4.7 billion to \$6.3 billion for the second three months of 1980, compared to the first quarter.

They raise prices when consumption goes up and they raise prices when it goes down. A study in New York City, for example, found that homeowners used 10 percent less heating oil in the winter of 1979-80 than the previous year, as a result of conservation efforts and a warmer winter. But they paid 40 percent more for home heating.

The energy monopolies have working people in this country by the throats. We cannot afford one more day of leaving vital energy resources in private hands. The economic and social cost is too much for production and distribution decisions to be made in secret, determined by the drive for profits.

The energy industry should be taken over by the government—nationalized—and converted into a public utility.

Every aspect of the energy industry should be opened to public scrutiny. Secrecy should be abolished. Workers in the oilfields, refineries, coal mines, and power plants need control over their working conditions. They can bring out the truth and expose the maneuverings by the oil companies.

Management of a nationalized energy industry should be put into the hands of elected public boards under close scrutiny of union and consumer groups. Books and records should be kept open, meetings public, everything out in the open.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council said in 1979 that if the energy monopoly "fails to adequately serve the public interest, consideration should be given to nationalization of the industry."

It's an idea that should be discussed throughout the labor movement.

### On the nuclear peril

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.

**What Working People Should Know About the Dangers of Nuclear Power**





# Maine vote shows deep antinuclear sentiment

By Richard Cahalane

BATH, Maine—Forty-one percent of Maine voters supported the September 23 referendum to shut down the only nuclear power plant in Maine.

Central Maine Power Company, the largest shareholder in the Main Yankee plant, declared the vote against the referendum as a "vote of confidence."

But CMP President E.W. Thurlow added, "We do not look at the vote in any way as a mandate to build future plants."

Ray Shadis, one of the principal organizers of the Maine Referendum Committee said after the vote, "We feel good about Maine people and about what we've accomplished, and we've just started to get rolling."

The referendum drive began fourteen months ago, in the wake of the Three Mile Island accident.

A grass roots effort collected 55,000 signatures to put the referendum on the ballot.

In the final months of the campaign, town meetings and debates, some of them on radio and television, occurred almost daily. The pro-nuclear forces were bankrolled by big business contributions. They outspent referendum supporters four to one.

Where the referendum backers were able to respond directly to the barrage of lies, the yes vote won. In Lincoln county, where the Maine Yankee plant is located, and in adjacent Sagadahoc and Waldo counties, it was 51 percent yes. The mid-coast region where there are twenty towns voted 54 percent yes. Even in Wiscasset, where the plant operates and pays the town's taxes, the yes vote was 33 percent.

The Bath Iron Works shipyard is only eight miles from the nuclear plant. The 5,000 workers there are organized in Local 6 of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding

Workers, AFL-CIO.

Vote yes placards were everywhere in the town on election day: store windows, front lawns, car bumpers. The only vote no signs were at the Bath Chamber of Commerce and at the Maine Yankee plant itself.

Bath Iron Works company president John Sullivan sent letters to the workers predicting layoffs if the referendum passed. In spite of the threats, areas where shipyard workers live voted strongly for the referendum. Wards 1 and 2 voted 65 percent yes, Ward 11, 77 percent yes.

This reporter spoke with people outside the Ward 11 voting place. A retired worker told the *Militant*, "I voted to shut the damn thing down! It's a kick in the pants, let 'em know we're here. They don't care about people. I'm old. But what about the children and the radioactive waste? Profits is more important to them than people."

A young worker who voted against the referendum was not exactly enthusiastic: "Either way they'll raise prices. Maybe this way they'll go slower. If there was a real alternative to Yankee, I'd vote to shut it down yesterday."

Local 6 at the shipyard sponsored a debate on the referendum September 4. Workers in the yard said that sentiment began shifting against nuclear power and in favor of the referendum after that debate.

This battle did not succeed in shutting down the Maine Yankee nuclear power plant.

Nuclear power advocate Governor Joseph Brennan admitted, "Maine people voted for jobs, for economic development, against higher light bills. I don't think it could be construed as a vote for nuclear power."

It was not a vote for nuclear power. Nuclear opponents should be very encouraged by the results.



Campaigning  
for new  
readers

## National NOW conference

Participants attending the National Conference of the National Organization for Women in San Antonio October 3-5 bought 22 introductory subscriptions to the *Militant*. An attractive booth, complete with a display of blow ups of *Militant* covers and notebooks depicting the *Militant's* coverage of the women's movement was set up. Feminist and socialist literature sold from the table totaled \$87.15.

Socialists at the conference also sold 161 single copies of the *Militant* and distributed 800 copies of a reprint of an article by Socialist Workers Party vice-presidential candidate Matilde Zimmermann on "Why Women Need a Labor Party." In addition, 1,500 brochures put out by the Socialist Workers Campaign Committee were distributed. A wine and cheese reception hosted by the *Militant* featured Matilde Zimmermann; Laura Garza, SWP candidate for Congress in the 23rd District in San Antonio; and Suzanne Haig, staff writer for the *Militant*.

## El Salvador conference

The West Coast Conference in Solidarity with the people of El Salvador was held in Los Angeles October 3-5. Of the approximately 150 people in attendance at the conference, most of whom were Salvadorans, 17 took advantage of the special introductory subscription offer to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

## National subscription/campaign teams

Four teams of socialists have already been out on the road in parts of Florida, Southern California, the Newport News area of Virginia, and in the mining communities of southern Arizona. In the seven days that most teams spent on the road, 117 new subscriptions have been sold to the *Militant* and 7 to *Perspectiva Mundial*. In only three days, the Southern California team sold 35 subscriptions to the *Militant*.

Caroline Fowlkes, team captain of the southern Arizona team, knocked on one retired miner's door in San Manuel, Arizona. "I'm glad to see a union member running for office," the miner said when he saw the SWP campaign literature. He took Fowlkes next door to meet his neighbors. This response was typical of miners and their families who have been on strike for several months against Magma Copper.

Tom Moriarty, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of West Virginia, is leading a team of campaign supporters through the mining communities of West Virginia. They will be on the road for two weeks introducing miners to the campaign newspaper, the *Militant*.

On the road now is a team of socialist campaigners in Iowa and Nebraska. Next week, teams of socialists will be campaigning in Amherst and Worcester, Massachusetts; in the Youngstown area of Ohio; and in northern California.

## Striking Steelworkers buy subscriptions

Some 4,200 steelworkers are out on strike against Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO). Rallies and picket lines have been a regular feature of the strike. Socialists in the Gary area of Indiana have been actively participating in these events as well as building solidarity for the strikers in their unions. In addition, they have been campaigning for the socialist candidates and introducing strikers to the labor newspaper, the *Militant*. Ten strikers have taken advantage of a special offer to the *Militant*. With each new subscription sold, the striker received a copy of the pamphlet by Socialist Workers Presidential Candidate Andrew Pulley, on "Why Working People Need a Labor Party."

## The Militant Gets Around

A campaign supporter in Lovell, Maine has now joined the growing number of supporters of Pulley and Zimmermann who are circulating the *Militant* and distributing campaign literature. As a result of the recent referendum held in Maine on nuclear power, growing numbers of working people are interested in what socialists have to say. Our supporter who is active in the antinuclear power movement feels he can reach out to some of these people with the *Militant*.

## National subscription drive results

The accompanying scoreboard reflects results of the first three weeks of the 10-week fall subscription campaign. Twenty-six areas are now on schedule or ahead of schedule, a jump of five from the last scoreboard. Since the drive began, five areas have raised their goals. Since the last scoreboard was printed, Atlanta raised its goal for the second time from 120 to 150; Milwaukee raised its goal from 120 to 200; Salt Lake City from 100 to 150; and Washington, D.C., from 130 to 155.

Many other areas are considering raising their goals. Socialists in Birmingham got off to a late start on the drive because they were busy fixing up their new campaign headquarters. They set themselves a target week and sold 20 subscriptions, four of which were to coal miners.

The scoreboard shows that we are behind on the number of subscriptions received in the Circulation Office for *PM*. Special attention needs to be placed on this aspect of our circulation drive.

—Nancy Rosenstock

# Subscription scoreboard

As of October 6, 1980

AREA	MILITANT GOAL	SUBS REC'D	PM GOAL	SUBS REC'D	TOTAL GOAL	TOTAL REC'D	%
Kansas City	100	74	10	5	110	79	72
Phoenix	55	42	20	5	75	47	63
Milwaukee	175	104	25	10	200	114	57
Atlanta	140	81	10	2	150	83	55
Indianapolis	110	63	10	1	120	64	53
Denver	85	50	15	1	100	51	51
Gary	85	49	15	2	100	51	51
Piedmont	100	47	0	1	100	48	48
Iron Range	90	37	0	5	90	42	47
New Orleans	90	43	10	2	100	45	45
Morgantown	100	44	0	0	100	44	44
Washington, D.C.	110	62	45	5	155	67	43
Dallas	75	38	25	4	100	42	42
Cincinnati	120	48	0	1	120	49	41
Salt Lake City	135	57	15	5	150	62	41
San Diego	70	34	30	7	100	41	41
Detroit	185	72	15	5	200	77	39
Portland	95	37	0	0	95	37	39
Pittsburgh	165	62	10	4	175	66	38
Tidewater	120	46	0	0	120	46	38
Newark	240	101	60	10	300	111	37
Miami	75	29	15	3	90	32	36
Louisville	100	33	0	1	100	34	34
Manhattan	300	126	200	45	500	171	34
Toledo	60	20	0	0	60	20	33
Twin Cities	190	64	10	2	200	66	33
Baltimore	115	35	5	2	120	37	31
Brooklyn	300	109	100	15	400	124	31
Seattle	210	67	15	3	225	70	31
Albuquerque	60	22	20	2	80	24	30
San Antonio	60	20	30	6	90	26	29
Cleveland	100	34	30	3	130	37	28
Philadelphia	115	26	35	7	150	33	22
Chicago	300	60	50	5	350	65	19
Oakland	125	30	50	2	175	32	18
St. Louis	120	20	0	1	120	21	18
Los Angeles	200	53	150	6	350	59	17
Capital District	100	16	20	3	120	19	16
San Jose	100	10	50	7	150	17	11
Boston	210	17	40	0	250	17	7
San Francisco	100	9	100	0	200	9	5
Houston	105	3	35	0	140	3	2
Birmingham	50	0	0	0	50	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5540</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1270</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>6810</b>	<b>2182</b>	<b>32</b>
Miscellaneous		57		12	190	69	36
National Teams		88		7	1000	95	10
<b>TOTAL GOAL SHOULD BE</b>	<b>5540</b>	<b>2139 2152</b>	<b>1270</b>	<b>207 406</b>	<b>8000</b>	<b>2346 2558</b>	<b>29 32</b>



Hear the  
Socialist  
Workers  
candidates



## SAN DIEGO

Socialist Campaign Rally

Speakers:

Matilde Zimmermann, SWP candidate for vice-president

George Johnson, SWP candidate for Senate

Mark Friedman, SWP candidate for Congress, Forty-third District

Sunday, October 19

Dinner 7 p.m., Rally 8 p.m.

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Donation: \$3, \$2 rally only

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Speakers:

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Josefina Otero, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate

Rob Roper, SWP candidate for Congress, First District

Saturday, October 18

Dinner 6:30 p.m., Rally 8 p.m.

1243 E. McDowell

Donation: \$3.50 dinner

For more information call

(602) 255-0450

## Andrew Pulley

candidate for president

Oct. 10-12	Pittsburgh
Oct. 13	Morgantown, W. Va.
Oct. 16, 18	Detroit
Oct. 17	Toledo
Oct. 19-20	Cleveland
Oct. 22	Youngstown, Ohio
Oct. 24-25	Cincinnati

## Matilde Zimmermann

candidate for vice-president

Oct. 10-11	Dallas
Oct. 12-13	Houston
Oct. 14-15	Albuquerque
Oct. 17-18	Phoenix
Oct. 19-21	San Diego
Oct. 24-25	Los Angeles

For more information call the Socialist Workers Party branch nearest you. See the directory on page 27 for phone numbers and addresses.

Pulley &  
Zimmermann  
in 1980!

# Zimmermann: U.S. hands off Iran!

By Andy Rose

SAN ANTONIO—Matilde Zimmermann, the Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate, spoke out on the Iran-Iraq war October 5—the same day the Carter administration released word it had sent more air force personnel to Saudi Arabia, ostensibly to protect the advanced U.S. surveillance and combat control planes it moved in the week before.

The escalating U.S. presence is a step toward wider war and direct U.S. military intervention, Zimmermann charged.

She called for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. planes, troops, and warships from the Persian Gulf region.

The Mideast war, Zimmermann said, gives added importance to antidraft protests planned around the country for the week of October 12-18.

With Saudi Arabia backing the Iraqi invasion of Iran, she pointed out, Carter's move exposes his claimed neutrality in the war.

The Iraqi invasion bogged down, Zimmermann explained, because the Iranians are putting up fierce resistance. "They see this invasion as an attempt to crush their revolution and turn the clock back—and they are right."

Zimmermann noted that Shahpur Bakhtiar, the shah's last prime minister, has announced plans to set up a government in exile. Bakhtiar "said he had been assured of the support of more countries than just Iraq. I'll bet he has," Zimmermann continued, "and I'll bet that includes the support of the outfit that put the shah on the throne in 1953—the CIA."

Their aim, she said, is to install a regime in Iran that will be subservient to Washington and to the U.S. oil companies.



Matilde Zimmermann

Washington has a big problem, Zimmermann explained. It cannot convince the American people to go to war to install another shah or restore the control of the oil corporations.

So one of their goals in the current fighting is to portray the U.S. government as "a force for peace and progress in a violent, backward, fanatical world. This con job is aimed at the American people—the rest of the world knows from bitter experience that the U.S. government isn't a force for peace anywhere."

To hear Washington tell it, Zimmermann noted, "we had registration to avoid the draft. Next we'll have a draft to avoid war, followed by a war for peace."

Another theme of Washington's pro-

paganda, she said, is that military action may be necessary to protect "our" oil supplies. "If the U.S. ever starts bombing oilfields in the Middle East, you can be sure they will be doing it to make sure there is no disruption in the flow of oil."

All attempts to secure resources for the U.S. economy through military domination of the world and plunder by the U.S. corporations are, Zimmermann declared, doomed to fail.

The tide of history is running the other way. Oppressed peoples all over the world are rising up to rid themselves of U.S.-backed tyrants and assert control over their own destinies.

These revolutions are no threat to American workers and farmers, the socialist candidate said. The best way to assure that our energy needs are met would be to "get rid of the oil profiteers who are ripping off both the Mideast oil producers and the American public. We need to nationalize the oil companies and take away their power over us—the power to lie to us, bleed us for our last cent, and whip us up into such a panic that we go to war to protect their profits."

The Iraq-Iran war, Zimmermann said, actually makes it all that much clearer why the bipartisan attempt to reimpose the draft should be fought.

"This government wants young people to accept the draft because people with billions of dollars invested in other countries will sleep easier if Washington has a bigger, more combat-ready army to use against revolutionary movements that threaten their profits."

A better idea, Zimmermann said, was suggested on a bumper sticker she had seen: "Let's draft our patriotic oil barons and conserve our young men and women."

# SWP challenges Texas ballot ban

By Steve Marshall

SAN ANTONIO—"Matilde Zimmermann, the party's candidate for vice-president, Thursday charged [U.S. District Judge Fred] Shannon ruled in favor of oil profits, nuclear power, and right-to-work laws by denying the party's candidate a ballot position.

"She complained the judge's ruling will make it even more difficult for working people to participate in the elections and will strengthen 'the monopoly the parties of big business hold on the ballot.'"

That's how the San Antonio *Express* covered the October 2 protests here against the exclusion of the Socialist Workers Party from the November ballot. Judge Shannon's ruling had ended a three-day hearing in federal court the day before.

At a well-attended morning news conference, Zimmermann blasted Shannon's ruling as evidence that "the parties that rule Texas are determined to keep a working-class party off the ballot no matter how scrupulously we comply with the law."

That afternoon she and other socialist campaigners picketed the U.S. Courthouse. "Give Texans a choice—let the socialists run," they chanted.

The reasons behind the ruling, Zimmermann said, have nothing to do with the validity of the SWP's petition for ballot status. The 38,000 signatures the party turned in far surpassed the requirements of state law.

More important to Judge Shannon and the wealthy Texans he represents, he said, are the socialists' opposition to the draft and nuclear power and their call for nationalizing the oil industry.

Texas Secretary of State George Strake, whose decision Shannon's ruling upheld, is the owner of a Houston oil company.

Assistant Attorney General Lonny Zweiner confirmed this political motivation during the hearing when he blurted, "... and there are political

forces that would be very upset if these people were on the ballot!"

That was too blunt even for Judge Shannon, who shouted, "Time out!" and admonished the over-zealous counsel for the secretary of state to restrain himself.

The hearing revealed some of the methods used by the secretary of state to disqualify the socialists from the ballot. By upping the criteria for "validity" from those used in previous elections, he claimed to disqualify 202 signatures out of 389 in a "random sample."

"Imagine the uproar there would be if only one percent of the votes cast in the November presidential election were counted," the *Express* quoted Zimmermann as saying. She charged that Strake and Shannon have disenfranchised more than 38,000 people who want the SWP on the ballot.

Names in the random sample were disqualified because the signer had moved, or because the secretary of state's staff had miscopied them and looked up other, unregistered names, or because the signers had voted in the Democratic Party primary—although such signers were considered valid on petitions submitted by John Anderson's campaign.

But the strictest standard of all was set by Judge Shannon, who virtually rewrote the law in his ruling.

The Texas election law defines a properly submitted petition as "valid on its face" and places the burden of proof on the state to disprove its validity. But Judge Shannon reversed the legal presumption and placed the burden on the petitioners to prove a petition's validity if the secretary of state can find the slightest error in the voter registration number listed below a name.

These new standards were applied only to the SWP petitions, not to those of Anderson or the right-wing Libertarian Party. On the Libertarian petition,

for example, forty-seven of the first ninety names in the random sample contained some discrepancy of the type used to disqualify the SWP. But all were ruled valid.

At her news conference Zimmermann pointed out that it is the increasing popularity of the SWP's ideas that has raised the stakes for the Democrats and Republicans in fights over ballot access.

Malcolm Greenstein, attorney for the SWP, is preparing an appeal of Shannon's ruling. Meanwhile, the socialists are stepping up their campaigning.

Zimmermann, who attended the National Organization for Women convention here October 3-5, is now conducting a week and a half tour of the state that will take her to Austin, Dallas, and Houston.

"The Democrats and Republicans hope to prevent the people of Texas from hearing us," said Laura Garza, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress from the Twenty-third District. "But we will not be silenced."

"We will do even more to campaign for an end to deportations, for union rights in Texas, for bilingual education and school desegregation, against the draft, and for taking the billions now squandered on war and using them to provide jobs and social services."

"Hundreds of thousands of Texans have learned of the Socialist Workers Party because of our fight for ballot status," Garza said. "We aim to let them know just what we stand for and why the parties of the billionaires are violating their own election laws to keep us off the ballot."

Protest messages demanding the SWP be placed on the Texas ballot should be sent to Secretary of State George W. Strake, Jr., State Capitol, Austin, Texas 78711.

Copies of the messages and funds to help continue to publicize the ballot fight should be sent to Texas Fair Ballot Committee, P.O. Box 61678, Houston, Texas 77208.



# Socialists on ballot in more states than ever

By Vivian Sahner

The Socialist Workers Party 1980 campaign has just wrapped up its most successful ballot drive ever.

The SWP campaign ticket will appear in twenty-eight states plus the District of Columbia. In addition, suits are pending in California and Texas where the SWP has been ruled off the ballot. In Tennessee, North Carolina, Missouri, and Alabama, the SWP will be on the ballot for the first time. Throughout the country, petitioners found a new openness to socialist ideas and the SWP proposal for a labor party.

The SWP's new ballot status in the South reflects big changes there in the consciousness and combativity of Black and white workers. As attacks continue on the standard of living of southern workers, more and more the need to organize in unions and fight back is being discussed. The SWP is taking part in these developments and since the 1976 presidential campaign has established new SWP branches in Tidewater, Virginia; Birmingham, Alabama; Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Miami, Florida; and Louisville, Kentucky.

During the ballot drive more than 600,000 pieces of campaign literature were distributed. This is no small accomplishment. As Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers candidate for president, points out, "Every time Reagan gets on a horse or Carter goes to church it's reported on television as a campaign event. But when I talked to 5,000 people demonstrating against the draft it's not covered."

"Many working people who never would have known about the socialist alternative in 1980 learned about the SWP ticket through the ballot drive."

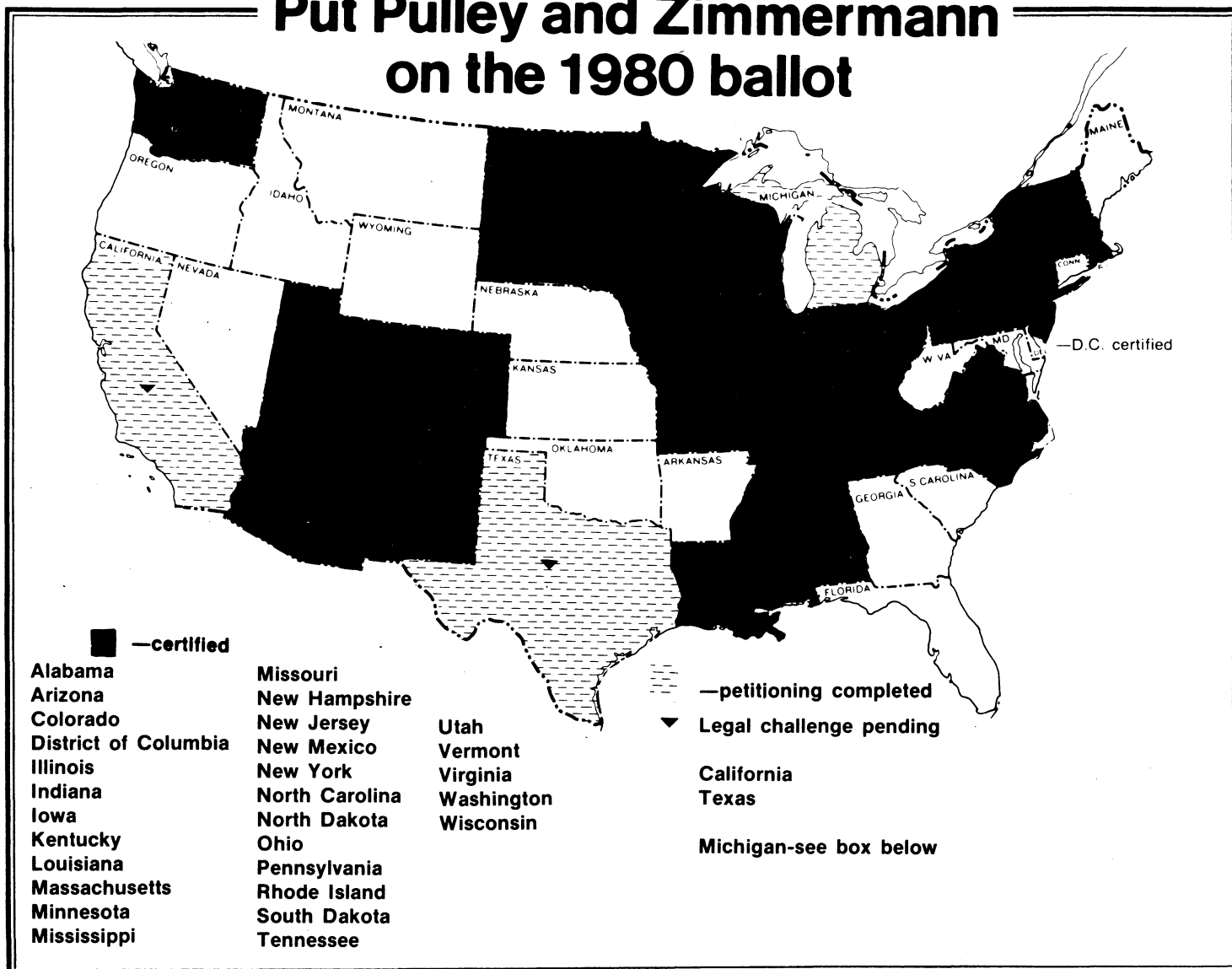
Many of the people who met SWP campaign supporters liked what they heard and signed ballot petitions. Holbrook Mahn, national SWP ballot director, reports that in every single state signatures for the ballot requirements were collected at a faster rate than in 1976.

The Democrats and Republicans, as usual, were not any more eager to have a democratic election this fall. Even after the SWP surpassed official requirements, several states are attempting to keep the SWP off the ballot.

In Missouri, however, campaign supporters gathered 33,000 signatures, far in excess of the 18,000 required, collected support statements from civil rights and labor leaders, and forced the state to back down and give the SWP ballot status.

This is the first time ever that the SWP has gained statewide ballot status in Missouri. And it is the first time in twenty-eight years that any socialist has done so.

## Put Pulley and Zimmermann on the 1980 ballot



## SWP undemocratically kept off Mich. ballot

By Susie Berman

This year the state of Michigan has kept the Socialist Workers Party off the ballot. Michigan Public Act 94 requires all third parties to collect 18,000 signatures in order to qualify for a special small-party primary. Only those parties receiving 4,000 votes in the primary are allowed on the general election ballot.

This law is totally undemocratic and is aimed at keeping socialist parties out of the elections. The SWP filed a lawsuit challenging Public Act 94 in April. The courts have long established that petitioning is the best test to determine public support for ballot status. The SWP has shown this in Michigan through petitioning and get-

ting on the ballot every election but one since 1948. This year the party turned in more than 27,000 signatures and received 800 votes in the primary election. However, with the primary requirement, this was not enough.

The Libertarians, Anderson, and the Citizens Party were able to meet the 4,000 vote requirement.

The Communist Party did not run in the small-party primary and instead filed suit to get the courts to rule Gus Hall and Angela Davis on the ballot as independent candidates. Eugene McCarthy was able to get on the ballot this way in 1976 since there is no provision in the law for independents.

The court ruled the CP candidates on the ballot on August 20.

Following this ruling, the SWP candidates filed a similar suit, but were undemocratically and arbitrarily denied similar ballot status.

While the SWP will not be on the ballot here this year, the fight is not over. The Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to hear an appeal on the SWP challenge to Public Act 94 in January 1981. This continues to be an important fight in the ongoing struggle to democratize the elections and give working people the right to hear and vote for socialists in the elections.

The Michigan SWP has not let the ballot setback stop them from campaigning for socialism. Andrew Pulley, SWP presidential candidate, will be touring the Detroit area October 16-18.

## Calif. SWP: 'Brown wants to suppress our ideas'

By Bobbie Bagel

SAN DIEGO—Supporters of Mark Friedman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress from the Forty-third District, have produced a videotape that they plan to use in the next few weeks to help publicize the ideas that California Gov. Edmund Brown is trying to suppress. Brown has undemocratically ruled the SWP

off the 1980 state ballot.

The SWP turned in 153,000 signatures for its presidential ticket and senatorial candidate. These signatures far surpassed the state requirement of 101,000. In spite of overwhelming evidence of fraud on the part of state officials, a superior court judge refused September 12 to put the socialists on the ballot. The case is being appealed to the California State Supreme Court.

In San Diego, SWP campaign supporters collected 18,000 signatures to put Friedman on the ballot. The requirement was 11,000.

On the videotape, Friedman appeals for support:

"There is a political reason why the Brown administration is trying to keep us off the ballot. That is because we are challenging the Ku Klux Klanner who has emerged in Brown's own Democratic Party. Brown wants to silence our campaign for a labor party based on the unions to challenge big-business politicians like him."

Friedman supporters volunteered their time and effort to produce the

film.

The videotape will be shown on two cable TV stations, Channel 16 and Channel 24, every Thursday evening at 9:00 p.m. until election day.

Campaign supporters also plan to use the twenty-minute film around the state to aid the California ballot fight.

Those who see it will hear Friedman review the history of the Ku Klux Klan. He explains how the Klan tarred and feathered union organizers in the South and murdered civil rights activists in the 1950s and 1960s.

Friedman points out that the FBI has shielded Klan members from arrest and prosecution in the past, just as they are doing today in Greensboro, North Carolina, where Klanners murdered five protesters last November.

The film shows Thomas Metzger, the Klan-Democrat who Friedman is opposing in the congressional race. Metzger answers a question about undocumented workers at a candidates' night meeting:

"I am going to tell you that we are entering into the twenty-first century.

Times have changed. This is a new day. We must maintain full production. We must maintain charity, beginning with charity at home for our own people. Why do we have to bring everyone over here? This country has shown a fine example. Why don't they try it where they are at, and then they won't need to come here."

Friedman replies to the same question: "I support full rights for undocumented workers. Every working person, every person searching for work, has the right to come to this country. Undocumented workers are the victims of the same corporations, the same big growers that are victimizing you and me and all working people."

"What we need is solidarity between white workers, Black workers, Chicano workers. It is the big corporations that have laid off thousands of auto and steel and other workers, not the undocumented workers."

The videotape shows footage of a violent Klan attack on an antiracist demonstration in Oceanside, Calif.

Continued on page 23

### Your help needed

Help protest the undemocratic exclusion of the Socialist Workers Party from the California ballot.

Protest telegrams should be sent to Gov. Edmund Brown, State Capitol, Sacramento, California 95814. Send copies to the California Socialist Workers 1980 Campaign Committee, 2864 Telegraph, Oakland, California 94609 and to the SWP Presidential Campaign Committee, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014.

**'He has some good ideas'**

## Pulley campaigns at Brooklyn's Navy Yard

By Robert Dees

NEW YORK—Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, greeted workers outside the Brooklyn Navy Yard during their lunch break on Friday, October 3.

While shaking hands with the shipbuilders, he explained what his priorities as president of the United States would be.

"First," Pulley said, "affirmative action in all industries to overcome past race and sex discrimination. And second, to ensure full employment by cutting the workweek, to spread the work around, with no cut in pay.

"We would follow the example of the revolutionary government in Grenada. We would tax the rich to provide money for hospitals, education, and other social services."

"How do we achieve these goals? This is a super-rich country, militarily and ideologically," a welder said.

Pulley responded, "The real strength of the country lies in the working class. The workers and farmers produce everything that exists in this society. Right now, we're being manipulated in the interests of the ruling rich, but as soon as workers become conscious of our own interests, and organize to defend them, there isn't anything the working class can't do."

Another worker, waving a socialist campaign brochure, asked, "When you say a labor party, what do you mean? What about Poland?"

Pulley answered, "The Polish workers raised the slogan, 'We must be masters of the factories.' The labor party in this country would be a tool for fighting to make the working class masters of society."

Many of the workers at the Brooklyn Navy Yard come from the Caribbean, and several stopped to talk with Pulley about their countries. A worker from Grenada asked, "Why didn't Grenada get help from the U.S. when the U.S. government helped Poland?"

"The American rulers don't help workers anywhere," Pulley responded. "The Polish workers are fighting for more socialism, not less. The U.S. bosses are lying about the aims of the Polish workers, just like they've been lying by claiming U.S. government support for that struggle. As for Grenada, the U.S. government helped

former dictator Eric Gairy, not the people."

A burner from the Dominican Republic said, "Fidel got a break from the Yankees when they didn't invade. I doubt the U.S. imperialists will let this happen again. In my country, groups have tried to fight, but the U.S. has crushed them. Is revolution still possible?"

"Look at Grenada and Nicaragua," Pulley said. "Countries fighting to be free must get the support of the U.S. working class. U.S. imperialism

doesn't act in a vacuum. It must now face the antiwar feeling in this country."

On the way back to the ship after our lunch break, I asked a Black carpenter who works on the same ship what he thought of Pulley.

"He has some good ideas, but it's going to take a lot of work," he said.

I asked if he would like to see a socialist government.

"Well, the way things are going, you've got to try something."

The company refused to allow Pulley to tour the yard and talk to the workers at their work places. However, Democratic presidential candidate Carter is scheduled to visit the yard next Friday, when work will stop and we will be paid to go listen to Carter's speech. Back on the ship that afternoon, I pointed this out to a co-worker. He snorted and said, "Well, you know why they want Carter in here. Montanti [the owner of the company] flew down to Washington this week to put in a bid on an aircraft carrier."

## Auto workers talk jobs and layoffs

By Vivian Sahner

EDISON, N.J.—On October 3 Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, campaigned at the Ford Metuchen plant where members of United Auto Workers Local 980 are producing Ford's new subcompact, the Escort.

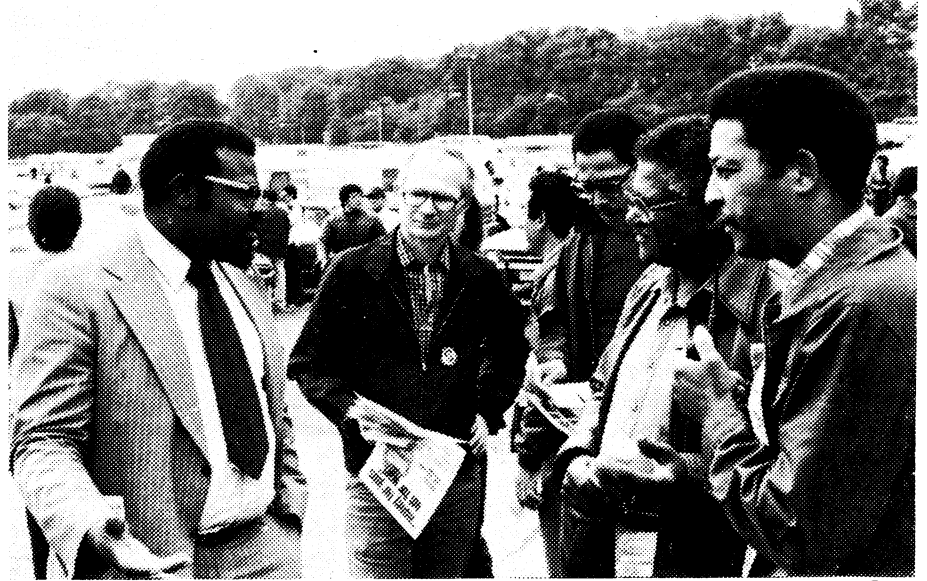
Many of the people who took campaign material and stopped on the way into work told Pulley that they'd been out of work all summer, and off and on before that.

"It feels good to get a regular paycheck again, but we're already starting overtime and then our PPHs [Paid Personal Holidays] were taken away," said one. "It's crazy. Either it's no work, or too much work, and you never know what's next."

Several workers Pulley spoke with used to work at the New Jersey Mahwah plant, which Ford shut down last June.

"It's like the steel mill where I worked," Pulley said. "You work overtime and right next door other steelworkers are out on the street. There's no reason for that except the greed of U.S. Steel and Ford."

"Instead of having to work fifty-eight hours a week, we should demand that Ford hire back the Mahwah workers and spread around the work," he added. "A minimum of forty hours' pay a week should be guaranteed so that



Workers at Ford's Metuchen, N.J., plant talked with Pulley and Jon Britton, center, SWP candidate for Congress in New Jersey.

every new schedule by management doesn't threaten our next rent check."

Two days earlier President Carter toured Ford's other plant producing the Escort, in Flint, Michigan. Amid high words of praise for Ford, he said "my heart goes out" to the 20,000 auto workers out of work in Flint.

Not too many Metuchen workers were impressed. They knew Carter never lifted a finger to keep Mahwah open.

"Carter and Reagan don't represent us. We need a labor party, a party based on the trade unions. We put more into these plants than anyone else," Pulley said. "We should organize like the workers in Poland. They say, 'No more decisions about us, without us,' and I think they're right."

"That's the thing," a chassis line assembler answered, and he took a leaflet for the Newark socialist campaign rally.

## Media polls voters on socialist candidate

Andrew Pulley's news conference in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, drew a good response. He blasted the hidden U.S. role in the Iraqi invasion of Iran, which had just begun, and praised the high vote in Maine the day before for shutting down the state's nuclear power plant.

Pulley also criticized, as he often does, the lack of genuine democracy in the elections. Citing unequal treatment by the media, he said most people didn't even know he was running.

WHP-TV decided to test out that claim, we learned as we watched the news that evening.

After showing a short segment on Pulley explaining why workers need their own representatives in government, the station switched to person-in-the-street interviews.

"Have you ever heard of Andrew Pulley?" the reporter asked several passers-by.

Sure enough, nobody had.

The final person shown was asked by the reporter, "Would you vote for him? He's the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president of the United States." With just enough extra emphasis on the word *socialist* to make you wonder if she expected or hoped to provoke a negative answer.

But the man being interviewed just shrugged. "I don't know. I'd have to find out what he stands for."

Naturally, that's why the media don't give anything approaching equal coverage to what the SWP candidates stand for.

They know people would listen.

Fact is, of course, the media have been much less able to ignore the socialist campaign this year than in the past.

Pulley's campaign swing through the Boston area was reported by the Boston

Globe, among others. Their story began:

"The Socialist Workers Party, which wants to supplant the capitalistic system of the United States with a government run by the workers, has come up with a campaign pitch that has a Madison Avenue ring:

"Working people keep the country running; working people should run the country."

Terming Pulley the "long-odds candidate," the *Globe* listed his positions for a labor party, for nationalization of the energy industry, against racist violence, and against the U.S.-backed attack on Iran.

The story went on: "Pulley had some unkind words for Boston Mayor Kevin H. White's refusal to approve funds for teacher pay raises while accepting a \$25,000 raise for himself. 'There's no need for this exorbitant level of increase for government functionar-

ies,' he said. 'The job is no more important than the work any blue-collar worker or teacher performs.'

"Pulley says that most of his campaigning is done at plant gates, and that in talking to workers across the country he has found anger with 'city governments . . . tightening our belts while the banks collect their interest on municipal bonds from our taxes.

"The authorities always find the money they want when it comes to their personal comfort and paying the bankers. I say refuse to pay the bankers."

Could it be a government disruption plot?

Andrew Pulley had barely started speaking to a small meeting of students at Baltimore's Morgan State University when bells started clanging incessantly. Fire drill!

We dutifully trooped out-

side, our campaign event broken up.

Hundreds of students were milling around waiting for the drill to end. Pulley started talking again and soon a sizable crowd gathered around, listening and firing questions at the candidate.

What could be done about school funding cutbacks? Where did he stand on the CIA? What about the plight of the elderly?

Then we got word that one teacher had brought his whole class—about fifty students—out to hear Pulley.

The discussion went on for an hour. When it ended, sixteen students had signed up to get more information about the Young Socialist Alliance.

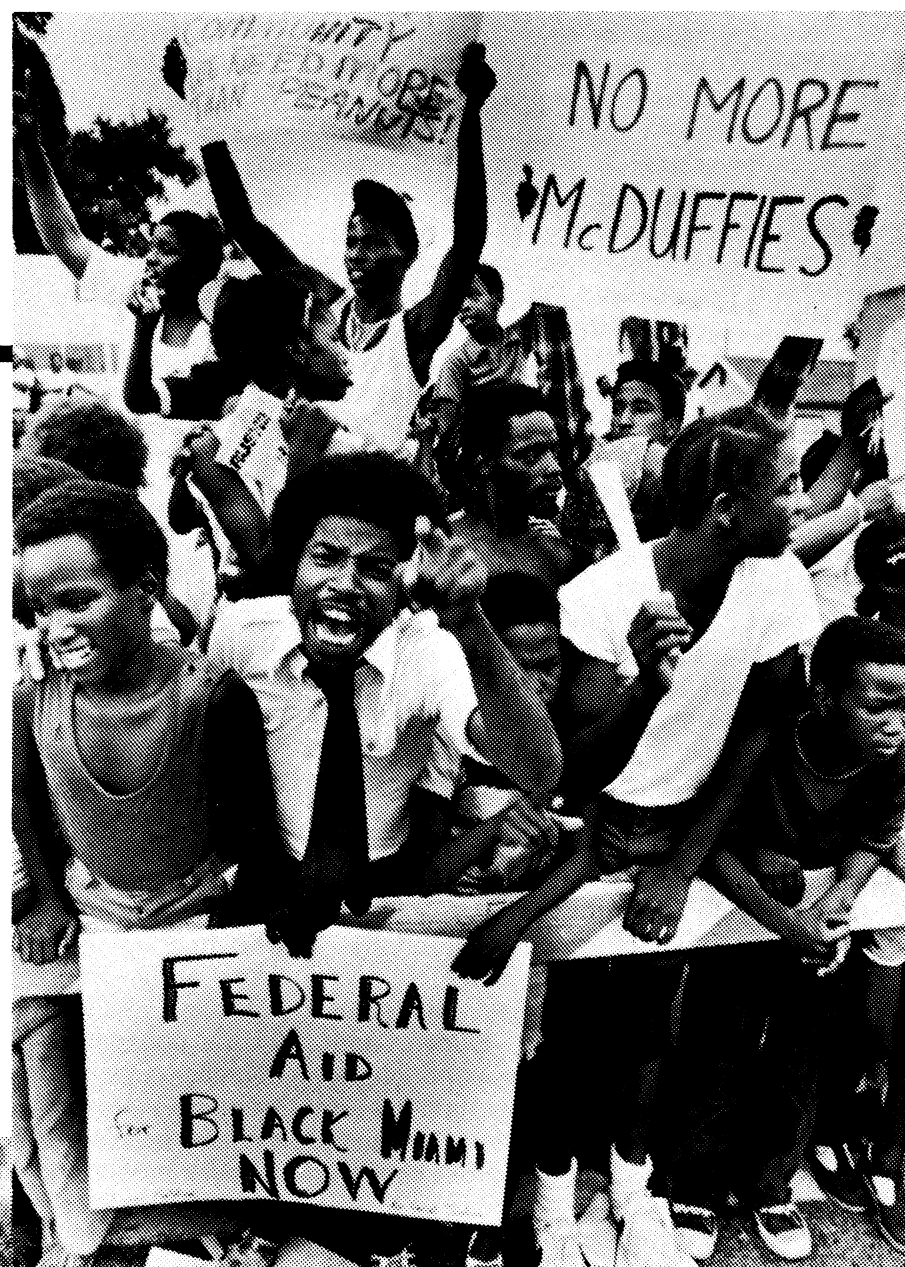
So maybe the fire drill was just a coincidence. In any case, it ended up another plus for the socialist campaign.

—Andy Rose



# international **socialist** review

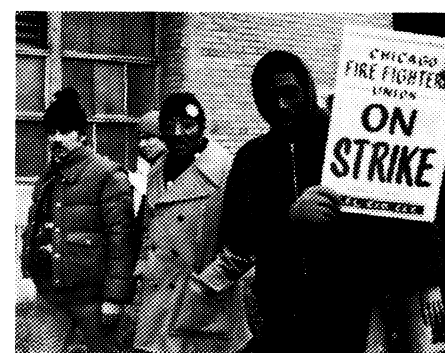
## Black America



## and the World

## Revolution

By Maceo Dixon



# THE MONTH IN REVIEW

## What Iraq's invasion of Iran is about

The Iraqi regime's invasion of Iran has brought death and destruction to both peoples.

Bitter fighting has led to many military and civilian casualties.

The oil industry, on which both countries heavily depend, has been crippled.

In Iran, the cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan have been shattered by artillery fire and house-to-house fighting. And many villages in the Iranian province of Khuzestan have been devastated.

The Iraqi economy is taking a beating. In addition to the near-shutdown of ports and oil installations, the country's petrochemical, cement, and power plants—key to prospects for industrialization—have been hit hard.

Damage to both countries will take many years to repair. And lost lives can never be restored.

What caused this war between two regimes which are widely regarded as radical and anti-imperialist?

The *New York Times'* Richard Burt had a ready answer October 7. Iran and Iraq are "crazy states," he suggested. Basing himself on the writings of an Israeli professor, he suggested that wars between such "crazy states" increasingly threaten world peace.

This theory pictures the U.S. and Israeli governments as peaceful characters who need to use force to put these lunatics under restraint.

This kind of racist propaganda aims to keep us from thinking about the real causes of the war, which have nothing to do with irrationality on either side.

For decades the Middle East has been dominated by the big U.S., British, and French oil companies. These firms no longer directly own the wells. But they manage oil fields, and ship, process, sell, and distribute the product. The lions' share of profit goes to them, too. The rest usually ends up being invested in and controlled by U.S. banks.

Wherever possible, the oil companies have tried to keep in power reactionary governments that guard their special interests against the majority of the people, who live in miserable poverty. That's why the U.S. government has supported monarchies in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates—and in Iran, until the shah fell.

Such governments are slavishly subservient to Washington.

Other governments, like the one in Iraq, act more independently. But their capitalist rulers benefit from the same backward and oppressive social structure that big oil profits from.

You can imagine how these rulers—along with big oil and the Carter administration over here—were shaken up when the Iranian masses ended the shah's reign in February 1979.

Washington and big oil were hostile to the revolution from the start. Carter even sent a

U.S. general to Tehran with orders to organize a military coup to prevent the shah's fall. He failed because the army ranks themselves joined the revolt.

The media presents the Iranian revolution as an outbreak of religious fanaticism because the government and the masses say they are carrying out an Islamic revolution.

But it's not religion that has the kings of Saudi Arabia and Jordan and the sultans of Kuwait and Oman on edge.

It's the gains that the Iranian people have made.

The monarchy was abolished.

The people won the right to vote, to speak out, to demonstrate, and to organize—rights that were completely suppressed under the shah.

Thousands of anti-shah political prisoners were released. SAVAK, the Iranian secret police organized by the CIA, was abolished. The torturers and hangmen of the shah began to be tried and punished.

Peasants began dividing the lands of the big agricultural barons. Schools and other public services began to be established in many rural districts—for the first time in many villages.

Throughout the country factory workers began organizing committees to fight for their interests on issues of wages, health, safety, housing and production priorities. Such committees spread throughout the countryside and were being established in the army.

Wages were doubled for most industrial workers.

The distribution of food and other necessities to the poor of the cities began.

The Kurdish, Azerbaijani, and Arab nationalities—brutally repressed under decades of monarchy—made gains in the struggle to run their own affairs.

Instead of being a main ally of the racist South African and Israeli regimes, as the shah was, the new government broke relations with both.

U.S. military and spy bases were dismantled, and 40,000 U.S. military personnel—who had trained and organized the shah's brutal army—went home.

These gains were achieved and maintained by the constant mobilizations of millions of Iranians—and despite the efforts of the government, overseen by Khomeini, to slow down, contain, or even reverse the mass upsurge.

These mobilizations have made the masses of the whole Persian Gulf region look to Iran as an inspiration.

Washington and the big oil companies probed for ways to weaken the revolution. David Rockefeller, of the Chase Manhattan Bank, asked Carter to bring the shah here last November—provoking the embassy takeover. The Carter administration launched an unsuccessful raid on Iran in April. (The plans included major air strikes against Tehran.)

In July a military coup plot was uncovered, which included Iraqi air strikes as a diversion. Washington did not deny charges that it was involved.

And Washington imposed a tight economic blockade on Iran.

Washington's hostility to the Iranian revolution is why it started sending arms to Iraq last year, as a border conflict between the Baghdad regime and Iran was re-opening.

That's why Washington provides U.S. planes and personnel to the Saudi Arabian monarchy, which supports the Iraqi regime. That's why Carter sends arms to Jordan, whose king has all but declared war on Iran.

That's why U.S. warships threaten to occupy the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz—presently being kept open by the Iranian navy.

That's why Washington never condemned the Iraqi regime's aggression or suggested that Iraq should withdraw its troops from Iran.

Contrast that with Washington's yells when Vietnam sent troops to topple the Pol Pot government in Kampuchea; and when the Kremlin sent soldiers to keep the Afghan government in power.

The military dictatorship of President Saddam Hussein in Iraq has recently drawn nearer to Washington. It is frightened by the appeal of the Iranian revolution to millions of Iraqi workers and poor farmers. And its hostility to Tehran has matched Washington's.

Hussein wants to act as guardian to the Persian Gulf monarchies against the spread of revolution from Iran. Since Washington can't yet send its own troops for this purpose, it has no objection—provided Hussein can pull it off.

Hussein has given bases, radio stations, arms, and other support to Iranian forces seeking to restore a regime like that of the shah in Tehran. They are headed by Gen. Gholam Oveissi, one of the shah's most brutal commanders, and Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar, the shah's last prime minister.

Oveissi shuttles between his camps on the Iraqi side of the border with Iran, Baghdad, and Washington.

"Bakhtiar has made at least six trips to Iraq, at least one on an Iraqi government plane," the October 6 *New York Daily News* reported. The shah's family and friends have also "contributed at least \$7 million to a war chest for Bakhtiar." Bakhtiar has visited the shah's widow and "crown prince" Reza in Cairo, Egypt.

The "crown prince" plans to proclaim himself shah later this month, and Bakhtiar has announced plans to form a provisional government.

Bakhtiar and Oveissi plan to launch an exile invasion of Iran from Iraq.

President Hussein has made no secret of the fact that the ultimate goal of his invasion is the overthrow of Khomeini and the restoration of forces like these to power. Territorial claims take second place.

The political goals of the Iraqi regime and the allies it has attracted—the most reactionary forces in the region—show that its invasion is a *counterrevolutionary war against the Iranian revolution*.

The Iraqi invasion is in the interests of U.S. big business, regardless of whether Washington and Wall Street were consulted or considered it advisable.

That is why the Iranian people have united in a stirring way to hold back the invaders. That is why the oppressed Kurdish, Azerbaijani, and Arab nationalities have joined in the fight—despite many grievances against the Tehran government. There is a war in defense of the revolution.

That is why there is no indication that Hussein's war is popular with the Iraqi masses, who are among its innocent victims. They have no interest in fighting their Iranian brothers and sisters. They have an interest in making a revolution at home like the one that has been begun by Iran's workers and farmers.

And that is why working people around the world should stand shoulder to shoulder with the Iranian working people in their fight.

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**International  
Socialist  
Review**

Editor: Fred Feldman  
Contributing Editor: George Novack

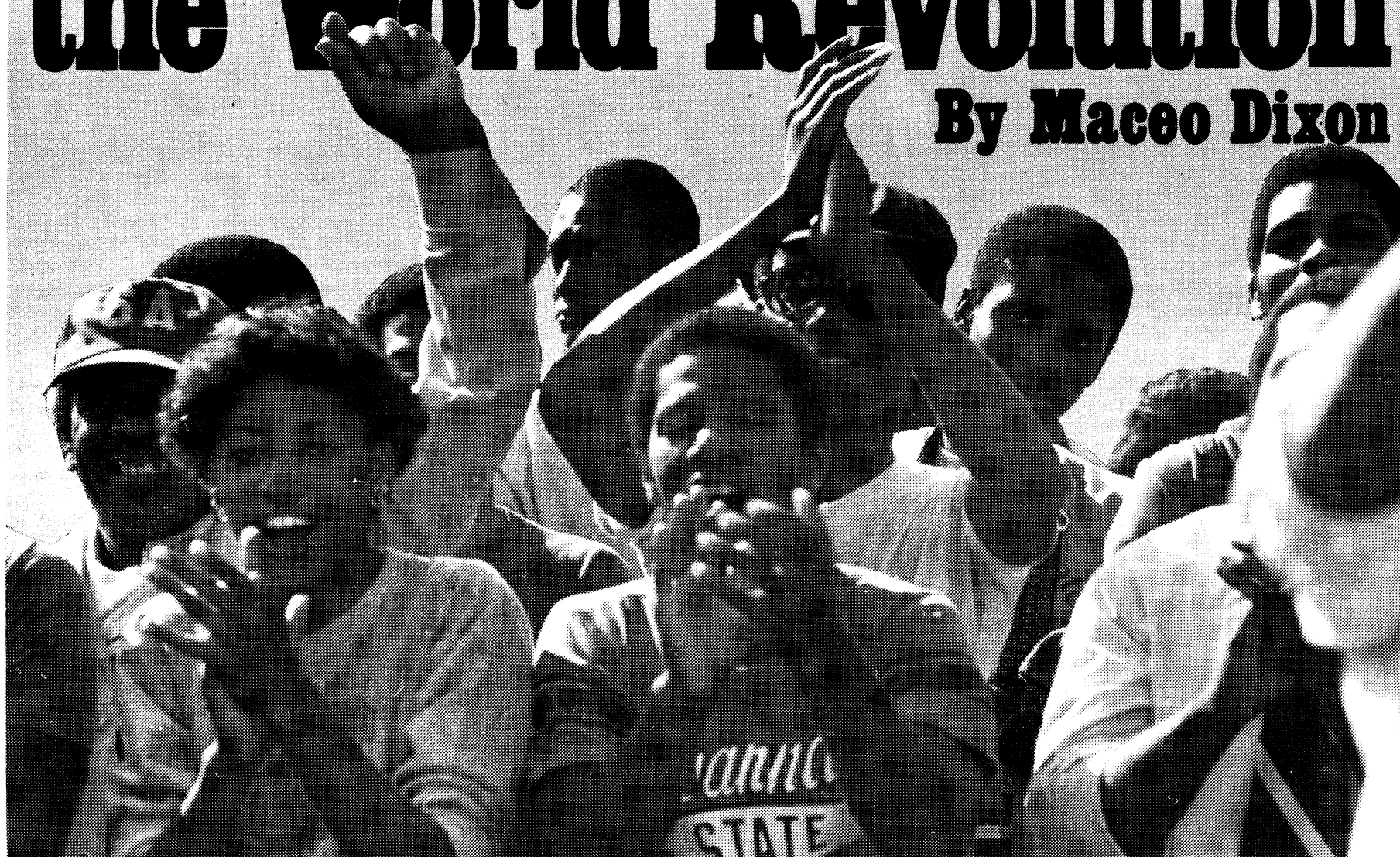
The *International Socialist Review* appears in the *Militant* monthly except January.

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# Black America and the World Revolution

By Maceo Dixon

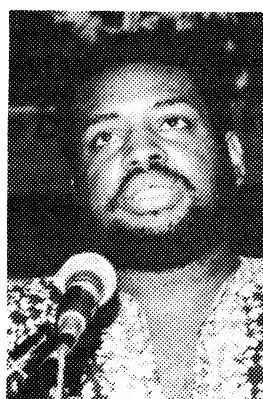


September 29: Black College Day demonstration in Washington protested cutbacks.

Militant/Osborne Hart

The following is an edited version of a talk given by Maceo Dixon to the Socialist Educational and Activists Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, August 2-9.

Dixon, a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee, is now attending the party's leadership school.



One of the distinguishing features of the Black movement in the past year has been the greater role Blacks have played in international politics.

First, we saw Black leaders intervening in the political situation in the Middle East. Leaders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Jesse Jackson of Operation PUSH went to the Mideast to visit the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

The American government didn't like that. Washington said, "This doesn't concern Blacks." What they were really saying was that this doesn't concern the working class. Blacks were getting involved in foreign policy. And it was an example for the rest of the working class to set its own foreign policy—a policy that would be in the interests of workers.

## Blacks and Iran

Second was the situation in Iran. When President Carter tried to whip up anti-Iranian, racist hysteria, when the hostages were taken, he couldn't get anything going in the Black community.

When racists put up signs in restaurants and gas stations and other places saying, "No Iranians or dogs allowed," this reminded Blacks of the "No niggers or dogs allowed" days of the Jim Crow South. And that wasn't going over.

Then Ayatollah Khomeini released the women and Black hostages. And you could actually hear cheers go up in the Black community in America.

Some Black misleaders like Andrew Young

attacked the move. Young said it was a cynical action. Well, I don't know about Andrew Young, but when those Blacks and women were released, I said that was one of the best damn affirmative actions I've ever seen.

There have been a number of U.S. delegations to Iran that returned and denounced the crimes of the shah. Delegations independent of the government. In almost every delegation, there have been Blacks. Again, Blacks involved in foreign policy.

Then the revolution in Grenada began. The Rev. Herbert Daughtry, head of the New York-based National Black United Front, visited Grenada recently. He said he liked what he saw there. He felt that some of the things that Blacks in Grenada have, Blacks in New York City should have.

## Grenada

During July 14-19 Operation PUSH held its national convention in New Orleans. One of the international guests invited to speak was a representative from the revolutionary Grenadian government. A woman, Dessima Williams, Grenadian ambassador to the Organization of American States, spoke.

Among the things she told the delegates at the convention was that the history of Grenada "is one founded on colonial exploitation and continual resistance." She said, "our history is not too different from that of the people in the United States."

She called for the extension of the revolution throughout the Caribbean and the world. She called for the defense of the workers and peasants in El Salvador. And she extended an invitation from Prime Minister Maurice Bishop to Jesse Jackson to visit Grenada. This sets a very powerful example. The meaning of the fact that a representative of a government that has a proletarian internationalist outlook spoke at a PUSH convention has yet to be fully absorbed.

All this points to how we must look at the Black struggle today—as part of the international class struggle. The Black struggle is affected by and is part of the big forces that are clashing on a world scale—by the struggles between the masses of workers, farmers, and

peasants on the one hand and imperialism and capitalism on the other.

Over the past half decade, imperialism has faced grave setbacks in the colonial world. This began with the historic victory of the Vietnamese masses against the United States imperialists in 1975. This made a big impact on the oppressed and exploited internationally. Since then, imperialism has been set back in Iran, Kampuchea, Nicaragua, Grenada, and El Salvador. It has been shaken by the events in Zimbabwe, South Korea, and South Africa. And revolutionary Cuba continues to combat imperialism in an uncompromising manner.

Because of the antiwar sentiment that grew up among the American working masses during and after Vietnam, Washington has been unable to use American ground troops to push back these revolts and revolutions. The antiwar sentiment of the American working people has been a crucial factor in the successes of the colonial revolution.

Through the printed and electronic media, these events have been brought into the living rooms of the American people. This in itself has made an impact on the consciousness of the working class. Seeing freedom fighters in Iran, Nicaragua, and South Korea stand up to bloody dictators backed by the U.S. government has reinforced the antiwar sentiment of the American people.

## Blacks and World Politics

The rebellions in Miami and Chattanooga show that the fight for Black liberation is part of the international struggle against imperialism. This was shown again when large numbers of Black youth, and youth in general, refused to register for the draft.

The Black struggle is tied to the international situation in another way. Like masses of working and oppressed people throughout the world, American workers are victims of the world-wide economic crisis. This has brought us two big recessions in less than a decade, plant closings, layoffs, growing unemployment, inflation, and cutbacks in social spending. All this is having a devastating effect on the Black community.

Because of racial oppression, the twin evils of





From Washington to streets of Los Angeles, racists are seeking to stop the use of busing to achieve educational equality.

Militant/Jon Hillson



When New York Mayor Koch moved to shut down Sydenham Hospital, he faced an explosion of Black protest.

Militant/Wells

inflation and unemployment are hitting Blacks the hardest. Blacks entered the present recession without ever having a chance to recover from the previous 1974-75 recession. The number of jobless Black adult women and teenagers is higher today than what it was during the 1974-75 recession.

An Urban League report released in 1979 pointed out: "Historically, the economic advances that Blacks made during periods of prosperity have been set back by repeated cycles of recessions. Most Americans fail to realize that during the past 25 years this nation has had at least five recessions: 1953-54, 1957-58, 1960-61, 1969-71 and 1974-75. Before Blacks had a chance to recover from one of them they were subjected to another. Thus, Blacks are still reeling from the cumulative effects of one quarter century of recessions."

#### Unemployment

In the present recession the official overall unemployment is about 8 percent. Official figures on Black unemployment are at least twice that, and in many cities Black youth unemployment is many times that figure. The number of Black families living in poverty has increased, and the income gap between Black and white families continues to widen. The jobless rate for Black college graduates is about the same as that of white high school dropouts. This is a horrible state of affairs.

And what is the government doing about it? They are dealing us more attacks, more cutbacks in government spending, asking us to tighten our belts even more.

Let me give two examples. The first one: the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, known as CETA. CETA was originally devised to ease the impact of the 1974-75 recession. In the period of 1977-78 it created 700,000 jobs. This past June the Senate passed Carter's budget for 1981 that would provide only 350,000 jobs through CETA.

The second: after the Miami rebellion the Carter administration rushed to provide some

summer jobs for the unemployed. The White House said it was allotting \$96 million for 32,000 summer jobs for thirty-one cities. This includes \$12 million for New York City for 5,000 jobs; \$13 million for Detroit for 2,000 jobs; \$9 million for Chicago for 4,000 jobs, and so on. And there are over 8 million people unemployed in the U.S. This is nothing but a joke, a cruel hoax for the poor and unemployed, white and Black.

We also see affirmative-action gains being wiped out. Recently the *Wall Street Journal* ran an article entitled "Women and Minorities Lose Ground in Slump." They explain, "Many employers who made special efforts to place these workers in jobs that were once the exclusive preserve of white males are facing a tough question: As business slumps who gets laid off first?"

"Increasingly, the answer is 'last in, first out.'"

What are the prospects for a struggle against these attacks? Can we expect to see a revival of Black struggles similar to those of the 1960s? How can working people in general deal with the economic crisis?

To answer these questions, once again, it is necessary to look at the broader international context. We should look at how the class struggle is evolving in the world and in this country, and examine the differences between what is happening now and what happened in the 1960s.

Take for example the recent rebellions in Miami and elsewhere. In the last four months there have been quite a few major Black urban rebellions in the United States. There have been two in Miami; one in Tampa, Florida; one in Key West, Florida; one in Flint, Michigan; two in Wichita, Kansas; one in a major city in Oklahoma; one in Chattanooga; and one in Orlando, Florida. Ten rebellions in four months. And the rulers are working overtime trying to keep people from understanding the full extent and meaning of these Miamis.

Let's compare the rebellions this summer with those that occurred twelve or thirteen years ago

in the late '60s. The general conditions that lead to the rebellions of today and yesterday are the same: unemployment, bad housing, poor education, police brutality, lack of transportation, the poor quality of life, and generalized racism. The sparks that ignited these explosive conditions are the same as well: a violent attack against the Black community by police or right-wingers, or a blatant act of injustice.

The rebellions in both Watts and Detroit in the 1960s were responses to police brutality. The rebellions in 1968 were in response to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Today it's the same. The first Miami explosion was a protest against the travesty of justice around the cop-slaying of a Black man, Arthur McDuffie. In Flint, it was the result of a police shooting of a Black youth. In Chattanooga it was against the Klan. And it was police brutality in other cities.

#### Rebellions Then and Now

Now, let's look at the differences. The rebellions of the 1960s came toward the end of a long period of struggle for Black liberation. They came toward the end of the mass civil rights movement that toppled Jim Crow segregation. The rebellions of the '60s were mainly centered in the industrial heartlands of the North, East, and West. Along with the lack of progress in ending racist oppression in the North, the rebellions were fueled as people watched TV reports of Blacks being attacked and brutalized by police and racists for opposing segregation in the South.

During this whole period of struggle—from the late 1950s through the early 1970s—the American labor movement did almost nothing to aid the Black struggle. In some instances the labor officialdom even campaigned against Black demands for such things as affirmative action.

The economic situation in this country was different too. During the terms of President Kennedy and Johnson, there was an expansion of American capitalism internationally, part of



Thousands marched against Klan and Nazi killers in Greensboro, North Carolina, on February 2.

Militant/Lou Howort

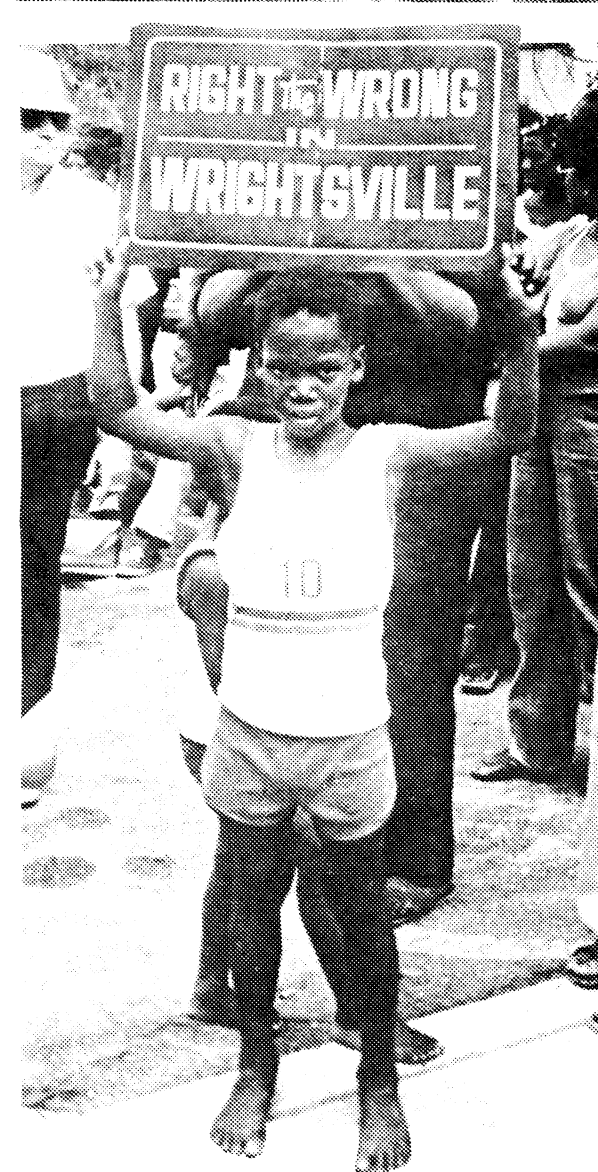


Top, Black won about 600 people last June. Bottom, fire fighters.





Klan terrorist unit trains in Alabama. Above, Klansman sports new headgear.



are fighting their way into industrial jobs. Center, protested racist injustice in Wrightsville, Georgia, Black, labor solidarity assured victory of Chicago

the longest economic boom in capitalist world history. It was during this time that jobs expanded and various social welfare programs were won.

It's a different story today. There is no capitalist expansion, only stagnation and degeneration, double-digit inflation and unemployment. Two recessions in five years. A state of depression for a whole generation of Blacks. And there are and will be no significant concessions to Blacks. *Not at all!*

#### What They Yielded

What concessions did the rulers make to Blacks following the 1960s rebellions? There was the so-called war on poverty. Massive amounts of federal money went into poverty programs in the Black communities. Most of which never reached the Black masses.

Masses of Black youth who had just left high school were given tickets to the college of their choice. They were given what I call "ghetto college grants." College grants just to get them off the streets. All you needed was a high school diploma and a desire to go to college. You didn't have to know nothing, because it was a two-way ticket. Once you got there you were usually on your way back: because of racism and inadequate education to prepare you and no funds to continue your schooling.

The industrial capitalists responded the same way. After the 1967 rebellion in Detroit there was a massive propaganda campaign by Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler about hiring the so-called hard-core inner city unemployed. So the "big three" hired some Blacks. These workers would work eighty-five, eighty-six, eighty-seven days. Just before their ninety-day probation was up, the company would kick them out, fire them. That was a cruel hoax.

At the same time, the rulers framed up Black activists, harassed militants, threw freedom fighters in jail, and assassinated leaders.

Today there is still repression and there is still a double standard of justice. But there will be no concessions, no "poverty programs," no massive college grants, and little employment for the "hard core."

It's clear that an overwhelming problem facing the Black community, one that will continue to cause Blacks to erupt in anger, is the lack of jobs. This is a problem not only confronting Black youth, but Black adults as well.

#### Mistrust of Government

What else is different today? A decade and a half of experience has educated the Black community more deeply about the nature of this society.

Blacks have gone through the Vietnam War, Watergate, inflation, unemployment, rising expectations, and broken promises. Blacks are more aware of U.S. support to dictators like the ex-shah, to South Africa and Israel. And there is a tremendous awareness of the complicity of the cops and politicians in the heroin trade in the Black community.

Black America is growing more and more contemptuous toward American capitalist society. This contempt is extreme among the youth. Blacks have no trust whatsoever toward the leadership that exists—Black leadership, labor

leadership, or the capitalist politicians. Blacks are more willing than ever to break from the two-party system. What is lacking, in their eyes, is an alternative.

Distrust of the government is not something that is affecting Blacks alone. The entire working class in this country has gone through the Vietnam War, Watergate, inflation, deteriorating education, two recessions, a declining standard of living, rising expectations, and broken promises.

This mood is affecting the unions, opening up new possibilities for building alliances between the Black and labor movements. It has also made possible more united actions between white and Black workers within the labor movement itself.

#### Fire Fighters' Strike

One of the best examples of this was this year's strike by fire fighters in Chicago.

The fire fighters' union was until fairly recently a virtually all-white union. They never had a contract. As part of the Daley tradition in Chicago, all agreements were sealed by handshakes. The rulers gave city workers the prevailing union wage as one way to keep them from pressing for a contract.

But because of the financial crisis of the city, the city fathers had to change their approach. They couldn't shake hands anymore. In this context, the fire fighters, as well as other city workers, sought to get contracts. Mayor Byrne said no. This led to a strike.

The city moved on them, arrested the union president, threw him in jail. They not only hired scabs, but announced that all the fire fighters had been fired.

What did the fire fighters do? They told the mayor and the city fathers and the bankers to go to hell. But they did more than that. They began to seek out allies. And what was significant was the allies they sought to get. They went to the most powerful mass forces in the city—the industrial unions and the Black community. Support from these groups turned the tide and made it possible to win the strike.

#### Role of Black Community

They reached out to some seventy different community groups. Rev. Jesse Jackson's Operation PUSH was key. Jackson spoke out in favor of the strike and helped build strike rallies. Moreover, the alliance between the Black community and the strikers was more firmly cemented when, at Jackson's suggestion, an affirmative-action clause was incorporated into the contract demands.

Black fire fighters were the most militant component of the strike, but the political consciousness of the white fire fighters was deeply affected as well. They saw how the city administration at first tried to turn the Black community against the strikers and how they failed. The whole question of unity in the struggle, of solidarity, was seen as important for moving the union forward. The fire fighters even backed Jesse Jackson's march for jobs in May. That's something you would have never seen before.

#### New Period

The struggles of today, including the urban uprisings such as Miami, are part of a new period

quite different from the 1960s. It is part of the fightback against the effects of a world capitalist crisis. And labor is playing a new role in this, coming more to the center of it, fighting for the solutions needed.

We see labor standing up more for Black rights and women's rights. Unlike the 1960s when some unions campaigned against affirmative action, the United Steelworkers and other industrial unions recently campaigned for affirmative action in the important *Weber* case.

Labor is also more often seen fighting against nuclear power, for a clean environment. And now there is even the beginning of a discussion in the labor movement about prospects for building a party of working people in opposition to the Republicans and Democrats, a labor party.

### White Workers and Miami

Such changes were reflected in the Miami rebellion itself. For example, the bus drivers' union in Miami refused to provide bus service for white areas of the city when service was cut off in the Black community. Their position was:

their present in these problems: a lack of jobs and the lack of justice from this government.

### Changed Thinking

The economic crisis is having this impact on the thinking of the working class. This opens up opportunities that did not exist before for mobilizing the social forces needed to begin to solve the problems of society.

There are solutions to every one of the problems we face—from unemployment, to poor health care and education, to racist oppression. What is needed is to transform the trade unions so that labor's power can be used to fight for the things we need, for massive public works programs and a shorter working week to provide jobs for all; cost of living allowances that keep up with inflation; an end to racist and sexist practices.

We need to build alliances between the labor movement and the Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, and women's movements. And we need to build a mass labor party to give workers the political power to implement these demands.

Opportunities for beginning the work of build-

show that Blacks are fed up with leaders such as the Black Democrats who tell us to rely on the capitalist parties to solve our problems?

### Rebellions, Not Riots

Miami, Chattanooga, Orlando, and the other rebellions were actions against the government. That's why we call them rebellions, not riots. It's not just because they are justified. It's because, according to the dictionary, rebellions are massive acts of violence directed against authority, against the government.

When Blacks in Chattanooga rose up recently against injustice, wasn't that the largest, most thoroughgoing mass action against the Ku Klux Klan in a decade? Didn't that action force the government to arrest some Ku Klux Klanners who had carried out violence against Blacks? And wasn't the rebellion in Miami one of the largest mass actions for jobs in over a decade? And wasn't it the biggest antidraft action? Wasn't it after the Miami rebellion that President Carter changed his position to one of allowing Haitian refugees to stay for now? And wasn't it



Victories of working people around world inspired self-confidence of Blacks. Left, Iranian people mobilize to show solidarity with American Blacks during Miami rebellion. Above, Zimbabwe Blacks greet returning guerrillas. Election victory of Patriotic Front dealt heavy blow to white supremacy in Southern Africa.

either everyone gets bus service, or no one gets bus service.

The Transit Workers Union—the city bus drivers' union in Miami—is involved in another discussion stemming from the rebellions. It relates to the fact that during both uprisings, Black youth sometimes attacked and threw bricks at buses. Some bus drivers think that uniformed police should ride the buses to deter these attacks.

Others point out correctly that because of the justified anger Blacks have toward the police, having the police on the buses would only increase the attacks. And some bus drivers are grappling with how the union can reach out to the Black community as an ally.

One idea that has come up is that there be two bus drivers per bus, one to drive and the other to help the passengers. This, some feel, will also be a way of hiring some unemployed Blacks, which would change the image Blacks have of the bus drivers. This discussion is only at the beginning stages.

The reaction of white workers in Miami to the rebellion showed that in general there is more understanding of the plight of Blacks on the part of white workers today than was the case in the 1960s.

Many people saw the newspaper article about a white family in Miami guarding their family possessions during the rebellion. They were standing in front of their trailer home with rifles in hand. At the same time they explained to the media that they agreed with the Blacks because the McDuffie case was such an obvious travesty of justice. It's true that the ruling class was able to whip up some racist sentiment in reaction to the Miami rebellion. And they have whipped up racist sentiment around such things as the taking of the hostages in Iran. And they are attempting to increase tensions between Black and white workers on the job in connection with the layoffs.

At the same time, there is generally a greater understanding on the part of whites today about the problems Black workers face. Many white workers see their own possible future and even

ing such a mass political movement of workers are better than before. There are new stirrings in the unions and rebellions such as in Miami. But, we are just at the beginning of the struggle. Rebellions such as Miami help to push the struggle forward, but they are outbursts that lack organizational form.

The struggle to change the unions is just at its beginning stage. Most important, workers in this country continue to be without any mass political party to challenge the parties of the ruling class.

### Vanguard Role

The Socialist Workers Party has always pointed out that Blacks will play a leading role in pushing the struggle of the working class forward. Why is this so? Because Blacks are overwhelmingly proletarian. Because a larger percentage of Blacks in America are working class than whites. And because of the extreme racist oppression faced by this sector of the working class.

Blacks have taken the lead in union struggles, for example in the strike at Newport News where an important victory was won in the battle to organize the South. And the heavy concentration of Blacks in the steel industry was key in winning union support for opposition to *Weber*.

Blacks are the most pro-union section of the population and the most pro-women's rights. Blacks support the Equal Rights Amendment and the right to abortion in greater numbers than whites. On the job it is generally the Black workers who are the most eager to support women's committees and the right of women to work in industry.

Blacks will be in the forefront of attempts to build a labor party. Forming a labor party will go hand in hand with the process of forging a new Black and working-class leadership. This new leadership will come from the ranks of labor and from the young rebels of today, from the freedom brigades in the streets of Miami, Orlando, and Chattanooga.

The Miami rebellion itself was a protest against the way the Republicans and Democrats are running this country. Didn't that rebellion help put the blame for things where it belongs—on the White House? And, didn't that rebellion

the biggest action against police brutality, demanding that the police get out of the Black community?

Whenever the oppressed and exploited rise up against their conditions, their struggle is attacked by the capitalists and by everyone else who hates or fears the struggles of the working class. And, as is to be expected, the Black rebellions this summer have come under attack from these quarters.

### Who Fears the Fighters?

The big-media press called the Black rebels "criminals," "petty thieves," and "a small minority of the community." Andrew Young went down to Miami and told the youth to get off the streets. He called them "dogs." Another Black misleader in Miami called them "hoodlums."

One of the most disgusting statements came from the press of a sectarian group, the Spartacist League. In the May 30 issue of *Workers Vanguard*, they say, "Black Miami erupted in a fury born of desperation last week. Miami Blacks lashed out in a misdirected violence ranging from looting of the stores to attacks on random whites who ventured into the ghetto."

And they conclude: "All labor must stand for the defense of the Black population against police terror. But, we insist, as we did throughout the 1960s, that the ghetto explosions do not lead anywhere but to the killing of more Blacks and the devastation of their neighborhoods. The Jewish shopkeepers who were burned out of the inner city more than a decade ago have not come back. The 1960s was a decade of mass Black struggle that was defeated. It was defeated because it was locked in the ghettos of a racist society."

First, I want to say a word about "looting." There was no looting in Miami. The goods that were taken in Miami were liberated by Black people. Goods were produced by some workers, then appropriated by the capitalists, then liberated by another section of the working class. This is right-on.

Second, those who think the rebels were "hoodlums" must logically think the same of the



freedom fighters who rose up in Iran, South Korea, Nicaragua, and Soweto, South Africa.

At the 1977 convention of the Socialist Workers Party we discussed this question of "hoodlums" in response to the July 1977 upsurge in New York when the lights went out for twenty-four hours. When Blacks and Puerto Ricans rebelled in that situation, the media attacked them as "animals," "hoodlums," and "extremists."

SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes pointed out that the ruling class always uses such epithets to dehumanize the victims of their system. The governor of New Hampshire used the same epithets against the demonstrators at the Seabrook nuclear plant, calling them "animals" because they exercised their right to protest. The same thing happens with union militants.

Barnes concluded that, in fact, the SWP is the party of these so-called hoodlums, animals and extremists!

Unlike the Spartacist League, the SWP does not believe that the rebellions of the 1960s "did not lead anywhere." On the contrary, despite their disorganized and spontaneous nature, the

Latinos, and women during the layoffs.

This is necessary, not only because it is the just thing to do, but also because any setback in the struggle for equal rights for women and Blacks on the job will be a setback for the Black struggle and the entire union movement.

The gains made through affirmative-action programs have helped break down divisions in the working class by forcing the employers to accept women workers in industrial jobs and Blacks in more skilled categories. Wiping out these gains through discriminatory layoffs undermines working-class unity and opens the way for employers to reintroduce old racist and sexist practices in the workplace.

Discriminatory layoffs, which drive women and Blacks out of an industry, also undermine the alliances being built between the Black community, women's groups, and the labor unions.

Discriminatory hiring and firing practices also hurt the struggle against unemployment. Acceptance of high Black unemployment, acceptance of a rate of Black youth joblessness much higher

Mobilizing against the Klan is part and parcel of the fight for democratic rights for all workers. The Klan is anti-Black and it is also anti-union. It is no accident that in the South, where segregation, and the Klan and other racist outfits were the strongest, that wages are lowest and trade unionism the weakest.

The Klan still represents a tiny minority. The ruling class is by no means giving this outfit or any other right-wing group all out support. The Democratic and Republican parties are still the main vehicles through which the rulers carry out their racist program.

But as we've seen in Greensboro and elsewhere, the Klan and Nazis are vicious and deadly gangs that must be fought against. And the authorities do use these scum against the Black movement and the union movement. In Greensboro, for example, undercover cops played a role in the killing of the anti-Klan demonstrators.

Fighting against the Klan is practice for our class and its vanguard in meeting more serious right-wing attempts. It gives our class and its allies confidence in furthering our gains. It helps to demoralize the enemy and its agents. And it's all part of the struggle to fight for the hearts and minds of our class and allies.

So when we see the Klan or Nazis increase activities or use violence against our class, we should think out how best to respond. SWP candidate Mark Friedman's campaign in California for Congress against the Ku Klux Klansman who is running in the Democratic Party is a great opportunity to deal a blow to both the Klan and the Democratic and Republican parties. This was a *bold* and correct move on our part.

There is a polarization going on in this country. There are increased numbers of attacks by the ruling class on our standard of living. There is an increase in right-wing activity. But, there is also more resistance by workers against these things.

So, when we look at the activities of the Ku Klux Klan we should also look at the ways in which our class is fighting back. For instance, what does it mean when Mel Mason, a Black socialist, wins a seat on the city council in Seaside, California? It means opportunities for socialist ideas. It's a sign of openness of workers to break from the two-party system and look for independent working-class political alternatives.

What effect does all this have on the Black movement today, on the different Black organizations?

Last fall we began to notice that some Black organizations, under the impact of the capitalist offensive, were responding with positive actions. For example, in the midst of the imperialist hysteria against Cuba, around the time of Fidel's trip to the United Nations and the furor over the Soviet combat brigade in Cuba, there were some articles in Black newspapers that were favorable to Cuba. Several of these explained the gains made by Blacks in Cuba since the revolution.

Many Black leaders took a good position on the hostage situation in Iran. And earlier, there were visits to the Mideast to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organization. This was spearheaded by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The SCLC brought back conclusive proof of the Zionist terror campaign against the Lebanese people and the Palestinians, and the backing of this terror—with arms—by the United States government. They explained that the Palestinians are oppressed and should be supported by Black America. This stance is different from that of the 1960s when most Black leaders supported Israel.

SCLC has also been in the forefront of some major actions in the South against the Klan and in defense of Tommy Lee Hines, a retarded Black youth framed up on rape.

Lucius Walker of the Inter-religious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) and Ben Chavis initiated the organization of the national march of 7,000 in Greensboro against the Klan and Nazis on February 2. Ben Chavis also toured the country building the March 22 antidraft and April 26 anti-nuclear power demonstrations. He spoke at both.

Jesse Jackson and Operation PUSH organized an important jobs march in Washington, D.C., on May 17. The action included some labor support. Jackson also spoke at the May 10 ERA march in Chicago.

To show how some Black leaders are thinking things through we should look at the conference on unemployment and plant shutdowns that



Grenadians celebrate anniversary of their revolution at rally in the capital, St. Georges.

rebellions of the 1960s were massive indictments of racist oppression.

They brought about a change in the relationship of forces in this country, giving Blacks a new sense of political power and increasing respect for the Black community among whites. And the rebellions pressured the ruling class into making some of the concessions that were won in the 1960s.

We approach the rebellions of the 1960s and the rebellions of today in the spirit of Engels. Engels said, "Revolution does not allow any conditions being imposed on it. Either one is revolutionary and accepts the consequences of the revolution, whatever they are, or one is driven into the arms of the counter-revolution." That's how we look at the situation in Miami. And that's how we look at South Korea, Iran, Nicaragua, and Soweto, South Africa.

The working class is going through new experiences that will lead to more organized, and even more powerful, actions in the future. Lessons are being learned from such struggles as the fire fighters' strike in Chicago, from strikes of large industrial unions such as the recent oil workers' strike, from the fight against the draft, and the movement for the Equal Rights Amendment. That is why socialists participate in all these struggles.

Socialist union members must take every opportunity to use the power of the unions, which are the largest working-class organizations, to struggle against racist oppression. That is why we threw ourselves into the effort to gain union support for affirmative action in the *Weber* case.

And why now, when layoffs are gutting the gains of affirmative action, we need to strongly oppose discriminatory layoffs.

We are against any layoffs that reduce the proportion, even by one percentage point, of Blacks or women on the job. We are for affirmative action during good times and in bad times too.

If the company can draw up two lists—an affirmative-action plan—in order to *hire* more Blacks and women, it must do the same in order to maintain the same percentage of Blacks,

than for whites, helps feed the idea that unemployment in general must be accepted by working people. This works against the mobilization of the only force that can end the problem of unemployment—a united, organized working class.

The same principle holds for the fight against racism on all fronts. The struggle for equal education for Blacks makes it clearer that education for all workers is inadequate under capitalism. A struggle for equal justice for Blacks brings out that the poor and working person is not treated justly. To fight against police brutality against Blacks is to expose the viciousness of the police in general.

Most important of all, the fight against racism, and against injustice of all kinds, is part of the fight for socialism. It is a struggle that is in the interests of all working people.

As the crisis of capitalism deepens, as new struggles develop, the employers will continue to use racism as a tool to divide workers. And whether our struggles succeed or fail, whether or not we are successful in winning our demands, will depend on whether our class is able to counter this and unify in action.

All racist practices pushed by the employers are part of their attempts to divide us. They must be opposed. It is necessary to combat every attempt by the employers to encourage right-wingers and Ku Klux Klanners to peddle their racist garbage in the workplace.

Throughout the country, SWP members have been active in fights to counter the racist filth and threats of the Klan. We helped build the anti-Klan demonstration on February 2 in Greensboro, North Carolina. And when the racist anti-Iran hysteria emboldened the Klan and other right-wing elements in some of the plants where we worked, we, along with other workers, rallied support against their threats and physical intimidation.

In Detroit we participated in organizing against the Klan and Nazis, once when the Nazis attempted to set up a bookstore and again when two Ford foremen at the River Rouge plant came in with Klan hoods on their heads.

was held in Youngstown, Ohio, earlier this summer.

Ron Daniels, head of the National Black Political Assembly, was a keynote speaker. He was very well received by a conference that was overwhelmingly white. The significance of this is the fact that five years ago Daniels wouldn't have been as interested in such a gathering. He comes from that milieu of Blacks who didn't see much progressive in the working class.

Over this past year, activities against racism have been organized by the Black United Front, headed by the Rev. Herbert Daughtry. A national Black United Front was formed this summer. BUF was formed, according to its leaders, because the old Black leadership is totally inadequate in dealing with today's problems.

We can anticipate that there will be further opportunities in the coming year to battle against racism. Already there are two prospective actions for this fall. A number of Black college student governments have called for a march on Washington in September to save and maintain Black schools. And organizers of the February 2 anti-Klan action are discussing a call for a national march on Washington against the Klan.

Wherever there's struggle against the Klan, police terror, job discrimination, youth unemployment, and other injustices, that's where we want to be. We want to help build actions where the broadest possible forces can be united to fight back. This is all part of helping to forge a new leadership for the working class and the Black movement.

There is another side to the response of Black leaders to the capitalist offensive, a negative response. A response from Black misleaders who look to the ruling class to answer the problems posed by the crisis. That will get you nowhere.

There are many examples of this, but one of the most prominent examples is the central leadership of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People).

Within the context of the capitalist offensive, the reliance of these misleaders on the Democratic and Republican parties is disastrous. For example, the NAACP says Blacks should support nuclear power to solve the energy problem.

The NAACP says it is investigating the problem of police brutality. But the investigation they are carrying out is being funded by the police foundation, headed by Patrick Murphy, former police commissioner in New York City. The cops are playing a big role in this investigation of the police!

Margaret Bush Wilson, chairperson of the NAACP national board, says that Blacks should be ready to answer the call to make the world safe for "democracy" wherever they are needed by the U.S. war machine.

The NAACP's solution for jobs and the many other social problems facing Blacks is that Blacks should vote. They're on a campaign to register Black voters. Their response isn't very good since Carter is unpopular, but that's their answer. Voting is important, they say, because the key to power is in the Supreme Court. And everyone expects three or four Supreme Court justices to die in the next four years. So whoever is president will pick the new justices. Therefore Blacks must vote because you know what Ronald Reagan will do with the court. And, they say, if Reagan gets elected like Nixon did in '68, the Black masses will be to blame.

The logic is: "The reason you don't have any jobs, good housing, or education, the reason you have poor laws and in general bad times is because you didn't vote."

Their contradiction is that Blacks got a pretty raw deal during the Carter years. And they told Blacks to vote for Carter in 1976, and hailed the fact that Black voters won the presidential election for Carter.

The NAACP leaders hold up Detroit as a model for Blacks. They say the rest of Black America should have what Detroit has. You see, Detroit has a Black mayor, the city council is majority Black, the police commissioner is Black, about 50 percent of the police force is Black, and the officer corps of the police is about 20 percent Black.

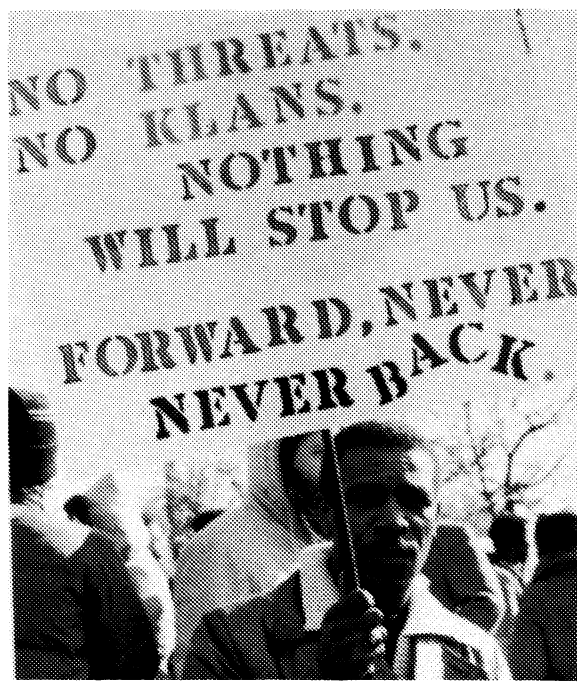
This is supposed to be helping the masses of Detroit Blacks. But it isn't. Unemployment, poverty, racism, police brutality, bad housing, and inflation are an overwhelming reality in Detroit. Having Black Democrats and Republicans in power who represent the ruling class hasn't changed the situation. In fact, as in other cities, everything has gotten worse.

Detroit will become a model only when the auto workers, steelworkers, city service workers, and the rest of the toiling masses sweep all the rascals out of office and bring labor to power. That will be a good model.

These Black misleaders, must and will be replaced. The impact of the world capitalist crisis will accelerate this process. A new leadership will rise up to meet the test of events. And the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance will be part of that new leadership.

The unfolding revolutions in the Caribbean and Central America are one big factor that will play a role in developing this new leadership. As Black workers learn more about the revolutions in Grenada, Nicaragua, Cuba, and elsewhere, they will admire the fight of their brothers and sisters in that region. And their brothers and sisters in the Caribbean and Central America will root for the Black struggle in this country. This will accelerate the motion of Blacks toward revolutionary thinking and revolutionary answers.

What's going on in Grenada, Cuba, and Nicaragua will help make the Black movement and the labor movement more class conscious. You



**'Our movement is a movement of millions, and our struggle is directed at ending the misery of the masses of people in this world who suffer the most extreme oppression.'**

can see this graphically if you can imagine Brother Liam James from Grenada—who spoke here the other night—touring Detroit, Brooklyn, Harlem, Atlanta. Imagine him speaking to Blacks, Latinos, and trade unionists. What revolutionary inspiration our Grenadian brothers and sisters will give the American workers!

The Grenadian revolution will make a big impact on the American Black movement. Black America will look to, be attracted by, and seek answers from the first Black Marxist government in world history.

There are three peoples of African descent who are achieving their national liberation in the Caribbean and Central America now. They are all Afro-Americans, Africans who live in the Americas. They are the Grenadians, Afro-Cubans, and Black Nicaraguans. In Nicaragua there is a population of Blacks who live on the east coast of that country and speak English.

All three of these peoples of African descent are gaining national liberation through struggles for socialism. That will give rise to a new spirit of Pan-Africanism, but it will be a revolutionary Pan-Africanism. Won't that be inspiring?

Isn't it inspiring to know that Blacks in Cuba, Blacks in Grenada, Blacks in Nicaragua are treated in a way that is the polar opposite of how Blacks are treated anywhere else on the face of the earth?

Historically many Blacks have identified with the Caribbean. Black America has had a similar history of oppression as Blacks in the West Indies. A number of American Black leaders—

like Malcolm X and Marcus Garvey—had their roots in the Caribbean.

As more Blacks and other working people visit Grenada they will want to emulate the freedom fighters of that island. Black youth fighting against police brutality, for jobs and human dignity will want to emulate the Grenadian example. Blacks who see the American government spending less for education, jobs, housing, and other social needs will want to emulate what is being done in Grenada to meet social needs. Grenada is a powerful example for revolutionary change.

If you have had a chance, as I have, to visit Africa or other parts of the colonial world, then you know how powerful this revolution is. What do you find in Africa, for instance? Children without shoes; malaria and malnutrition; unthinkable amounts of inflation and unemployment; diseases that disappeared in Europe and North America after the sixteenth century; widespread illiteracy; famine; very little or no electrification for the masses; virtually no refrigeration; poverty, misery, hunger, and disease.

And Grenada is getting rid of all this. That will be an example for the world over.

Cuba is also an example. From the very first days of the Cuban revolution, Black workers have been attracted to it. Blacks loved it when Fidel made the demonstrative move to the St. Theresa Hotel in Harlem when he came to the United Nations in 1960.

In the early days of the Cuban revolution many Black journalists visited Cuba and wrote favorable articles for the Black press. Black radicals saw the connection between the Cuban revolution and the African revolution.

In the 1960s many Black radicals identified with and looked to the Cubans for revolutionary leadership. Some even lived there in exile. In turn the Cubans solidarized themselves with the Black struggle here.

The elimination of racist discrimination in Cuba has and will continue to deepen that solidarity. The present generation of young Blacks will also go through a process of being attracted to Cuba. This will happen as the rise of the world and the U.S. class struggle proceeds and as Cuba continues to play a revolutionary role in world politics.

All of this means that we want to use every means possible to get out the news about these revolutions to working people in this country. We also want to share information with our brothers and sisters in the Caribbean about the Black struggle and the class struggle in the United States.

We are part of an international struggle for socialism, a struggle that has justice on its side and is getting stronger. Knowledge of that fact makes us stronger and confident in the future.

Our movement is a movement of millions, and our struggle is directed at ending the misery of the masses of people in this world who suffer the most extreme oppression.

Fidel Castro expressed this when he spoke before the United Nations last fall:

"The time has therefore come for all of us to join in the task of drawing entire peoples, hundreds of millions of human beings, out of backwardness, poverty, malnutrition, disease, and illiteracy that keep them from enjoying full human dignity and pride. . . .

"Human rights are very often spoken of, but we must also speak of humanity's rights. Why should some people go barefoot so that others may travel in expensive cars? Why should some live only thirty-five years so that others may live seventy? Why should some be miserably poor so that others may be exaggeratedly rich?

"I speak on behalf of the children of the world who don't even have a piece of bread. I speak on behalf of the sick who lack medicine. I speak on behalf of those who have been denied the right to life and to human dignity. . . .

"I have not come here as a prophet of the revolution. I have not come here to ask or to wish that the world be violently convulsed. I have come to speak of peace and cooperation among the peoples. And I have come to warn that if we do not peacefully and wisely solve and eliminate the present injustices and inequalities, the future will be apocalyptic.

"The noise of weapons, of threatening language, and of overbearing behavior on the international arena must cease.

"Enough of the illusion that the problems of the world can be solved by nuclear weapons. Bombs may kill the hungry, the sick, and the ignorant, but bombs cannot kill hunger, disease, and ignorance. Nor can bombs kill the righteous rebellion of the people."



# UAW local strikes for COLA guarantee

By Newton Brown

NORTH WALES, Pa.—“Knighthood is Still in Flower at General Signal,” reads the title of Bro Uttal’s article on this thriving multinational conglomerate in the October *Fortune* magazine.

Serfdom is also flourishing, or so it would appear to the 2,000 members of United Auto Workers Local 1350, who have been on strike since July 26 against General Signal’s Leeds and Northrup operations here.

According to *Fortune*, General Signal claims that its 1980 sales are expected to reach \$1.5 billion.

General Signal also publicly boasts of its determination to eliminate cost-of-living-adjustment clauses from any union contract within the forty bargaining units of its empire. It has already forced at least two strikes prior to this one, in which it starved smaller bargaining units into returning to work without their COLA protector.

*Newton Brown is a member of United Auto Workers Local 1350.*

General Signal spent almost no time in negotiations with Local 1350 prior to the expiration of our contract on July 25.

The three most contested issues are the retention of our uncapped COLA; the company’s refusal to discuss our retired members’ pensions; and a company-proposed “job security” clause that would allow the company to relocate jobs at will and force the workers to follow at their own expense, with loss of seniority and pension rights, and then only if the company deems them “qualified.”

At a packed union meeting on July 27, we voted 1,065 to 569 to not authorize the bargaining committee to concede our COLA.

UAW Local 1350 won a COLA with a ceiling after a hard six-month strike against Leeds and Northrup in 1971, and succeeded in removing the ceiling in 1974.

General Signal added a fourth issue to the strike by moving out jobs in the course of the strike itself. During the

first eight weeks, while General Signal forced 1,100 salaried employees to scab on the strikers, it met with the union only once.

At that meeting General Signal refused to comment on moving jobs, and the union took the position that we will be out until we get those jobs back.

Talks resumed on September 17. On September 23, at the second union meeting since the strike began, international representatives presiding over the bargaining committee announced that our COLA had been conceded in an effort to break the deadlock.

The company’s response was to declare all previous areas of agreement null and void and to demand thirteen takebacks from our previous contract. In addition, the company threatened us with the permanent removal of 400 jobs unless we capitulated.

We voted with no opposition, and few abstentions, to flatly reject this blackmail attempt.

The showdown for the COLA with the General Signal empire has been

forced onto the shoulders of UAW Local 1350. But far from cracking, the local’s 2,000 members have closed ranks against this corporation, determined that it will not break our union.

In late September we received a message of solidarity and a \$500 check from our sisters in the International Molders and Allied Workers Union Local 2, who work at another Leeds and Northrup plant that lost its COLA in 1979. This was a big boost for our local. Clearly labor solidarity is needed to stop General Signal.

Linda Mohrbacher, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, has visited strike headquarters and the picket gates to express solidarity with Local 1350.

At a Philadelphia campaign rally on September 20, Andrew Pulley, SWP candidate for president, and his campaign supporters sent a telegram to the local, applauding the UAW members’ courage and fortitude and affirming that a victory for UAW Local 1350 will be a victory for all working people.

## Auto workers block jail terms in Baker strike

By John Powers

CLEVELAND—United Auto Workers Local 451 won an important victory on September 4 in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court when it beat back Baker Material Handling Corporation’s attempts to jail five militants on charges of violating a previous court injunction.

However, the court did find Local 451 guilty of contempt of court, fining it \$500. The court also found Vice-president Jim Hardin, committeeman Jim McKee, and union member Leonard Edmiston guilty of contempt—fining them \$500 each and giving them ten-day jail sentences.

The jail sentences and half the fines were suspended, provided that these strike activists stay away from the picket line until the end of the strike. The court also forced Local 451 to post a \$5,000 security bond against further possible violations of the court’s orders.

Region 2 of the UAW plans to appeal these verdicts. Two other members—Larry Ewelt and myself—had all charges dropped against us.

Local 451 has been involved in a bitter, hard-fought strike against Baker Material Handling Corporation since April 22. Negotiations have occurred sporadically, with the company adamantly demanding an end to the current seniority system. At least twenty unionists have been arrested on strike-related charges and Local 451 itself has been hauled before the Cuya-

hoga County court four times.

Baker began its case in court by showing video tapes of a picket line on July 28. For months now, the Kiss private detective agency has been filming everything that has happened at the single gate that leads into the plant.

Local 451 has been forced to limit pickets to four to the gate by a previous court injunction. Everyone else has been instructed to stay 150 feet away. Pickets are not allowed to restrict entrance or exit out of the plant.

Despite this, on July 28, seventy-five union members made every effort to stop all cars going into the plant and send those cars with scabs in them home. The video tapes showed no violence on the line. They were carefully edited to leave out the local police, who were there that day in large numbers as they have been repeatedly at every large mobilization of the local membership.

Several salaried employees then gave testimony alleging various incidents of rock throwing and tire slashing. One salaried worker—Iggy Paleo—even claimed he had been pinched on the cheek by 451 member Larry Ewelt. No police were asked to testify to corroborate the company’s charges.

The union’s response centered on the company’s provocations, which elicited an angry response from Local 451’s membership. Local 451 President Frank Sasey testified about the hiring of scabs and the company’s failure to negotiate. Sasey’s testimony was followed by a slide show given by the union showing the strike as it has really been.

Several slides were shown of salaried



Auto workers march on picket line during Baker strike last June.

Militant

personnel giving obscene and provocative gestures to the strikers. Many other slides showed the strikers peacefully protesting in front of the plant respecting the court injunction.

Strikers who had been accused calmly refuted the charges that had been leveled against them. In spite of intense cross examination, no striker ever wavered.

This was in contrast to the testimony by company witnesses, which was marked by contradictions, hear-say, and circumstantial evidence.

For example, plant Personnel Director Austin Jerabek described a demonstration at the plant gate, saying all the participants were local union members. As the union attorney questioned him, he was forced to admit that this demonstration included two union attorneys, two representatives of the UAW regional office, and a representa-

tive of the mayor of Brooklyn, a nearby suburb. (The union slideshow also pictured numerous family members, including children.)

Jerabek also admitted that the acts of violence he earlier claimed occurred at this demonstration did not actually take place.

Despite the weakness of the company’s case, Common Pleas Judge Roland Riggs found against the union and three of the strike leaders after only a ten-minute recess. This speedy verdict came as no surprise to union supporters who realized from the beginning that the court was rigged against them.

In the meantime, members of Local 451 continue to walk the picket lines. And workers at area plants continue to show their solidarity through generous plant-gate contributions to the strikers.

## Rail walkout opposes company harassment

By Kathe Latham

SAN FRANCISCO—A strike by 2,300 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers started September 26 against a company contract violation requiring mandatory tests for intoxication on the Southern Pacific Railroad.

Although newspaper headlines labeled it a wildcat, the strike was officially sanctioned by the BLE, and other rail unions respected the picket lines.

The work stoppage began in Lordsburg, New Mexico. It shut down service along 6,500 miles of Southern

Pacific track in seven states, halting freight and Amtrak passenger and commuter service.

At issue is a company program to test operating craft employees—engineers, brakemen, and switchers—for alcohol by use of an electronic device called an “intoxilizer.”

“It’s a weapon to intimidate workers and to fire whomever they want,” one picket said.

“The issue here is an infringement on our democratic rights,” said BLE local chairman Gene Longsbury. “These machines have been proven not to be accurate. They also register levels of acetone in your body. If you haven’t eaten in a long period of time, as many of us on the road are forced to do, it will show up on the test and could be

sufficient to pull you out of service.”

Longsbury stated that not only is it an infringement of civil rights but “they assume we are guilty until proven innocent.”

He also explained that it is a change in the company’s work rules. It is illegal for the company to do this without filing a Section 6 notice with the union.

The company tried the first mandatory tests in Yuma, Arizona, and Lordsburg, New Mexico. A BLE picket explained, “That was one of the weakest union areas, so they thought they could get it going there.”

But the company’s plan backfired. Some forty-two engineers, brakemen, and switchers refused to take the test and were pulled out of service. Soon afterward the walkout began.

Pickets appeared at crew change locations in El Paso, Texas; Carlin, Nevada; and Roseville, California. Picket lines spread to Southern Pacific sites in Arizona, New Mexico, Oregon, and Utah.

Within a couple of hours the whole system came to a screeching halt. All other crafts honored the pickets. Several United Transportation Union members walked picket lines themselves in solidarity.

One picket I spoke with said he thought this was a prelude to upcoming negotiations.

It didn’t take the company and a friendly judge long to get a temporary restraining order forcing the strikers back to work. A hearing is scheduled for October 6 to determine if the injunction should be made permanent.

*Kathe Latham is a braker/switcher and a member of United Transportation Union Local 1469.*

## Building the YSA

# Young Socialist tour brings solid results

By Harry Ring

Really exciting results.

That's the report on Kathryn Crowder's speaking tour of Indiana, Kentucky, and Iowa. Crowder is one of four national leaders of the Young Socialist Alliance on tour to build the Socialist Workers election campaign and promote attendance at the YSA's national convention in Indianapolis December 27-30.

Crowder has been speaking about why a labor party is needed in this country and about the gains of the revolution in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada.

At the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, she was invited to speak before a sociology class. The class period is one hour, but the discussion continued for a half hour beyond the bell.

While on campus she was interviewed by radio station KUNI, which broadcasts across the state.

The Cedar Falls YSA is a thriving chapter. It was chartered last February after five *Militant* readers went to Des Moines to hear SWP presidential candidate Andrew Pulley.

The chapter had grown to sixteen by the time Crowder got there. All of them expect to be at the YSA convention, along with several anticipated recruits.

From Louisville, Crowder travelled with a team of YSA members to Beria College and to the University of Kentucky at Lexington.

At Beria she spoke before four classes. The Lexington meeting was attended by students from both campuses.

Twenty copies of the *Militant* were sold, and fifteen of the *Young Socialist*, plus three subscriptions to the *Militant* and one to the *Young Socialist*. Several students from both campuses will drive to the YSA convention in Indianapolis.

A meeting was also held at the University of Kentucky in Louisville. Several people came wearing SWP campaign buttons. They had heard SWP vice-presidential candidate Ma-



Kathryn Crowder talks to high school class in Anderson, Indiana

Militant/Mark Berry

tilde Zimmermann on her recent visit there. Several others attending were people who'd met YSA members at a local anti-Klan demonstration.

In Indianapolis, Crowder did some plant-gate campaigning at the big Stewart Warner plant organized by the United Steelworkers union. Several socialists work there, including Danny Booher, SWP candidate for governor of Indiana. They've sold sixteen *Militant* subscriptions to co-workers in the three weeks since the national *Militant/Perspectiva Mundial* subscription drive began.

Several young steelworkers came out to the gate to talk to Crowder. Most of them were *Militant* readers and they

were interested in talking to an SWP campaign representative.

A visit to Indiana University at Bloomington was also very rewarding, reports Indianapolis SWP organizer Lee Martindale.

A campaign literature table was set up at the campus library and was busy from the time it opened.

There are many international students on the campus and they were particularly interested, especially those from the Middle East.

One Iranian student, who is circulating a petition condemning the Iraqi attack on his homeland, accepted an invitation to speak at the Militant Forum in Indianapolis.

Crowder travelled to Anderson, Indiana, an industrial town where a member of the YSA had arranged for her to speak to a class at his old high school. Eight of the students there said they wanted to go to the YSA convention.

In Indianapolis, Crowder spoke at a meeting, along with John Zent, a high school student who is the YSA's newest member.

Zent's parents were teachers in Iran and he lived there from 1974 through 1978. There he saw the real conditions of the Iranian masses. As he watched the revolution unfolding, his ideas about what the world was, and should be, began to change. He came to realize that working people in this country face essentially the same problems as Iranian workers and need the same kind of revolutionary solutions.

In Iran many of his friends were active in the resistance and, he said, when he came back to the United States he looked for the resistance here—and found the YSA.

He decided to join at a meeting where he heard Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Matilde Zimmermann.

Among those in the audience at the Indianapolis meeting for Crowder was Angie Penna, a student at Indiana State University at Terre Haute.

Penna was campaign coordinator in the Terre Haute area for John Anderson.

But she quit.

She didn't like Anderson's stand in favor of repealing the minimum wage for young people.

She decided his position on the draft was basically no different from that of Reagan or Carter.

And while Anderson says he favors "safe energy," he is opposed to shutting down the nuclear plants.

Penna first met the YSA at the big antinuke demonstration in Washington earlier this year. After the Indianapolis campaign meeting, she decided to join.

## Labor rallies behind Mpls. newspaper strike

MINNEAPOLIS—A strike against the Minneapolis *Star* and *Tribune* company is in its fourth week. It has major significance for the labor movement in this area and the newspaper industry nationally.

A standing room only crowd of more than 700 people jammed into a labor solidarity rally October 8. Leaders of the striking unions announced that the company had made a new offer, which the bargaining committees will recommend to the members.

A news conference was held October 6 outside the *Star-Tribune* plant. Leaders of many area unions were present

along with state AFL-CIO President David Roe, who announced plans for the October 8 "all-labor rally" in solidarity with the newspaper strikers. In addition to AFL-CIO support, the rally was endorsed by the United Auto-workers, Teamsters Joint Council 32, and the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Roe issued a letter urging all AFL-CIO affiliates to endorse the strike, send funds to the striking unions' hardship fund, invite a strike representative to their union meeting, and to "encourage your members to turn out for general picketing on Sundays from 7 a.m. to noon."

The strike involves some 450 members of the Newspaper Guild and 200 members of the Mailers Union. They walked out September 13 after rejecting a company take-it-or-leave-it offer.

For the Mailers Union, the proposal could mean the elimination of many jobs. The company wants to use non-union adult carriers to stuff supplements into the Sunday newspaper. These jobs should be handled by the mailers.

In violation of the union contract, the company began using non-union employees to stuff supplements into 35,000 Sunday newspaper outside the metropolitan area two years ago. The union filed for arbitration of this issue.

The newspaper guild is battling a proposal for experimental electronic home-delivery of the newspaper.

The full implications of electronic home-delivery are not clear, but there is a potential for wide loss in jobs as such devices become a reality.

The union wants to insure no reduction in the workforce.

All unions at the *Star-Tribune* company are honoring the picket lines. The company is using supervisors and non-union personnel to print a small newspaper every day. Because Teamster truck drivers are honoring the picket line, the company cannot home deliver its scab newspaper, and instead must rely on sales from the lobby of the newspaper plant.

Mass picketing on Sundays has cut down the numbers who cross picket lines to buy the paper.

Two strikers legally picketing were

hit by motorists driving into parking lots Sunday, October 5.

The strike is the most visible labor action in the Twin Cities in years.

The employers are taking a strong stand here. Cowles is on an all-out course to break the newspaper unions. In the last ten years, he has replaced union employees using technological advances. Newspaper want ads, for example, were once set by members of the International Typographical Union. Now 100 part-time non-union employees do the job.

Every effort in the past decade to organize non-union newspaper employees has been smashed.

A victory for these newspaper unions will be a victory for the entire labor movement.

## ERA boycott upheld in court

By Suzanne Haig

In a victory for the Equal Rights Amendment fight, the Supreme Court refused on October 6 to hear an appeal by the state of Missouri on a ruling upholding the constitutionality of the National Organization for Women's Economic Boycott Campaign.

"We feel vindicated," NOW President Eleanor Smeal said from the organization's national conference in San Antonio. "The courts now to the highest level have said . . . the ERA boycott is a form of political expression and that we are totally justified."

The NOW campaign asks organizations to refrain, until the ERA is rati-

fied, from holding conventions in any of the fifteen unratified states. Some 300 organizations have joined the boycott.

Due to the campaign's success, Missouri, an unratified state, filed an antitrust suit in 1978, bemoaning its loss of more than \$19 million in convention business.

A federal appeals court ruled that the boycott was part of the right to petition, protected by the First Amendment.

Full coverage on the NOW conference will appear in next week's *Militant*.

### ALL LABOR RALLY

IN SUPPORT OF THE STRIKING  
NEWSPAPER WORKERS

EMPLOYED AT THE MINNEAPOLIS STAR AND TRIBUNE CO.

WED. OCT 8  
8 P.M.

MINNEAPOLIS LABOR CENTRE  
312 CENTRAL AVE.

EVERYONE INVITED . . . ESPECIALLY RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF ALL UNIONS.

This Rally Sponsored By:

Newspaper Guild #2	United Auto Workers
Mailers #4	Minneapolis Central Labor Union
Teamsters #638	St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly
I.A.M. District 77	Minneapolis Building Trades Council
Teamsters Joint Council #72	St. Paul Building Trades Council
Minnesota AFL-CIO	Coalition of Labor Union Women

Minneapolis solidarity leaflet



# Protests against ouster of Haitian refugee leader

By Caryn Swan and Bill Rayson

MIAMI—Members of the Haitian community here are fighting to establish a new Haitian refugee center under the leadership of Rev. Gerard Jean-Juste.

This area's central figure in the fight for Haitian rights, Jean-Juste was fired September 12 as director of the Haitian Refugee Center.

The center is under the financial control of the Catholic hierarchy and other church forces. Jean-Juste was charged with unspecified acts of "insubordination."

Under Jean-Juste's leadership, the Haitian Refugee Center carried through a long legal battle which won a landmark federal court decision this July. It ordered the federal government to stop deporting Haitians until it established a constitutional procedure for considering their claims for political asylum.

In the fight for Haitian rights, Jean-Juste has promoted mobilizations of the Haitian community in mass marches and rallies. He has worked to establish ties between the Haitian and U.S. Black communities.

Activists in the Haitian community are convinced that Jean-Juste was fired for his views and activities.

A statement issued by members of the community declared, "As far as the Haitian refugee community is concerned, Fr. Gerard Jean-Juste continues to be the Director of the Haitian Refugee Center."

Jean-Juste was fired by the Christian Community Service Agency (CCSA), a conduit through which funds from the Catholic Church and other groups are funneled.

The vote to fire Jean-Juste was taken by the CCSA's 25-member board. The only vote against was cast by Roger Biamby, the lone Haitian member of the board. He walked out in protest and is helping to establish the new center.

Shortly after the firing, more than 500 people gathered at a community protest rally.

Pierre Armand, a community figure,

branded the firing as evidence of "the neo-colonialist attitude" of the CCSA.

Support has also been given Jean-Juste by the Dade County NAACP and SCLC. Congressional Black Caucus members Shirley Chisholm of New York and Walter Fauntroy of Washington, D.C., also added their voices to the protest.

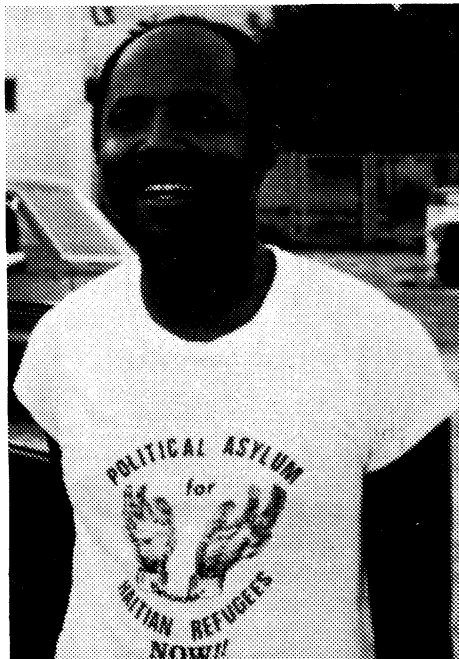
The new Haitian Refugee Center is being incorporated as a non-profit organization and is seeking independent funding.

It is also demanding that the CCSA account for all funds received on behalf of Haitian refugees and that all funds received by CCSA for the benefit of the refugees be transferred to the newly incorporated Haitian Refugee Center.

Jean-Juste left Haiti in 1965. He was the first Haitian to be ordained a priest in this country.

He was active in Brooklyn's Haitian community until he moved to Miami in 1978.

He was never given a parish there. He became a volunteer worker for the Haitian Refugee Center and was appointed director after he helped create a public scandal over the Immigration Service's jailing of an eight-year-old Haitian girl.



REV. GERARD JEAN-JUSTE

Militant

## 500 Haitians demonstrate in Miami

MIAMI—Several hundred Haitians staged a march here October 5 protesting the Carter decision to ship Haitian refugees to a detention center now being readied in Puerto Rico. The march was led by Rev. Jean-Juste.

Haitians fear that sending refugees to Puerto Rico could be a means of circumventing a federal court anti-deportation order.

A slogan of the demonstrators declared, "No resettlement without political asylum."

They also protested a grand jury action, announced October 1, that

cleared policeman Karl Robbins in the shooting of Rev. Lafontaine Bien-Aime during last May's Black rebellion. Bien-Aime was driving to church with his son, thirteen. Robbins asserted he had fired a shotgun blast at the minister because he allegedly tried to run him down. This was flatly denied by the son.

About two hours before he shot Bien-Aime, Robbins wounded another cop. An unauthorized M-1 rifle he was carrying reportedly discharged accidentally.

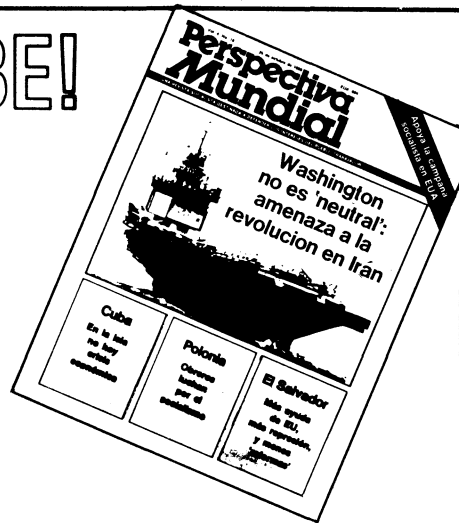
For that offense, Robbins was fined twenty-five hours pay, about \$250.

## SUBSCRIBE!

'Perspectiva Mundial' is the Spanish-language sister publication of the 'Militant.' Like the 'Militant,' it carries regular coverage of the labor movement and the struggles for social justice in the United States and abroad, plus news and analysis with a special emphasis on the workers movement in Latin America.

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## Solidarity with Central America



## and the Caribbean

With this issue, the 'Militant' initiates a new column on Central America and the Caribbean. The column will feature regular coverage on solidarity activities with revolutionary struggles in that region of the world. Particular attention will be paid to efforts in support of the revolutions in Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada, and El Salvador. We encourage our readers to send in any information on solidarity activities in their areas.

### Cubans on U.S. speaking tour

The Center for Cuban Studies is sponsoring U.S. tours of two prominent Cubans during October and November.

Eugenio Rodríguez Balari, president of the Cuban Institute for Research and Orientation of Internal Demand, is scheduled to tour during October and November. *Demanda Interna*, as the Institute is popularly known in Cuba, was established in 1971 to survey goods and services needed by the Cuban population and make suggestions for better distribution.

Rodríguez, who edits *Opina*, a consumer magazine, will speak about the Cuban economy and the effects of the U.S. economic blockade.

Cuban film director Tomas Gutiérrez Alea will tour here November 6-22. Some of Gutiérrez's internationally acclaimed movies include: "The Last Supper", "Death of a Bureaucrat", "The Survivors", and "Memories of Underdevelopment."

For more information on these tours, contact the Center for Cuban Studies, 220 East Twenty-third Street, New York, New York 10010, (212) 685-9038.

### U.S. delegations report on El Salvador

A delegation of lawyers from several U.S. groups conducted a fact finding tour of El Salvador last month. The delegation included representatives from the National Lawyers Guild, National Conference of Black Lawyers, and La Raza Legal Alliance.

In a statement released at a news conference, September 22, the delegation concluded that: "The evidence indicates that it is the military forces which are responsible for the vast majority of the violence. We do not see anything to suggest that the military junta is in any position to control its own violence. The efforts of the United States State Department to portray the current regime as reform-minded are contradicted by the broad-based opposition within the country to the military junta. It is not surprising to us that armed opposition exists to protect the people from mounting violence by the military."

"From our observations we conclude that massive violations of human rights continue in El Salvador, and that the current regime is not substantially different from the one overthrown in a coup last autumn. We urge that a full-scale investigation by appropriate international agencies be undertaken. The United States should cease all forms of assistance to the present military junta of El Salvador, since it has no popular support."

The August issue of hospital workers union *1199 News* reported on a recent visit to El Salvador by a team of U.S. health care workers including former 1199 Vice-president Frances Hubbard. The team discovered that health workers are not exempt from government repression. Hubbard said during a news conference "that in some cases patients thought to be enemies of the regime have been dragged off operating tables and murdered along with the operation staff."

The *1199 News* noted that "many of the murder weapons used against citizens of El Salvador are provided through United States military aid to that country."

### PSP candidates speak at N.Y. rally

Supporters of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party election campaign gathered for a New York fund raising banquet and rally September 28 at Casa de las Americas. The event was held for several PSP candidates who are running for office in Puerto Rico.

The PSP slate includes one of the island's leading trade unionists. Luis Lausell, head of UTIER (electrical workers union), is the party's candidate for governor. A trade union support committee has been organized across the island to support his campaign.

A more detailed report on the PSP rally appears in the latest issue of *Perspectiva Mundial*. *PM* is the bi-weekly Spanish language sister publication of the *Militant*. A Subscription to *PM* is available at \$2 for five issues or \$16 for one year. The address is: 408 West Street, New York, New York 10014.

### Grenadian leader to speak in N.Y.

As part of "A Night of Solidarity with Grenada," the Grenadian Mission to the United Nations is sponsoring a talk by Selwyn Strachan. Strachan is the Minister of Labor, Works and Communication and acting Foreign Minister of the People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada.

The event will be held October 12, 4:30 p.m. at Colonial Mansion, 2431 Church Avenue in Brooklyn. A slide presentation on the celebrations of the first anniversary of the March 13, 1979 revolution will be shown.

—Osborne Hart

Please send contributions to the column to: Osborne Hart, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014.

By Jon Hillson

HAVANA, CUBA—Confidence and optimism.

These are the attitudes which capture the mood of Cuba today.

The spirit is fired by the victorious revolutions in Nicaragua and Grenada and the chain reaction of struggle they have set off in the Caribbean and Central America.

This was the overwhelming impression Cuba's people gave to twenty-five recent visitors from the United States, readers of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, who visited there in late August.

They talked with many Cubans. This is part of what they saw and heard.

\* \* \*

The departure of 125,000 Cubans over the last several months has strengthened, not weakened the country.

"They left," a fourteen-year-old says matter of factly, "because they weren't revolutionaries. This is a revolutionary country."

His older friend, a man in his fifties continues. "One percent left. Ninety-nine percent stayed."

We are in an exhibition hall that features Czechoslovakian graphic art. It is air conditioned, and many people come out of the hot Havana night for relief. The conversation turns to world politics.

"The Nicaraguan revolution," a fourteen-year-old smiles, "is finished, completed." He makes a sweeping gesture with his hand. "Next is El Salvador. That is what we are waiting for, hoping for."

\* \* \*

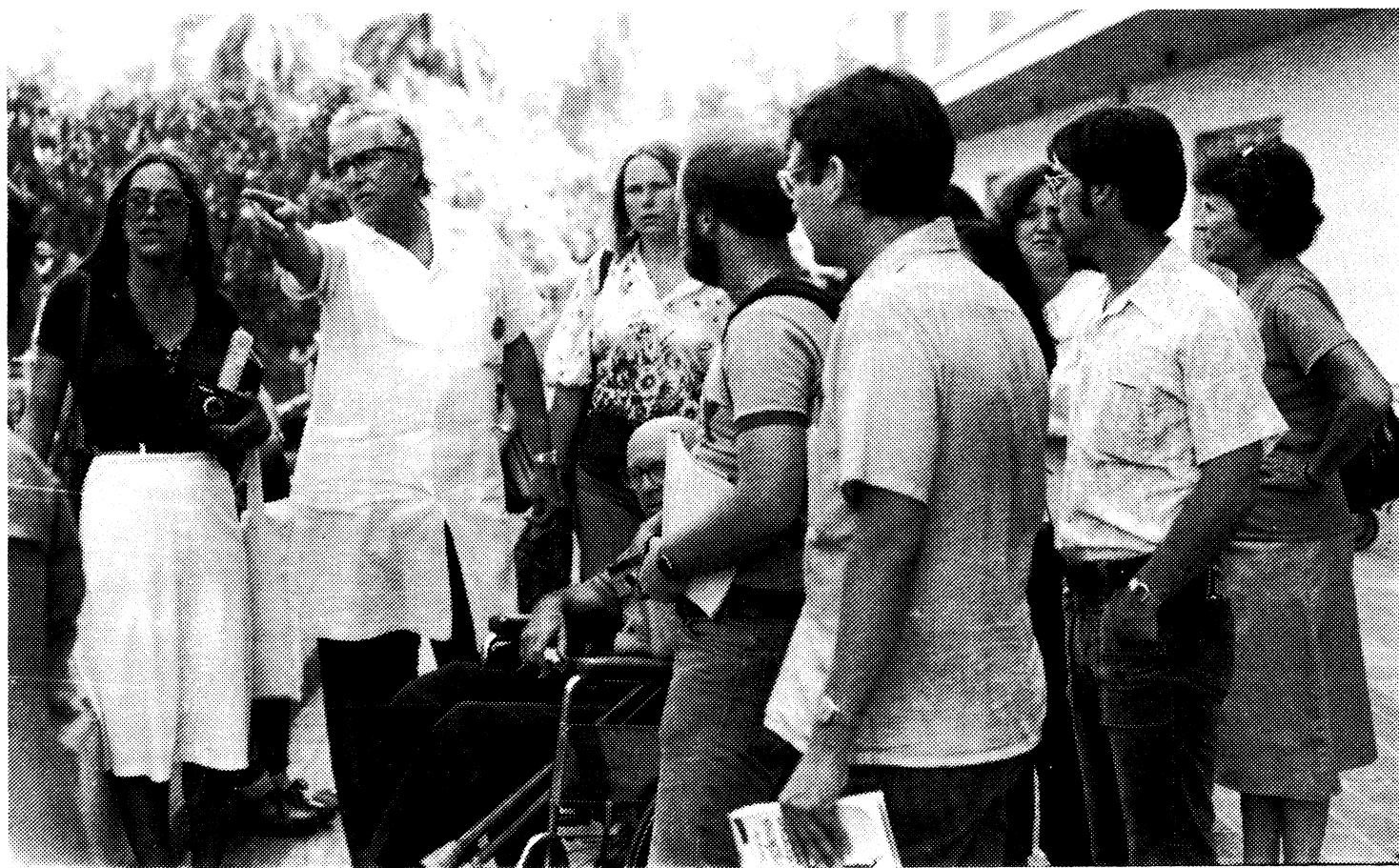
The Pioneer camp in Cienfuegos is nestled in a perfect setting, at the foot of the rugged, green Escambray mountain range. The Caribbean provides a beach of soft, white sand and sun-splashed water.

Over the summer it is a vacation camp for "Los Pioneros"—youth from six to fourteen. During the school year, the camp hosts entire schools with study and recreation sessions, including field trips into the Escambray to retrace the steps of guerillas led by Che Guevara twenty-two years ago.

Scores of youngsters, curious, outgoing, and friendly, gather around us as we approach the beach. Conversation begins immediately.

Most Cubans describe the antisocial elements who have recently left as "the *escoria* [scum]." A sixteen-year-old counselor surrounded by children tells us "The *escoria* didn't have 'enough' in Cuba. Of course they didn't work

# What U.S. visitors learned in Cuba



Doctor at Havana hospital talking with 'Militant' tour group

Militant/Jon Hillson

much." She points to the camp's dormitories, classrooms, playgrounds and cafeterias. "We have what we need," she says, "free education, camps like this, free medical care. We are a free people."

"The *escoria*," she says with contempt, "wanted luxury, not freedom."

What do the youngsters want to be when they grow up?

"A doctor," a little girl pipes up.

"An engineer," says another.

Before the revolution, not even a woman of the most privileged class would have such a hope. But for these working-class girls, it is more and more a realistic perspective.

When they hear that the Equal Rights Amendment has not passed in the United States, that women make only 59 cents for every dollar men make, they blink in disbelief.

It sounds like the dark ages to these children of the revolution.

What message should we convey to

American women from these young Cuban females?

A twelve-year-old answers. "Tell them to be like us. To be free women and build socialism."

\* \* \*

The U.S. blockade of Cuba has taken its toll in creating hardship and impeding economic development. But economic aid, assistance and trade, particularly from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, provides Cuba with machinery, equipment, oil, and medicine that the blockade attempts to deny in order to strangle the revolution.

The newly opened Karl Marx cement factory in Cienfuegos province, built in collaboration with the German Democratic Republic, is Latin America's largest, and more than doubles Cuba's cement-producing capacity. This will be a big boost to the construction of new prefab housing, a top priority of the government.

Everyone is aware of the effects of the blockade. But there is another sentiment too: *We have made the adjustments*. The shortages are fewer, the breakdowns less frequent. Cuba lives with the blockade, and, despite it, is making headway. There is no question where the economic lifeline comes from. It is pointed to with pride.

The Soviet Union.

\* \* \*

*El Tablón* is a new, rural community in Cienfuegos province, the result of a government program to modernize agricultural production.

It is a complex of apartments, stores, a school and cultural center. A day care center is to be added shortly.

The residents are former peasants who sold their individual parcels of land to the government, which merged them into larger, more productive state farms. Along with payment for the plot, the former owners receive land rent from the government.

They pay no rent for their new furnished apartments. For the rest of their lives.

The move from thatched roofed *bohios* with dirt floors, into modern apartments, is a big change for *El Tablón's* residents. Another major one is that they are no longer individual peasant producers, fending for them-

selves, each family isolated from the others.

They are now agricultural workers, employed in the dairy industry, working together as union members and living in a community setting.

The director of *El Tablón*, a woman in her early thirties, says that when the March of the Fighting People was called for last May 17, the residents of *El Tablón* wanted to show their support for the revolution, against the stepped-up harassment of U.S. imperialism and the flight of the *escoria* it inspired.

The community's Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR's) called meetings to discuss what was happening and what to do.

On May 17, half of Cuba's ten million people marched. The sight of the enormous, patriotic crowds in Havana showed the world the real face of the Cuban people.

But no less militant and meaningful was the local outpouring from *El Tablón*.

How many of *El Tablón's* 932 men, women and children marched?

The director spreads her hands and says, "all of them, each one, marched. They took cars, buses, anything to go to Cumanayagua." It is a nearby town, with one paved road and a couple of small stores on the main street.

On May 17, it was filled from end to end with revolutionaries.

\* \* \*

Dr. Ricardo Roque is the vice-director of the National Hospital in Havana. A position like that could easily earn him \$100,000 a year in the United States. And Roque lived in the United States before moving to Cuba shortly after the revolution.

Roque's wages in Cuba are about two and a half times that of an unskilled worker. He scoffs at the idea of becoming wealthy through treating disease.

"In 1965 we [Cuba's doctors] renounced private consultation," Roque says. Health care was no longer based on ability to pay, but need. It is completely free, from cradle to grave, from medicine to surgery.

Twenty years ago, Roque says, after the exit of the doctors who treated the rich, there were 2,000 physicians. Now,



Pioneer youth camp

Militant/Bruce Lesnick



there are 12,000, a third of them women.

He tells about the neighborhood polyclinics, the special maternity care, the expansion of free dental care clinics.

His manner is patient, with a gentle, biting humor directed at medical care "in the states." He is asked many questions from Americans who have never experienced such a doctor.

What about sex education?

It is taught throughout the school system, he says. Birth Control is readily available. Abortion is free on demand. Forced sterilization is outlawed. "It does not occur, ever," he says emphatically.

Cuba's health care system is a product of the socialist revolution, an internationalist revolution. Roque lists some countries where Cuban medical teams are active. Nicaragua. Grenada. Angola. Mozambique. Ethiopia. Iraq. "We feel pleasure to be Cubans," Roque says, "but we are doctors for the whole world. We are not simply a country, we are a province of the world."

\* \* \*

The beach at Santa Maria is a long stretch of creamy sand east of Havana, which backs up into a vast grove of pine trees.

Inside the glades are the former homes of the long departed rich elite, which are now rented by workers. There are two hotels—one built before the revolution, smaller, more sedate looking, and a new one, bolder in architecture, and larger, along with several bars and cabarets. Santa Maria is a socialist resort, available to ordinary Cubans.

The beach is thronged with people. Cuba's workers have a month's paid vacation a year, and many take their holiday time in the hottest months, July and August.

Several socialists strike up a conversation with some Cubans, who turn out to be Olympic athletes and trainees and their coach.

They talk about those who want to

leave Cuba. "They are free to speak, to say what they want, to go if they please," one athlete says. Another predicts the children they dragged to Mariel, the Cuban port of exit for the trip to Miami, "will come back when they get older."

The talk turns to the Caribbean. All the athletes and their coach are enthused about Nicaragua and Grenada, and eagerly wait for victories in El Salvador and Guatemala.

One of the Cubans makes a scratching motion under his chin. "U.S. imperialism is beginning to feel the tickle of Fidel's beard," he laughs.

In the blue distance, a lone American cabin cruiser passes on its way to Mariel.

\* \* \*

Visitors from the United States are greeted with warmth and openness. When such visitors are socialists, the typical response is one of comradeship.

In Cienfuegos, more than 200 Cubans, mostly in their teens and early twenties, gather around several groups of American socialists.

"You must be patient to make a revolution in the United States," a young man says. "You need courage, unity and sacrifice, especially in the belly of the monster," the eighteen-year-old goes on. "Learn from the example of Che, of Cuba."

"Our revolution is young" goes a common saying, which does not excuse problems, but states a fact. It will be 22 next January.

Young as it is, still blockaded, with U.S. marines still camped at Guantánamo, still coping with the legacy of centuries of colonialism, Cuba's advances are a model for all of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

To the working people of the United States, Cuba's closest neighbor, to a people beset by economic insecurity, by the threat of war, by racism, by unemployment, by sex discrimination, by the collapse of the American dream, Cuba says, in all modesty, look at us.

Despite our problems and difficulties, you can learn from us.

## ... nukes

Continued from page 6

facility after no more than ten years. But the government has been unable to develop a permanent storage facility, so the stuff is piling up at the plant sites. The government still has no answer to this problem.

### How to shut them down?

There is only one way to protect people from the cancer and genetic damage caused by nuclear power plants, from the possibility of catastrophic accidents at these plants, and from the continued and growing accumulation of deadly radioactive waste, which cannot be stored safely.

That is to shut down all the nuclear power plants immediately.

And it is possible to shut them down now without any disruption of the economy or interference with the growth of industry. The answer is a four-letter word, *coal*.

By using more coal, we could shut down all nuclear power plants this year, and still leave ourselves a comfortable margin of electrical generating capacity in reserve. At the present time, nuclear power plants supply between 12 and 13 percent of the country's electricity. A full 2 percent of all the electricity generated in this country goes to make nuclear fuel, so shutting down the nuclear power plants would reduce the supply of electricity by 10 percent or so.

But this is only half the story. There is already excess generating capacity of some 38 percent. According to federal standards, only about 15 percent excess capacity is necessary. So the fact is that the country as a whole could get along right now without the electricity supplied by nuclear power.

Much of the unused capacity is in existing coal-fired plants. The rest is in oil- or gas-fired plants that could be converted to coal. It is even possible to convert some nuclear plants under construction to coal.

There is certainly no shortage of coal in the United States, which has more than a trillion tons of reserves. There are thousands of unemployed coal miners anxious to go to work. There are plenty of railroad workers willing to haul it.

Moreover, techniques already exist and are in use in many places to remove almost all of the worst pollutants from coal emissions.

## ... Friedman

Continued from page 9

nia.

Metzger is leading the attack. His voice can be heard, instructing his goon squad, "We are going to take our men and march around this whole perimeter and demonstrate to the reds of this country that this isn't Russia or Vietnam."

Friedman urges, "Join me in protesting the Klan violence that is rearing its head here."

"The Democratic and Republican parties are not our allies. They are the parties of the big corporations. We need to break with these parties and form a party of our own, a labor party. And we must also unite in building a movement against the Klan."

The videotape shows a portion of a recent "Speak Up, America" program that features the KKK and the Metzger campaign.

Friedman is speaking to the "Speak Up, America" audience: "I am running for Congress against Mr. Metzger to build a united movement, a labor party based on the trade unions, based on an alliance with Blacks, Chicanos, and women—who are opposed to the racism, sexism, and terrorism that

### Corporations vs. safe energy

It is the energy corporations—the largest of which have major investments in oil and nuclear power, as well as coal—that resist the environmental protections for coal, and threaten to close down if they have to use them.

They want to profit from the \$150 billion or so that they have invested in nuclear power. But it was a bad investment and should go down the tubes. The corporations are fighting to save money at the expense of the future of humanity. Working people have a different morality.

Some of the arguments used by pronuclear spokespersons against coal are really touching. They suddenly pretend great concern for the dangers that coal miners face on the job, and assert that nuclear power will free them from those dangers.

The fact is that nuclear power is used as a weapon against the miners. When miners demand better conditions, the competition from nuclear power is used as a threat against them. And like all other people, coal miners and their families are exposed to the risks that nuclear power generates.

The elimination of nuclear power would help coal miners in another way, increased use of coal would provide more jobs. However, even if all the nuclear power plants were shut down, thousands of coal miners would still be out of work. A dramatic increase in automation since World War II has allowed the coal companies to produce much more coal with fewer workers.

The only answer to unemployment is to cut the workweek, spread the available work around, and have a minimum of forty hours' pay a week guaranteed.

Along with coal, developing solar energy is a good idea. But right now it is little more than an idea. You can't generate electricity economically with solar power yet, and you can't operate industry with it.

Coal is here and now. So is the necessity to shut down nuclear power. It is a grave and immediate danger. Even at its dirtiest, coal is nowhere near as destructive to the environment as nuclear power. And coal production is getting cleaner and can be made cleaner still.

Most importantly, by shutting down the nuclear industry and utilizing coal, we can end nuclear power's threat to the very existence of the human race.

Metzger stands for."

As Friedman finishes, the audience applauds.

The videotape ends with an appeal from Friedman for support in the SWP ballot fight:

"There is a choice in the November 4 election. You don't have to vote for the Grand Dragon of the KKK. You don't have to vote for Claire Burgener, the Republican incumbent who is a millionaire arch-conservative. You have an alternative. Write in the Socialist Workers Party candidates: Mark Friedman in the Forty-third C.D., George Johnson for Senate, Andrew Pulley for president and Matilde Zimmermann for vice-president.

"We will not be intimidated. We know that our ideas speak to the needs of the majority of the American people.

"I urge you to get involved. Join us in helping to build demonstrations against the draft. Join us in supporting union organizing drives. Join us and help to build a strong, united movement against the Klan. Join with our sisters and brothers in Latin America fighting for equality and justice. Join the Young Socialist Alliance and the Socialist Workers Party."

## Your last chance to join Nov. 16-30 Cuba tour



Last-minute reservations can be considered until October 17. Phone Joanne Murphy at (212) 243-6392.

The *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* invite you to travel with us on a two-week tour of Cuba.

After spending several days in Havana the tour will fly to Santiago de Cuba, birthplace of the Revolution. The next week will be spent traveling across the island. The tour will visit the cities of Camaguey, Las Villas, and Santa Clara.

During the two weeks we will have time to meet with representatives of the Cuban Workers Confederation, Federation of Cuban Women, Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, and other organizations. Also we will visit schools, hospitals, polyclinics, housing developments, and factories.

The tour departs from Miami November 16 and returns there on November 30. The cost is \$850. This includes hotel, meals, roundtrip travel in Cuba, visa fees, and bilingual tour guides.

For more information write to Militant/PM Cuba Tours, P.O. Box 314, New York, N.Y. 10014

## Employer victimizes Salt Lake socialist

SALT LAKE CITY—Dave Hurst, an employee at Eimco's Fabrication Division and the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress from Utah's Second C.D., is fighting company harassment.

On September 18 Hurst was given a five-day disciplinary suspension from his job. The company charged that Hurst had a bad attitude and was an unsafe worker. Management even claimed he had been seen operating an overhead crane with his feet.

Eimco is currently laying off thirty-nine employees. The com-

pany doesn't like Hurst's call for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay to spread the available work around.

Hurst is also campaigning for a labor party based on the trade unions. District 38 of the United Steelworkers union, to which Hurst belongs, has endorsed the idea of discussing the labor party proposal.

Hurst is demanding an end to company harassment and back pay for the days he was suspended, as well as his right to time off from work in order to campaign.

## ... Canada

Continued from page 4

clerks are women, and many of them are also heads of households.

The federal clerks were "basically being stomped on," Mark Krakowski, a PSAC regional representative told this reporter.

It was conditions such as those that fired the anger of the union's ranks. The PSAC leadership had never before called a strike, but the clerks, through a series of wild-cat actions beginning in early September, were finally able to compel the union tops to issue a formal strike call.

This new militancy of the PSAC is only the most recent reflection of the

growing combativeness of the Canadian labor movement as a whole, especially of women unionists. Since the beginning of the year, labor actions have included a militant telephone workers strike, two strikes in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick against discriminatory regional wage rates, and factory occupations in Oshawa and Bramalea.

In addition, the Ontario Federation of Labour has called a province-wide march and demonstration in Toronto for October 18 to protest against plant closures, layoffs, and cutbacks.

Against this background, it is not surprising that the federal employees won so much support. Their struggle for a decent standard of living is the same as that of all workers in Canada.



Striking federal clerks in Ottawa injured when car rammed picket line. Three women were hospitalized.



El Salvador/revista de las LP-28

The war in El Salvador has included the murder of children by the military. The young revolutionaries include this thirteen year old.

## ... El Salvador

Continued from back page

national police, four; the paramilitary organization ORDEN, seventeen; the Special Political Police, three, and the Death Squad, thirty-eight.

U.S. aid to the brutal military junta responsible for these crimes was recently increased by \$20 million, to bring the amount for this year to at least \$92 million.

This figure does not include secret military aid channeled through the CIA and the U.S.-backed colonial settler regime in Israel. Israel was also a major supplier of arms to Somoza before he was overthrown in Nicaragua.

There continue to be reports of American "advisers" involved in military operations of the Salvadoran army.

The extent of murders by the military junta does not receive prominent attention in the bourgeois media in the U.S. The "land reform" carried out by the junta has received a lot of attention, but its real purpose has not been reported.

The most important accomplishment of the land reform was to better organize government repression against peasants.

One of the best descriptions comes from the U.S. professor who helped design the program, Roy Prosterman. Prosterman works with the American Institute for Free Labor Development. AIFLD is run by the AFL-CIO to help carry out U.S. government policy internationally.

A May 5, 1980, article in the *El Salvador News Gazette* reported on a meeting of American and Salvadoran businessmen addressed by Prosterman. "If the reforms are successfully carried out here, the armed leftist

onslaught will be effectively eliminated by the end of 1980," he promised his audience."

The article goes on to report that "in 1966 Dr. Prosterman drafted a program for South Vietnam which he said was very successful. . . . Answering the observation that Vietnam had not been a victory for the free world, Dr. Prosterman said: 'South Vietnam was lost because nobody was willing to commit more men from the outside and it was the overwhelming forces from the North that gave them the victory.'"

The El Salvador junta is cranking out new lies to justify its demands for more weapons. The New York daily *El Diario/La Prensa* carried a UPI story on the front page October 7 reporting, "The [El Salvador] government said yesterday that at the United Nations it will expose the participation of 'foreign mercenaries' in support of the leftists engaged in armed confrontations in this Central American country." The "foreign mercenaries" are supposedly from Panama, Nicaragua, and Cuba.

President "human rights" Carter is backing a military junta that is at war with virtually the entire population of this Central American country of five million people.

Republican Party presidential candidate Ronald Reagan is an even more enthusiastic supporter of all the right-wing military regimes throughout Latin America.

Regardless of which one of them is elected president, neither of their policies represent the wishes of the American people.

The truth about what is happening in El Salvador has to continue to be publicized as widely as possible. And an international movement has to be organized to demand the U.S. keep out.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

- Title of publication: The Militant.
- 1A. Publication No. 349040.
- Date of filing: September 26, 1980.
- Frequency of issue: Weekly. (A) No. of issues published annually: 50. (B) Annual subscription price \$24.00.
- Location of known office of publication: 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.
- Location of the headquarters or general business offices of the publishers: 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.
- Names and complete addresses of publisher, editor, and managing editor: Publisher: The Militant, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Editors: Cindy Jaquith, Andy Rose, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Managing Editor: None.
- Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners

must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.): 408 Printing & Publishing Corp., 408 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Joel Britton, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Thomas Kerry, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Allan Hansen, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Elizabeth Stone, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Barbara Matson, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Gus Horowitz, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Caroline Lund, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Jack Barnes, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Peter Camejo, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Doug Jenness, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Carol Reed, 3004 16th Street, San Francisco, CA 94116. Helena Hermes, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Cindy Jaquith, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Priscilla Ring, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Frank Lovell, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Devon Parry, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Susan Berman, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. 406 West St. Realty Corp., 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

- Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amounts of bonds, mortgages or other securities (if there are none, so state): None.
- For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates. Does not apply.
- Extent and nature of circulation. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months. A. Total no. copies printed (Net press run): 12,552. B. Paid Circulation (1) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales: 6,253. (2) Mail subscriptions: 4,971. C. Total paid circulation (Sum of 10B1 and 10B2): 11,224. D. Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means, samples, complimentary and other free copies: 89. E. Total distribution (Sum of C and D): 11,313. F. Copies not distributed (1) Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing: 1,000 (2) Returns from news agents: 239. G. Total (Sum of E, F1 and 2—should equal net press run shown in A): 12,552.
- Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date. A. Total no. copies printed (Net press run): 13,600. B. Paid circulation (1) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales: 7,526. (2) Mail subscriptions: 5,031. C. Total paid circulation (Sum of 10B1 and

- 10B2): 12,557. D. Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means, samples, complimentary and other free copies: 140. E. Total distribution (Sum of C and D): 12,697. F. Copies not distributed (1) Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing: 800. (2) Returns from news agents: 103. G. Total (Sum of E, F1 and 2—should equal net press run shown in A): 13,600.
  - I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
- (signed)  
Nancy Rosenstock  
Business Manager
- For completion by publishers mailing at the regular rates (Section 132.121, Postal Service Manual). 39 U.S.C. 3626 provides in pertinent part: "No person who would have been entitled to mail matter under former section 4359 of this title shall mail such matter at the rates provided under this subsection unless he files annually with the Postal Service a written request for permission to mail matter at such rates." In accordance with the provisions of this statute, I hereby request permission to mail the publication named in Item 1 at the phased postage rates presently authorized by 39 U.S.C. 3626. (Signed) Nancy Rosenstock, Business Manager.





**Dress rehearsal**—The Essex County, New Jersey, League of Women Voters is cooperating with the West Orange Turtle Back Zoo to help voters overcome "polling booth phobia." Those afflicted with such anxiety can vote in a standard booth at the zoo for their favorite mammal, reptile, or bird. This will help make people feel more at ease and practiced in using a voting machine.

**Suggestion box**—New devices to reduce on-the-job theft include a wall clock, which is really a TV monitor, and a mannequin whose eyes are TV

lenses. Now if we could train one on the boss counting his profits, we could nail the real thief.

**Catch 10**—Damage suits based on pain and suffering were ruled out by an Illinois judge in the case of those killed in the DC-10 crash near Chicago last year. He said state law requires evidence of pain and suffering at time of death and, "there is a real problem with proof in this case."

**Civics lesson**—A University of Missouri professor wanted his class to study the Republican and Democratic platforms. But after a month of hunt-

ing, locally and nationally, they were able to come up with but thirty copies of the Republican platform and none of the Dems.

**Besides, he's working**—Baltimore City Council President Walter Or-linsky can't understand the fuss about 26,000 people applying for seventy-five low-paying federal jobs. "I can't think of anything less remarkable," he opined. "You'd get the same lines in any other aging American city. It shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone."

**Almost mystical**—A U.S. scientist said the Holy Shroud of Turin, held to be the burial sheet of Christ, is a medieval fake. He said he found that the image of a body on the sheet included a pigment used by artists. A Vatican expert dismissed the finding as "oddly curious, unreliable, and far-fetched."

**Figures-don't-lie dep't**—According to statistics released by St. Louis officials, both employment and unemployment declined there in the month of August.

## By Any Means Necessary

### Sir Eric Gairy: the 'wanted man'

*The rule of the tyrants decline  
The year, 1979  
Human rights they violate  
because they think they too damn great  
so in disgrace now they live in exile.*

*Gairy is a wanted man.  
Patrick John is a wanted man.  
Shah of Iran fighting hard to survive  
He, too, is wanted dead or alive.*

**"Wanted Dead or Alive"  
The Mighty Sparrow**

As the song indicates, 1979 was a year that witnessed the downfall of many imperialist-backed tyrants.

Some of the "wanted" men, just to name a few, include: Somoza of Nicaragua, the shah of Iran, Bokassa of the Central African Republic, Amin of Uganda, Acheampong of Ghana, Patrick John of Dominica and Sir Eric Mathew Gairy of Grenada.

The "wanted man" of Grenada showed his face here in New York City for a public meeting and news conference last month. Sir Eric Gairy (with emphasis on "Sir" because, as he pompously reminded the news media, he has been knighted five times and therefore "fears no one") came out of his exile hideout in San Diego to "speak to the Grenadian people."

Gairy's public meeting September 21 was his first since an insurrection led by the New Jewel Movement toppled his dictatorship and established the People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada. West Indian and U.S. groups that support the revolution vastly outnumbered the Gairy backers at the meeting, which turned into a pro-PRG rally.

Some consider Gairy a "minor-league despot." But his rule was no less ruthless than the shah's or Somoza's. This earned him such nicknames as

"Grenada's shah" and the "Idi Amin of the Caribbean" to go along with the equally appropriate titles of tyrant, dictator, butcher, murderer, buffoon, etc.

The latter tag—buffoon—was pinned on Gairy because he developed an international reputation for being a mystic preoccupied with extraterrestrial visits to earth. He made long speeches on UFOs before the United Nations, urged them to establish a commission on the subject. This embarrassed even his supporters at home.

For twenty-three years Gairy ruled Grenada through graft, rigged elections, torture, murder, and repression. His infamous "Mongoose Gang"—a paramilitary gang of hired thugs—terrorized the population and victimized opponents of the regime.

In 1974, the Mongoose Gang, along with the police, attacked an anti-Gairy demonstration of 6,000, beating anyone they could lay their hands on and shooting into the crowd. The father of Maurice Bishop—Prime Minister of revolutionary Grenada—was killed.

During a September 24 news conference that I attended, Gairy denied any responsibility for the death.

At the news conference, Gairy disavowed other facts of his rule and assailed the new government.

- Gairy established relations with the Pinochet junta in Chile and began receiving military aid in 1976. Members of his secret police were trained in Chile and shortly thereafter they applied their newly learned skills of repression to Gairy's opponents. Gairy says he only received "uniforms" from the Chilean government.

- After the insurrection, large sums of U.S. currency were discovered in Gairy's home. He claims he only had a "collection of American coins in a bucket."

- Gairy says he is not a mystic, but only a Roman Catholic.

### Osborne Hart



A reporter asked why he chose this time to go public. Gairy replied that he has the support of the Grenadian people and emphatically vowed to return to Grenada's shores because, as he put it, "I believe in the divine law of justice."

"We all have an obligation to try to reverse the situation," he said. "I have had sufficient indications and discussions with the people—with Grenadians concerned—to indicate to me quite clearly that Grenadians are ready to reverse the situation."

Gairy went on to say that the New Jewel Movement is "afraid" of him, the people are "revolting and fighting against the new government, there is mass confusion among members of the regime." And he claimed the economy is in worse shape than when he was in power.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

I asked Gairy, if he has the support of the Grenadian masses, as he asserted, then why doesn't he go back?

Launching a diatribe on the role of Cuba in the Caribbean and the aid it is giving Grenada, Gairy replied, "It is not wise for me *single handedly* (my emphasis) to go back to Grenada now."

The truth of the matter is that the only way Gairy plans to return to Grenada is through a counterrevolution. Something he has been cultivating by trying to recruit mercenaries, assassins, counterrevolutionary Cuban exiles, and other right-wingers—with the blessing of his host, the U.S. government.

Gairy is a wanted man. He's wanted by the Grenadian people to stand trial for his crimes against them. But the Carter administration harbors him and refuses to honor the extradition request by the Grenadian government.

Meanwhile, Gairy is allowed to solicit support for his counterrevolutionary moves against the Grenadian revolution.

## What's Going On

### GEORGIA ATLANTA

**THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE FOR YOUTH IN 1980 ELECTIONS.** Speakers: Richard Fawkes, Young Socialist Alliance National Committee; Janice Prescott, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., Oct. 18, 8 p.m. 509 Peachtree St. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: 1980 Georgia SWP Campaign. For more information call (404) 872-7229.

### KENTUCKY LOUISVILLE

**NO TO THE DRAFT!** Speakers: Bob Hill, Young Socialist Alliance, others. Fri., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 131 W. Main #102. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

### MICHIGAN DETROIT

**SOCIALIST WORKERS CAMPAIGN RALLY.** Speaker: Andrew Pulley, SWP candidate for president. Sat., Oct. 18, dinner 7 p.m., rally 7:30 p.m. 6404 Woodward, corner of Baltimore. Donation: \$5,

rally only \$2. Aup: Michigan SWP Campaign. For more information call (313) 875-5322.

### MINNESOTA IRON RANGE

**SOCIALISM TODAY IN THE AMERICAS.** A Socialist Educational Conference. Classes: Sat., Oct. 11: 12:30 p.m. "Socialism and the Working Class"; 3 p.m. "Development of the Cuban Revolution and Its Role in the World"; 6 p.m. dinner: \$3; 7:30 p.m. "Prospects for Socialism in Canada and the U.S." Speakers from Canadian Revolutionary Workers League and U.S. Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 12, 10 a.m. "Grenada: First Free Black English-speaking Country on Earth"; 1 p.m. "Revolution in Nicaragua." All events at 1012 2nd Ave. S., Virginia, Minn. Aup: SWP, Young Socialist Alliance, Winnepeg RWL. For more information call (218) 749-6327.

### TWIN CITIES

**DANGER ON THE RAILS.** Speakers: Jim Carson, United Transportation Union, Chicago Northwestern railroad; Jim Bailke, UTU, Soo Line; Bill Peterson, UTU, Milwaukee Road, and Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 19, 4 p.m. 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Twin Cities Militant

Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

### NEW JERSEY NEWARK

**BEHIND THE IRAQI INVASION OF IRAN.** Speaker: Fred Feldman, staff writer for the *Militant*. Sat., Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. 11-A Central Ave., near Broad St. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

### OHIO TOLEDO

**SOCIALIST WORKERS CAMPAIGN RALLY.** Speakers: Andrew Pulley, SWP candidate for president; Toby Emmerich, SWP candidate for Congress, 9th C.D. Fri., Oct. 17, reception 6:30 p.m., rally 7:30 p.m. 2120 Dorr St. Aup: SWP campaign. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

**OREGON  
PORTLAND**  
**THE WAR BETWEEN IRAQ AND IRAN: THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION UNDER ATTACK.**

### WASHINGTON SEATTLE

**WORKING PEOPLE IN POLITICS: WHY WE NEED A LABOR PARTY.** Speakers: Elaine Bernard, British Columbia, chairperson of Women's Rights Committee, New Democratic Party; Jim Levitt, member International Association of Machinists Local 751, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate; others. Sun., Oct. 12, 7 p.m. 4868 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Militant Labor Forum and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

### WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE

**WOMEN AND THE 1980 ELECTIONS?** Speaker: Andrea Morrell, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sun., Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. 3091 N. 27th. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

## 'History will absolve me'

On March 10, 1952, Fulgencio Batista carried out a military coup against the regime in Cuba, implemented new reactionary laws, and overthrew the 1940 Constitution.

On July 26, 1953, 170 young men and women undertook a military action against the Moncada Barracks in Cuba in an attempt to overthrow the Batista regime. Many died during the attack while others who were taken prisoner were savagely tortured and murdered.

Fidel Castro and a few others survived and went on trial. On October 16, 1953, Fidel defended their actions with a speech that later became known as 'History Will Absolve Me.' Excerpts are printed below.

In the speech, he explains the plans and goals of the movement expressed in the 'Moncada Program' and condemns the crimes of Batista's dictatorship. He also explains the need and right of the exploited and oppressed masses to make a revolution.

This firm conviction was to always be the guide of these inspiring revolutionists. That's why when Fidel ends his impressive defense plea, he declares: 'Sentence me. I don't mind. History will absolve me.'

And it did.

In what country is the Honorable Prosecutor living? Who has told him that we have sought to bring about an uprising against the constitutional powers of the state? Two things are self-evident. In the first place, the dictatorship that oppresses the nation is not a constitutional power, but an unconstitutional one; it was established against the Constitution, over the head of the Constitution, violating the legitimate Constitution of the Republic.

The future of the country and the solution of its problems cannot continue to depend on the selfish interests of a dozen financiers, nor on the cold calculations of profits that ten or twelve magnates draw up in their air-conditioned offices. The country cannot continue begging on its knees for miracles from a few golden calves, similar to the Biblical one destroyed by the fury of a prophet. Golden calves cannot perform miracles of any kind.

Cuba could easily provide for a population three times as great as it now has, so there is no excuse for the abject poverty of a single one of its present inhabitants. The markets should be overflowing with produce, pantries should be full, all hands should be working. This is not an inconceivable thought. What is inconceivable is that anyone should go to bed hungry, that children should die for lack of medical attention.

Remember that today you are judging an accused man, but that you yourselves will be judged not once, but many times—as often as these days are submitted to



FIDEL CASTRO

criticism in the future. What I say here will be repeated many times, not because it comes from my lips, but because the problem of justice is eternal and the people have a deep sense of justice, above and beyond the hair-splitting of jurisprudence. The people wield simple but implacable logic, in conflict with all that is absurd and contradictory.

You will answer that on the former occasions the courts failed to act because force prevented them from doing so. Well then—confess: this time force will oblige you to condemn me. The first time you were unable to punish the guilty; now you will be compelled to punish the innocent. The maiden of justice twice raped by force!

Did Batista's present regime—his "revolution" of last year—ever have any of the rightful attributes of a real revolution? Is it or is it not constitutional to struggle against his regime? And must there not be a high degree of corruption in the courts of law when these courts imprison the citizens who try to rid their country of so much infamy?

How can you qualify as legitimate a regime of blood, oppression, and ignominy? How can you call a regime revolutionary when it has combined the most backward men, the most backward ideas and the most backward bureaucracy? How can you consider legally valid the high treason of a court whose mission was to defend our constitution?

With what right do the courts send to prison citizens who tried to redeem their country by giving their own blood—their own lives?

All this is monstrous in the eyes of the nation and is monstrous according to the principles of true justice.

### A big lift

Enclosed is enough for renewal of your extraordinary newspaper. I must say your news gives me a big lift in these days of such mad conditions. I'm only sorry I can't donate. Good luck with your production and circulation.

N.C.

Denver, Colorado

### California ballot fight

Although I voted for Margaret Wright [presidential candidate of the People's Party] in 1976, I believe Andrew Pulley is following in 1980 with the same revolutionary tradition.

Although there have been troubles in the California ballot access campaign, I've written Governor Brown a letter.

I had to write in a vote for Margaret Wright, back in Ohio, in 1976 and if necessary, I can write in a vote for Andrew Pulley in 1980!

Gary Du Gai

Berkeley, California

### Wants more information

I happened to be reading an interesting copy of the *Progressive* when I found an advertisement for your party.

Needless to say, I am disenchanted with the other parties I have examined and have found much to my liking in a brief perusal of your party's beliefs. However, I want to have more information about your party since I remain relatively ignorant of its complete platform.

I am pleased to see that the Socialist Workers Party has remained active in our democratic process despite the harassment and ill-intended abuse given by certain members of the establishment and status quo.

P.R.

Grantham, Pennsylvania

### Sanitation strike

In September over 300 sanitation workers from American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1550 staged a sit-down strike in Houston, Texas, to protest deplorable conditions and the suspension of two supervisors who were members of the union.

Supporters from the over 1,000 sanitation workers in the city forced the city administration to meet the workers at city hall to recognize their grievances.

The workers at the Beechnut facility on Houston's southwest side stopped working after two supervisors were suspended without pay for insubordination. Their insubordination was to protest the condition of the city's 300 garbage trucks, of which nearly half were inoperable and beyond repair, and the other half unsafe and life-threatening.

The strikers pointed out to *Militant* reporters that they all must come to work at 7:00 a.m. and wait until there are trucks for all to go out on. That means while some workers are out on trucks, the others must wait for those to return, nearly eight hours later. Then they go out for the next seven to eight hours until 1:00 a.m. the next day. They are only paid for eight hours' work, and if they leave the barn they are fired.

One striker, showing us a truck with no door for the driver, said, "Even if we go out, there is no guarantee that we will come back in one piece. Some trucks don't have floors while others have no tread on the tires, so if it rains we often skid and run into another vehicle or possibly a pedestrian."

Bob Warren

Houston, Texas

### AFL-CIO meets

The California AFL-CIO convention, held in Los Angeles last week, was different this year. I came to

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# Learning About Socialism

## On strike against yourself?

this conclusion after recalling my experiences as a delegate and reviewing some of the decisions taken. It isn't that the delegates were much different. Most were longtime officials in their local unions. But these officials are under pressure from union members to "do something," not just sit there as many have been doing for twenty years.

I was interested in getting signatures protesting the arbitrary exclusion of the Socialist Workers Party from the California ballot, also protests about the attempted bombing of the SWP Los Angeles headquarters, which occurred during the convention. Of the 1,000 delegates more than 60 signed for our right to be on the ballot, and 20 signed statements against right-wing violence and threats upon the SWP. This shows a very different attitude from the days of the antiwar movement when most union officials accused us of being "Vietcong agents."

In over three days of meetings, I ran into red-bating *only once*, from a few people at a small (four-person) delegation of rail workers. And their anti-communist remarks weren't very menacing.

The labor party idea received a generally favorable response from nearly everyone I spoke with, even though the convention endorsed Carter. There was no choice in this matter because the state body is subordinate to the national AFL-CIO, which had previously made the endorsement. But there was no enthusiasm here for Carter. When he addressed the convention some delegates were conspicuously absent.

In remarks near the closing of the convention, John Henning, head of the California AFL-CIO and a supporter of the labor party idea, said that labor must not be the servant of the Democratic Party.

A resolution introduced by a building trades council urged the state federation to call mass demonstrations in support of labor's political rights, and to declare this the first step toward political independence.

Walter Lippmann  
Los Angeles, California

The idea of workers buying their own factories seems attractive because of the increasing number of plant shut-downs and business failures.

A positive side of this is the recognition workers can run production without the bosses, and run it better.

But running production and managing a business in this economy are two different things. The bosses' stupidity, irrationality, and greed—which workers can dispense with in controlling production themselves—are not so easily swept aside in the capitalist market.

Capitalism operates *normally* on the basis of cut-throat competition. For a business enterprise to survive in the capitalist economy it must compete with all the other enterprises in driving down wages and increasing production. These are the laws that govern capitalist economics, no matter what the intentions of any individual capitalist may be.

There is an interesting example in South Bend, Indiana. Steelworkers Local 1722 went on strike against South Bend Lathe in August. Just like the companies it competes with, this machine tool manufacturer is trying to keep down labor costs by keeping a ceiling on the cost-of-living-allowance formula for the workers.

But South Bend Lathe is 100 percent owned by the employees. At least in form. In 1975, to prevent the plant from closing, the workers bought up shares in the company and financed the rest with a federal government loan.

Now, the company president says the workers are unwilling to "think and act like owners."

On the picket line, one of the owners said, "I'm still confused why I'm here. If I'm an owner, then how can I be on strike?"

The worker-owners are on strike because their best interest as owners are to increase their own exploitation as workers.

This is not a new experience.

In the mid 1800s a cooperative movement developed in Britain and won the support of many workers. They proposed buying factories, farm land, and setting up cooperative stores. This was inspired by the early utopian socialists, especially Robert Owens. (See our September 26 column on Engels's pamphlet *Socialism Utopian and Scientific*.)

This movement held out the hope that small groups of workers could band together, eliminate exploitation by running their own factories, and compete with the capitalists. British working-class leader Ernest Jones polemicized strongly against this idea.

Two articles Jones wrote on this are contained as an appendix of Volume 11 of the *Collected Works* of Marx and Engels. (Our column on October 10 discussed Jones's election campaign as a labor candidate for parliament in 1852.)

The tone of the articles, which appeared in May and September 1851, is both serious and fraternal.

Jones wrote: "I am not the enemy of co-operation, but its friend—its true friend—I do not oppose co-operation, but wish to rescue it from that course, in which it is digging its own grave."

What did Jones propose?

"If, then, you would re-create society, if you would destroy profitmongering, if you would supplant competition by the genial influence of fraternity, and counteract the centraliza-

tion of wealth and all its concomitant evils, NATIONALIZE CO-OPERATION."

The idea of nationalization was relatively new in 1851. Jones explained that "co-operation" had to change its axis from a plant-by-plant to a nationwide basis.

"The national centralization of popular power and popular wealth (not its local centralization) is the secret of success."

Jones explained why the capitalists cannot be fought by trying to compete with them.

"The working classes are exhorted to subscribe their pence, under the conviction that, by so doing, they will soon be enabled to beat the monopolist out of the field, and become workers and shopkeepers for themselves. . . .

"While the working classes are trying [co-operative ventures] with their little capital, the monied classes will be trying to do the same thing with their enormous riches; that the monied classes, further, have the advantage of being already far ahead in the race—that they wield all the national power—that they are, to a great extent, independent of the home trade—that their cannonballs open new markets, of which they will take good care to maintain exclusive possession—that they control the entire monied and commercial system, and can, therefore, expand or contract the currency, raise or depreciate [interest rates], glut or restrict the market, and create panic upon panic. . . . It may be said that they would injure themselves by resorting to some of these means for crippling working class co-operation: granted. But, remember! they can afford to lose—you cannot!

"That which would but pinch their little finger would amputate your entire arm. . . . Again, never lose sight of this: they wield all the political power as well! If they should fail in other ways, they can destroy you by new laws. . . ."

So Jones drew together the economic and political fight. His call to "nationalize co-operation," and the independent labor political campaign he ran the following year, blazed the trail for the kind of steps needed by the working class.

Workers in the United States today can learn from the experience of workers 130 years ago. The availability of writings by the original Marxists on these issues is a real source of inspiration.

The relevance of articles from Marx and Engels *Collected Works* is a pleasant surprise to readers who assume they are outdated. These books contain a wealth of information and are easy to use. Each volume has extensive notes and indexes of subjects, periodicals, and names.

Fourteen volumes have come out in English so far, going up to 1856. Individuals or groups who may have a common place to keep their library should get hold of them right away.

They are available from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, New York 10014, or from the offices below. Each volume costs \$8.50. Enclose \$.75 a book for postage.

—Stu Singer

Please send questions you would like to see answered in this column to: Stu Singer, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014.

## If You Like This Paper, Look Us Up

Where to find the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and socialist books and pamphlets

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**UTAH:** Salt Lake City: SWP, YSA, 677 S. 7th East. 2nd Floor. Zip: 84102. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

**VIRGINIA:** Tidewater Area (Newport News): SWP, YSA, 111 28th St. Zip: 23607. Tel: (804) 380-0133.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699.

**WASHINGTON:** Olympia: YSA, Room 3208, The Evergreen State College. Zip: 98501. Tel: (206) 866-7332. Seattle: SWP, YSA, 4868 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Morgantown: SWP, YSA, 957 S. University Ave. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

**WISCONSIN:** Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 3901 N. 27th St. Zip: 53216. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

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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.

# THE MILITANT

## El Salvador: U.S.-backed military at war with people

By Stu Singer

There have been two important new developments in the growing civil war in El Salvador.

The body of Human Rights Commission member María Magdalena Henríquez was found October 7. She had been shot six times. She was kidnapped October 3 while shopping in downtown San Salvador with her young son. Witnesses reported that uniformed cops were among the kidnappers.

Also on October 7, revolutionaries who have held the offices of the Organization of American States in San Salvador left the building and freed their ten hostages.

OAS special envoy Alberto Salem reportedly told the occupiers that the military junta governing El Salvador agreed to the demands that they investigate the status of political prisoners and activists who have disappeared. A government source denied this. But the revolutionaries were able to leave the OAS offices without being attacked.

María Magdalena Henríquez, thirty years old, was the first member of the Catholic Church-backed Human Rights Commission to be killed. But the group had been threatened repeatedly. In early September their offices were bombed. A delegation of American lawyers who met with them the same day report that police and right-wing terrorists often dump bodies of their victims in front of the commission offices.

The occupation of the OAS offices began September 17. It was coordinated with a nationwide hunger strike by political prisoners and the occupa-

tion of two churches.

The September 29 issue of the Mexican revolutionary socialist weekly *Bandera Socialista* reprints a communique dated September 20 from the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) of El Salvador.

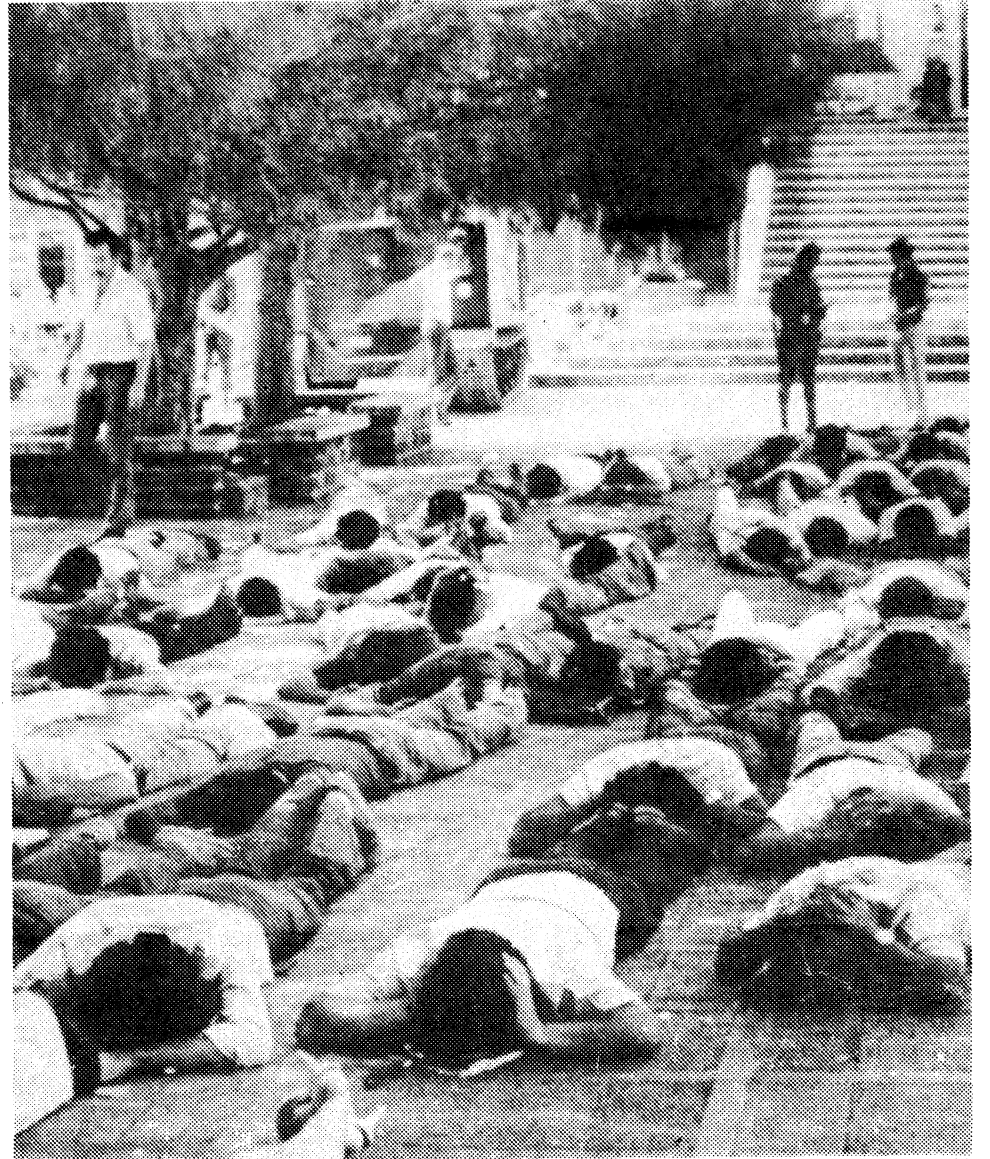
Some of the demands of the FDR in these occupations included: 1) freedom for the political prisoners and those who have disappeared; 2) lift the state of siege; 3) abolish laws 246 and 296, which deny the rights of public workers; 4) repeal the decree that took away legal recognition of the electrical workers union; 5) respect university autonomy; 6) rehire workers fired during the recent general strike.

The Human Rights Commission recently reported that 7,000 civilians have been killed and 3,000 more disappeared since the beginning of this year.

The extent of the terror campaign by the military government against the people of El Salvador was also indicated by a detailed report issued September 14 by the Legal Aid (Socorro Juridico) of the Catholic Archdiocese. They reported that 247 civilians were assassinated by government forces between September 1 and 13. Among the victims were 152 peasants, fifteen workers, twenty-three students, twenty-five public employees, six small businessmen, and one professional.

The legal aid group reported that ninety of the murders were committed by combined elements of the army, national guard, national police, and customs police. In addition, the national guard killed thirty-seven, the

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El Salvador/revista de las LP-28  
Military occupation of university in El Salvador last June. More than 7,000 have been murdered by U.S.-backed military and rightists so far this year.

## Black railroaded for self-defense against KKK

By Nelson Blackstock

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—An all-white Decatur, Alabama, jury has convicted Curtis Lee Robinson of assault with intent to murder in the wounding of a Ku Klux Klan leader in that city last year.

Morgan County Circuit Judge R.L.

Hundley immediately sentenced Robinson, a janitor at Decatur City Hall, to five years in prison October 2. The judge later amended the sentence, reducing it to two years probation because of Robinson's "good reputation before this occurred."

Robinson was among the peaceful

Black demonstrators fired upon by a group of robed Ku Kluxers in Decatur on May 6, 1979. Led by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the marchers were protesting the jailing of Tommy Lee Hines. A severely retarded Black man, Hines had been framed on charges of raping a white woman.

No one has ever been charged in the wounding of two Black demonstrators gunned down by Klan fire that day.

Robinson testified that he had fired a .38 caliber revolver in self-defense after the KKKers had gone through police lines and attacked the demonstrators. Robinson's attorney, Morris Dees, had Klansman David Kelso dress in a white robe and brandish a club as he was doing at the time he was wounded.

Chief prosecuting witness against Robinson was Decatur police Lt. M.C. Owens. The cop said he had seen Robinson waving a gun moments before the Klan attack began and heard him boast, "I'm going to get me a couple of those dudes today."

Robinson denied Owens's allegations.

Dees told the court that Owens is the "best friend" of a Klansman who "has an axe to grind" against Robinson.

Dees said he will appeal the decision and believes it will be reversed.

Mohammed Oliver, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Alabama, issued a statement hitting Robinson's conviction. Contrasting Robinson's fate with that of Gary Thomas Rowe, Oliver charged that "a dual system of justice is at work."

Coming the same day as news of Robinson's conviction was a report that a federal judge blocked any further attempts to prosecute Rowe for the 1965 murder of civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo. This ruling came despite the fact that new evidence, including testimony of two Birmingham policemen, had linked Rowe with the killing.

At the time of the murder, Rowe was functioning as a paid FBI operative inside the Ku Klux Klan.

Oliver said, "The conviction of Curtis Lee Robinson, guilty only of trying to defend himself and others against armed racist goons, shows whose side the courts are on. On the other hand, Ku Kluxers have been left free to terrorize supporters of Tommy Lee Hines, and Gary Thomas Rowe is not even brought to trial."

"We must demand that Robinson's conviction be thrown out, that Rowe and other KKK killers be brought to justice, and that the full record of government-Klan complicity be made public."

### Paris march protests Nazi terror

By Osborne Hart

Shouting slogans against racism and fascism, more than 100,000 people marched through the streets of Paris October 7 in protest of the latest right-wing terrorist attacks against Jewish residents in the city.

The demonstration—the second in three days—included contingents from trade unions, various political parties, Jewish groups, and feminist and human rights organizations. Labor leaders called a two-hour nationwide general strike in solidarity with the action. Demonstrations were organized in a dozen French cities, and 5,000 people marched in Rome.

The marches were in response to the bombing in front of a Jewish synagogue October 3 that left four people dead and a dozen injured.

After the bombing, Agence France-Presse, the French news service, received a call from the European Nationalist Fascists—a Nazi-type organization—claiming responsibility for the attack.

An aspect of the demonstration focused on police negligence in apprehending those responsible for the bombing. A report by ABC-TV in New York October 5 said that thirty Paris cops are members of the Nationalist Fascists.

During the past year and a half, there have been attacks on Jewish temples, monuments, schools, and other facilities throughout France. On the day of the Paris protest, attacks on Jewish establishments were reported in Grenoble, Marseille, Montpellier, and other towns.