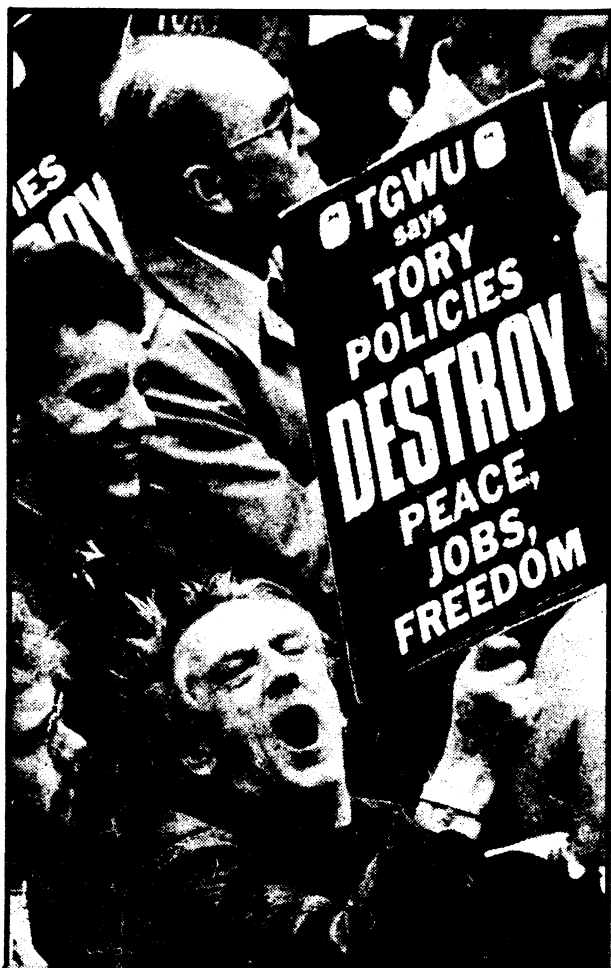


THE MILITANT

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



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Black leaders say: 'Reject Carter-Reagan insanity'

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MIAMI, Oct. 21—Three hundred angry protesters demonstrate outside campaign meeting for Carter.

SHOWDOWN IN JAMAICA

Eyewitness report on rightist terror

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Reagan vs. Carter: a sorry debate

The time was when capitalist politicians competed with pre-election promises of a better life—peace, prosperity, and even better times ahead.

The Reagan-Carter debate showed that the crisis of capitalism is so deep that they can no longer even *promise* a better life. The debate came down to which one would be worse for the country.

Reagan moderated the tone of his ultraright program, but a good bit of it did come through. But Carter's response—and even more his record—certainly offered no serious alternative.

"More of the same," seemed to be about all he promised.

Carter did touch a sensitive public nerve in suggesting the risk of a trigger-happy Reagan at the helm. Except that he went on to boast, "Since I've been in office we've had a steady . . . increase in our commitment for defense."

Similarly unassuring was Carter's reminder of the present formidable U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf.

He flatly asserted: ". . . we are prepared to address any foreseeable eventuality which *might interrupt commerce* with that crucial area of the world." (Emphasis added.)

Such a threat of readiness to go to war to ensure the uninterrupted flow of profits to the oil companies is obviously OK with Reagan, who even defended the ex-shah.

He asserted that the Carter administration had helped overthrow the shah because he "didn't meet exactly our standards of human rights."

This is something of an injustice to the Carter administration, which did everything it could to save the late butcher from the wrath of the Iranian people.

On domestic issues, the absence of real choice was equally evident.

Reagan tried to screen his opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment with a phony argument that lawmakers could protect women's rights better than judges. But he was also able to note that while Carter is supposedly a firm supporter of the ERA, not a single state has ratified it during his administration. This even though most of the state legislatures have Democratic majorities.

The Reagan/Carter choice was no better on Social Security.

Reagan openly favors cutting the already miserably low benefits. In the debate he cloaked this proposal in murky jargon about making the system "actuarially sound." In English, that means present contributions don't cover pension payments, so cut the payments.

Carter's response was not exactly a call to arms. He opined there should be no "peremptory changes" in the benefit levels.

Reagan also got in some licks on a favored right-wing theme, "welfare fraud." He spoke of the "tens of billions" allegedly lost in such "fraud."

Considering the relative pittance spent on welfare programs, that would mean that just about every recipient is a "chiseler" to be axed off the rolls.

Reagan also had some employer-favored thoughts on how to deal with unemployment—wipe out safety and health regulations, "increase productivity" (that is, make workers produce more for less), and scrap the minimum wage—for Black and Latino youth for openers.

Carter's feeble protest was not particularly impressive in light of his record. As Reagan was quick to note, there are currently eight million jobless, two million in the past few months alone.

But Carter must have really felt shabbily treated when Reagan charged that, under his administration, production of coal was being stymied by too many "regulations."

Carter responded that Reagan was callously talking about junking health and safety regulations. But if ever an administration was notorious for sabotaging such regulations, it's the present one. Just hours before the debate, three miners died in an illegally operated Kentucky mine—one of an estimated fifty to a hundred in the area.

Carefully considered, the debate confirmed that both major parties are strictly bad news

when it comes to the problems of working people.

Too bad Andrew Pulley, the Socialist Workers nominee, wasn't allowed to join in that "debate." The millions of viewers would have gotten honest, meaningful answers to the problems confronting them.

The Socialist Workers program for attacking the capitalist roots of the social crisis should be supported at the polls. And it should be supported in the struggle which will continue after election day.

Solidarity with the Irish hunger strikers

One hundred forty nine of Ireland's political prisoners have now joined an indefinite hunger strike that began at the infamous H-Block on October 26.

The protesting nationalist prisoners have been beaten and humiliated. They have been forced to live in filth, darkness, and isolation—deprived even of reading material. This is part of a five-year campaign by the British government to force them to accept the status of common criminals rather than that of political prisoners.

The hunger strike was planned by the prisoners as the last recourse available to them.

In the October 28 *Wall Street Journal* one British official was quoted as saying the prisoners "may well die. If they do, so be it."

The British government is submitting the prisoners to this torture as a warning to the massive numbers who continue to oppose imperialist rule and military occupation of part of Ireland.

A powerful solidarity campaign is needed to save the lives of these prisoners.

At the start of the hunger strike more than 30,000 protesters marched in Belfast, the largest demonstration in a decade.

In the United States, supporters of the Irish freedom fighters have targeted November 8 as a day of nationwide activities. A protest rally at the British Consulate in New York City has been called for 3 p.m. on that day.

Working people and all supporters of democratic rights should join these protests. The brutal mistreatment of these fighters for Irish independence must end now.

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If You Like This Paper, Look Us Up



Nicaragua: battle for Bluefields

Winning support from Miskito and English-speaking people of Atlantic Coast region is presenting important challenge for Nicaraguan revolution. An on-the-spot report. Page 22.

The Militant

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sarily represent the Militant's views. These are
expressed in editorials.

Showdown in Jamaica

By Russell Johnson

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Oct. 27—As election day, October 30, approaches, tension is mounting in this city. Heavily armed soldiers and police patrol the streets in jeeps. As evening comes, army helicopters circle overhead, searchlights beaming down into the working class neighborhoods. Soldiers move in, and repeated gunshots can be heard.

Each morning the radio and press carry reports of the previous night's death toll: thugs have burst into a house and machine-gunned the occupants, men, women, and children; the security forces have killed five or six youths in an alleged shoot-out; People's National Party (PNP) activists have been beaten or shot to death while canvassing for their party candidates; or a PNP rally has been broken up by gunfire, forcing government leaders to shelter in a police station until the early hours of the morning.

This is the atmosphere of violence and intimidation that engulfs Jamaica, as the most sharply fought election in its history takes place.

On one side stands the People's National Party led by Michael Manley. Since coming to power in 1972, the PNP, under the pressure of the Jamaican masses, has initiated a series of reforms that have benefitted the workers and poor farmers: minimum wage laws were promulgated and working hours limited, employers were legally compelled to recognize unions, educational opportunities were significantly expanded, and land reform programs were initiated aimed at bringing more people into farm production and useful employment.

Conflict with imperialism

Internationally, the PNP government moved into conflict with imperialism in two key areas: by breaking with the financial dictates of imperialism through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and pulling back from a policy of ruthless attacks on the



Demonstration in support of Prime Minister Michael Manley

social and economic gains of the Jamaican masses demanded by the IMF in exchange for international credit; and by maintaining close links with the revolutionary Cuban government in opposition to the imperialist campaign to isolate and crush the Cuban revolution.

In response to this, the imperialists headquartered in Washington are working overtime to get rid of the Manley government.

Their principle tool in this is the main opposition party, the Jamaican Labor Party (JLP), led by Edward Seaga. Despite the party's name and

origins in the Jamaican trade union movement, the JLP has evolved into a direct tool of the imperialist offensive against Jamaica.

Lacking confidence in their ability to beat the PNP at the polls, the JLP leaders have unleashed a campaign of unrestrained violence against supporters of the PNP, aiming to terrorize them and keep them home on election day. It also serves to generate a "crisis" atmosphere, preparing the way for a possible right-wing military coup.

Of course, the JLP leaders deny responsibility for the anti-PNP violence, much of which is carried out by unemployed youth.

"We are against the violence," the JLP candidates will say in a radio broadcast. "But," they add, "we understand why these youths will hire themselves out as gunmen."

What they do not say is that the funds to hire these thugs comes from the JLP coffers.

The ability of the pro-imperialist JLP to mobilize these youth is linked to what is the central problem facing the Jamaican people—unemployment. Two years ago, unemployment among

Continued on page 4

Three leaders of Workers Party arrested

By Mac Warren

KINGSTON, Jamaica—Twelve members of the Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ), including three members of its Central Committee, were arrested October 25, in Lucea, Hanover, on trumped-up charges of possession of bombs. The evidence consisted of two bottles half-filled with gasoline found by the police outside the house where the twelve were staying.

The WPJ, the largest party to the left of the ruling People's National Party, supported the PNP campaign in the elections.

WPJ leader Dr. Trevor Munroe

stated at a press conference hours after the arrests. "The Workers Party of Jamaica charges that the arrest and detention of national leaders of the progressive movement in Lucea, Hanover, is part of a wider plan to get leaders of the People's National Party and the Workers Party of Jamaica out of the way in the critical last five days before the election."

Munroe went on, "We demand the immediate grant of bail to the comrades in Lucea, the immediate withdrawal of these trumped-up charges once investigation reveals them to be false, and most of all,

we call on the leaders of the government to deal firmly and decisively with the soldiers and the police who are actively fighting with their weapons for a Labor Party victory."

To this date, no charges have been filed, nor has bail been set for the twelve who were arrested. Protests and telegrams of solidarity with the arrested twelve should be sent to: Police Commissioner, 103 Old Hope Road, Kingston 6, Jamaica. The WPJ requests that copies be sent to them at 50 Lady Musgrave Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica.

40,000 attend People's Nationalist Party rally

By Sam Manuel

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Oct. 25—Forty thousand people crowded into Half Way Tree Square today to hear Prime Minister Michael Manley and other candidates of the governing People's National Party (PNP).

The crowd, mostly young Blacks from working class ghettos, had been filing into the square since before sundown. The wait for Manley was spaced with speeches by local candidates and reggae music. The sound system blasted out Bob Marley's "Coming in Out the Cold" and "Black Survivors." Organized groups of youths with walkie talkies roamed through the crowd seeking to cool out any right-wing provocations.

The rally took place in the midst of a campaign of political terrorism un-

leashed by the pro-imperialist Jamaica Labor Party (JLP). Two earlier attempts by the PNP to hold a rally in Kingston had failed. The first ended in a hail of bottles and bullets, forcing Prime Minister Manley to seek cover in a near-by police station. The second was canceled after the PNP received information that another attack was planned.

Cheers greeted Dudley Thompson, national security minister and member of parliament, as he was helped onto the stage. Thompson had just won a legal decision turning back an attempt to unseat him.

Thompson thanked the crowd for the massive turnout, saying, "We shall never bow to terror and fascism. Our determination for freedom is stronger than the gun."

Thompson was suddenly interrupted by a wave of cheers, applause, and shouts. Several large men shoved their way through the crowd and lifted a figure onto the stage. It was D.K. Duncan, general secretary of the People's National Party. Duncan is viewed by many as the leader of the left wing and the youth of the PNP. He has become the special target of terrorist death threats.

Manley then stood with his fist raised. The stage rocked as the crowd pushed forward. Many of the youths began to sing "We shall overcome" and "Michael gone clear." "Gone clear" is a popular phrase used to indicate the winner of the election.

Red flags waved through the air. Others carried the rising sun, emblem of the PNP. I could make out one

banner in the foreground which read, "Down with IMF, forward to socialism."

Manley aimed his fire at the JLP and its leader, Seaga, "The JLP will not escape the judgement of history. They are responsible for the death of McGann and acting Corporal White."

Manley continued, "No other leader has brought political terror to Jamaica. . . . Who brought this to Jamaica?" The crowd responded: "CIA-Aga," a reference to the well-known ties between JLP leader Edward Seaga and the CIA.

Manley finished, "We have to find a way to reach the peaceful Laborite. We have to build the Home Guard [community defense guards], because we have an enemy, and the enemy is the terrorists unleashed by the JLP."

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How Carter reacted to Iran moves on hostages

By Suzanne Haig

As the November 4 presidential election approached, speculation continued regarding the possible release of the fifty-two American hostages in Iran. The date marks one year since the occupation of the embassy in Tehran.

The Iranian parliament has been discussing a report by a special seven-member commission on the terms of their release.

On October 22 Carter administration officials said they believed Washington could satisfy the conditions set by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in a September 12 speech. These were: the release of Iranian assets seized by Washington; cancellation of all claims by banks, corporations, and others against Iran; the return of the former shah's stolen wealth; and a pledge of non-interference in Iranian affairs.

Like several other attempts by Iranian leaders to reach a settlement, Khomeini's offer had been brushed aside when he first made it.

The tie-in of these moves with Carter's reelection bid was noted by the press, and Reagan charged Carter with using the hostages as a "political gimmick."

But Reagan's was not the only lukewarm response to Carter's openness to Iranian government efforts to end the hostage crisis.

The Carter administration was warned to pull in its reins October 24 by lead editorials of two of the most influential ruling-class papers in the country: *The New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. They cautioned sternly that Washington's first con-

cern must be neither the reelection of Jimmy Carter nor the hostages.

"Freeing the hostages is important in human terms," the *Times* noted. "But any deal must also serve the broader American interests in the Middle East."

And the *Wall Street Journal* said: as election pressure "mounts on President Carter to do something to get the Iranian hostages released. . . . We hope someone spends a little time pondering the question of what price it would be wise to pay, keeping in mind that much of the bill might come due after November 4."

That Carter had bowed to this advice was evident when he stated October 24 that the safety of the hostages was not his primary concern. "I have an additional responsibility on my shoulders above and beyond, or at least equal to, the safety of the hostages." He said that was not to "violate our honor or interfere with the interests of our nation."

And on October 27 the State Department issued a warning that "grave consequences" would follow if Iran released most of the hostages while putting some on trial as spies prior to their release. Documentary evidence that some were spies had been found by the students occupying the embassy.

The Iranian people, who seized the embassy a year ago in opposition to U.S. threats against their revolution (specifically the shah's visit to the United States) could hardly be expected to take kindly to the latest threat. Coming in the middle of the discussion in the Iranian parliament,

the threat could only obstruct a peaceful resolution of the hostage crisis, as Carter has done from the beginning.

Though never lacking in words for the hostages, Washington's actions have shown from the beginning that the U.S. rulers have been indifferent, at best, to their fate.

From the start Carter dismissed Iranian demands for the return of the butcher shah and his stolen wealth.

Carter's April 24 raid into Iran, had it not been aborted, would have led to the death of some or all of the hostages.

In imposing economic sanctions on Iran, freezing Iranian assets, building up military forces in the Persian Gulf, and supporting counterrevolutionary exiles intent on restoring a repressive dictatorship in Iran, Carter acted in complete disregard for the hostages'

well-being.

Washington uses the 'hostage issue to try to turn American working people against the Iranian revolution and to convince them to accept the possibility of a new Vietnam in the Middle East.

It is used to divert attention from the real issue that dictates U.S. foreign policy in the Persian Gulf region: not protecting American lives, but protecting the interests of the U.S. oil billionaires.

The U.S. rulers would like to continue using the hostages for these purposes, even if that means trying to torpedo diplomatic moves that could lead to their return.

And if the hostages are released—in spite of Washington's sabotage—the Iranian revolution is likely to face continued plots and attacks from Carter or his successor.



Carter's support of shah's tyranny set stage for embassy takeover

Labor backs Cruise missile protest in Britain

By Phil Hearse

LONDON—Eighty thousand people marched in London October 26 against nuclear missiles.

Called by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the demonstration was one of the largest seen in London in many years.

Demonstrators marched under three main slogans: No Cruise, No Trident, and Cut Arms Spending.

The slogans refer to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) decision to site 162 nuclear Cruise missiles in Britain. Also, the British Tory government has decided to spend more than six billion pounds (\$14.6 billion) on buying Trident submarine-launched nuclear missiles from the United States.

The demonstration was officially supported by the Labor Party. There was a wide range of people from the labor movement, environmentalists, and anti-nuclear and political organizations. Most prominent on the demon-

stration were young people.

The demonstration culminated an intensive six-month campaign against the threat posed by the new missiles. Hundreds of anti-missile groups have sprung up around the country. These efforts got a big boost when the National Conference of the British Labor Party at the beginning of October voted against Cruise and Trident and for unilateral nuclear disarmament by Britain.

The upsurge of this campaign in Britain represents increased awareness of the danger of nuclear war. The huge amounts of money to be spent on the Trident has caused a great deal of anger, but it was the decision to site the Cruise missiles in Britain that caused particular concern.

They are designed for NATO's strategy, referred to as "theatre" nuclear war.

The "theatre" most often referred to is Europe. Many people in Britain feel the country is being made America's "aircraft carrier"—thus, a prime target

in the event of a nuclear war.

The anti-missile campaign has repercussions at every level of the British labor movement. The 1.75 million-strong Transport Workers Union recently affiliated to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

In the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, the question of nuclear weapons is an issue in the current elections for new union president. The incumbent, Terry Duffy, supports NATO and the missiles. His opponent, Bob Wright, calls for the missiles to be cancelled.

The president of the Yorkshire area of the National Union of Mineworkers, Arthur Scargill, backs the campaign against the missiles and against all forms of nuclear power.

Every local branch of the Yorkshire NUM has an official responsible for coordinating the fight against nuclear energy.

The missiles are already an issue in the fight over the new leader of the

Labor Party. One of the candidates, Michael Foot, announced that if he became prime minister he would send the Cruise missiles back to the United States.

One of the main speakers at the October 26 rally was the leader of the left wing in the Labor Party, Tony Benn. He argued that the Tory government was carrying out an old trick—trying to divert attention from injustice at home by concentrating attention on the alleged enemy abroad.

He said that a future Labor government would refuse to base its defense policy on nuclear weapons.

Supporters of the British Trotskyist paper, *Socialist Challenge*, have played a prominent part in the campaign against the missiles.

On October 23, a *Socialist Challenge* rally in London to build for the demonstration was addressed by a leader of the Japanese Trotskyist movement, and Doug Jenness, a leader of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party.

...Jamaica

Continued from page 3

those between fourteen and twenty-nine years of age was officially put at over 43 percent. Layers of these youth, demoralized by years of joblessness, form the basis of the JLP campaign of violence.

Terror backed by military

The JLP is aided in this terror campaign by the security forces, large sections of which openly identify with the JLP. The JLP is running several recently-retired military officers as candidates.

Yesterday, in a neighborhood that strongly supports the ruling PNP, I noticed an angry crowd milling about. A hundred yards or so down the road was a line of police cars and sheltering behind them several carloads of JLP youth. The PNP community had just

been shot up. But the cops' guns were pointed at the local residents, not the JLP thugs who were allowed to leave unmolested.

And today, at a press conference given by Hugh Small, the finance minister and a leader of the left wing of the PNP, he reported that for the second time in a week he and his canvassers had been shot at from the JLP headquarters in his electoral district. But when the army arrived, they threatened him and his bodyguards, expressing open sympathy for the JLP, whose local candidate is a former army captain.

This collaboration between the uniformed and ununiformed thugs reached its most scandalous level on October 14 when left-wing PNP member of Parliament and Deputy National Security Minister Roy McGann was shot down by a squad of police called to his assistance when he

was trapped by a JLP mob.

Undoubtedly this campaign of intimidation is having an effect. Many people are reluctant to venture outdoors. Kingston streets clear rapidly as night falls.

But the PNP continues to hold on to massive support among working people, as was graphically illustrated by a 40,000-strong election rally held in Kingston October 25.

The militant and youthful crowd responded enthusiastically to appeals from party leaders to "stand firm for the third term."

Several weeks earlier, a crowd of 150,000 turned out to hear Manley in Montego Bay.

But what seems certain is that, if the JLP and the security forces are compelled to let the elections go ahead relatively freely and Manley is reelected for a third term, the bloodshed and the chaos will not end October 30.

For it is clear that Washington and

their JLP stooges are determined that one way or another the Manley regime has to go, and the social gains of the Jamaican masses must be pushed back.

And if they can't oust him in an election, then they undoubtedly will look to their hired hooligans in and out of uniform to oust him in a more decisive and bloody way.

As Seaga threatened October 19, if developments are not to the JLP's liking, "the country that will remain is not one that can be governed."

As PNP leader Louis Moyston explained to me October 25, the biggest challenge before the PNP is not simply winning the election, but how to deal with the escalating violent threats against Jamaica.

Whether an effective mass-based response to this violence can be developed will affect the future of Jamaica for years to come.

How Milwaukee sells 'Militant' subscriptions

By Nancy Rosenstock

Saturday, October 25, was a big day for socialists around the country. It was the opening of a ten-day period of intensified activity to reach our goal of 8,000 new subscribers for the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

This special effort will continue through election day, coinciding with final election activity on behalf of Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann, the Socialist Workers presidential ticket.

In the New York/Northern New Jersey area, socialists withstood a torrential downpour to sell 131 subscriptions to the two publications. They're aiming for a total of 250 for the week.

One sales team went to a Black working-class neighborhood on Staten Island, near New Dorp High School, scene of a racist attack on Black students.

The team sold eighteen subscriptions to the *Militant*.

For Milwaukee socialists, Saturday was particularly special.

A modest-size SWP branch and Young Socialist Alliance chapter there had initially taken a goal of 120 subscriptions for the ten-week drive, then upped their goal to 200.

On Saturday, which marked the end of the sixth week, they completed their ten-week quota.

In a telephone interview, Nancy Cole, the subscription drive director, said that from the outset, they have made the drive the center of their political activity and organized their election campaign around it.

Nearly half of their 200 subscriptions have been sold door to door, particularly in the city's Black communities. They found a great interest in our election campaign, particularly the idea of building a labor party.

Sometimes, Cole reports, they meet someone who wants a subscription but doesn't have the money on hand. They have obtained a number of subs by making an appointment to call back.

Equally valuable has been the success of Milwaukee socialists in selling subscription to co-workers. So far, forty-five subs have been sold in plants.

Literature tables at the University of Wisconsin campus have also been productive. Three such sales have already netted twenty-two subs.

And, so far, as a result of the drive, three people have joined the YSA. Two are students at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where a sales team visited.

The third new member is a young Black man in Milwaukee who met a sub team, worked with the YSA for several weeks, and recently decided he should be a member.

Fittingly, two of Milwaukee's candidates are pacesetters in the drive. Susan Hagen, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, has sold twenty-six subscriptions so far, and Frank Forrestal, the candidate for Congress, has sold twenty-seven.

Dallas socialists are also doing well. Their sales drive has gained fresh momentum along with their efforts in support of the transit workers walkout. They have just upped their quota from 100 subs to 135. This includes raising their *Perspectiva Mundial* goal from twenty-five to thirty-five. They are the first area to raise their *PM* quota.

Teams have been going door to door in Chicano neighborhoods and find that two or three socialists can sell about six *PM* subscriptions in an hour.

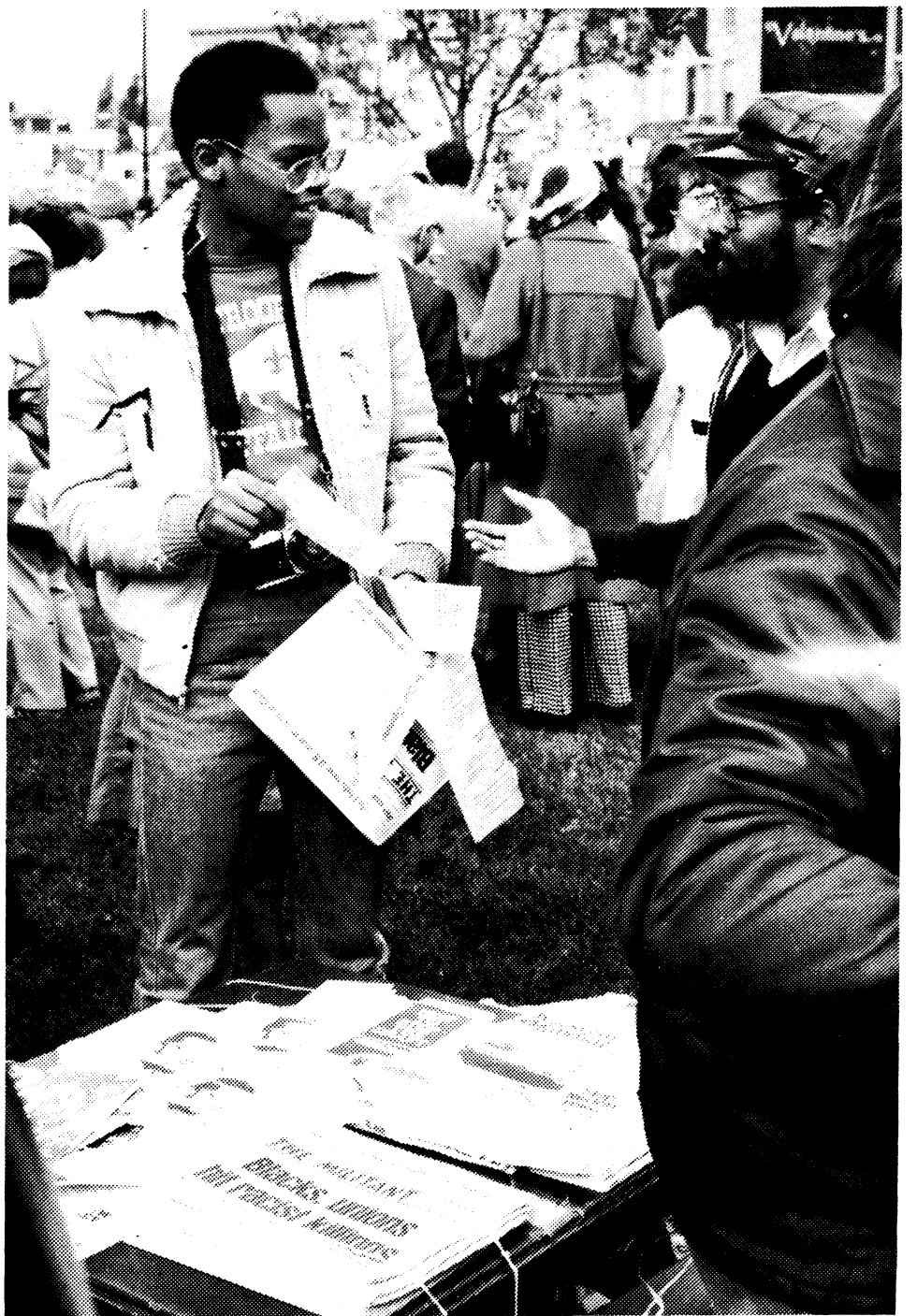
And at a recent Dallas Militant Forum, a fund was gathered to aid transit workers who are interested in subscribing but don't have the money now. As a result, sixteen transit workers are now reading the *Militant* on a regular basis.

At a recent community meeting in support of the walkout, one transit worker got up and called attention to the *Militant*. He said it had given the strike the best coverage of any paper.

There are three weeks left in the drive. Some areas are lagging and it would be useful for them to consider the experiences recounted above. They aren't unique, but the result of initiative and energy in carrying through this important political task. The successes can be duplicated if the effort is matched.

Finally, it's important to continue the sales following the elections. The post-election coverage in both the *Militant* and *PM* will be a helpful contribution to the shopfloor and other discussions that will be going on.

An especially important feature of *PM* will be the extensive coverage it will be giving to the important revolutionary developments now taking place in El Salvador.



'Militant' sold well at Buffalo antiracist rally October 19

Militant/Mohammed Oliver

Subscription scoreboard

As of October 25, 1980

AREA	MILITANT GOAL	SUBS REC'D	PM GOAL	SUBS REC'D	TOTAL GOAL	TOTAL REC'D	%
Indianapolis	110	90	10	20	120	110	92
*Kansas City	100	90	10	5	110	95	86
*Milwaukee	175	156	25	12	200	168	84
San Antonio	60	58	30	11	90	69	77
Denver	85	72	15	1	100	73	73
Iron Range	90	61	0	5	90	66	73
*Salt Lake City	135	101	15	8	150	109	73
Detroit	185	135	15	7	200	142	71
*Dallas	100	77	35	18	135	95	70
*Gary	100	75	15	5	115	80	70
*Washington, D.C.	110	96	45	13	155	109	70
*Atlanta	140	102	10	2	150	104	69
Baltimore	115	76	5	7	120	83	69
Twin Cities	190	135	10	3	200	138	69
*Piedmont	125	84	0	1	125	85	68
*Tidewater	150	99	0	0	150	99	66
Birmingham	50	32	0	0	50	32	64
Morgantown	100	64	0	0	100	64	64
*Phoenix	80	55	20	9	100	64	64
Louisville	100	49	0	13	100	62	62
Portland	95	58	0	1	95	59	62
Albuquerque	60	44	20	5	80	49	61
San Diego	70	50	30	11	100	61	61
Cincinnati	120	70	0	2	120	72	60
Newark	240	163	60	14	300	177	59
Miami	75	47	15	4	90	51	57
New Orleans	90	55	10	2	100	57	57
Toledo	60	34	0	0	60	34	57
Seattle	210	118	15	3	225	121	54
Capital District	90	44	5	5	95	49	52
Cleveland	100	61	30	6	130	67	52
Pittsburgh	165	85	10	5	175	90	51
Brooklyn	300	157	100	23	400	180	45
Manhattan	300	173	200	54	500	227	45
Philadelphia	115	57	35	11	150	68	45
Chicago	300	120	50	23	350	143	41
Oakland	125	57	25	5	150	62	41
St. Louis	120	45	0	1	120	46	38
San Jose	50	14	35	17	85	31	36
Los Angeles	200	91	150	14	350	105	30
Boston	180	57	20	1	200	58	29
Houston	105	16	35	6	140	22	16
San Francisco	100	16	100	2	200	18	9
TOTAL	5570	3339	1205	355	6775	3694	55
Miscellaneous		67		14	225	81	36
National Teams		222		7	1000	229	23
GRAND TOTAL SHOULD BE	5570	3628	1205	376	8000	4004	50
		3398		735		4880	61

*indicates area that has raised goal

Austin antidraft week

By Gary Rasp

AUSTIN, Tex.—An October 16 forum attended by 150 students here highlighted a National Anti-Draft Week of activities on the University of Texas campus.

The forum was cosponsored by the University Coalition Against Racism and Intervention in the Middle East and the Committee Against Registration and the Draft (CARD).

Mike Whitehead, a member of the Latin American Student Association, spoke on El Salvador, where, he said, the U.S. media plays down the role of U.S. involvement.

Nubar Hovesepian, co-editor of the Arabic newspaper *Strategic Studies*, spoke on the growing danger of U.S. intervention in the Middle East.

Speaking against reinstatement of the draft was Austin lawyer Dick Levine, a member of Austin CARD.

"The real reasons for the draft," said Levine, "cannot be found in public officials' comments—they have lied before and they will again."

Levine stressed that the draft is designed to intervene, and that U.S. aid to the ruling military junta of El Salvador is evidence of the beginning of intervention. He called upon Americans to resist the draft because "it is

an issue that affects us all."

An antidraft rally was also held, which attracted more than 100 students. It featured signs declaring "No War for Oil Profits" and "Equal Rights—Not Equal Slavery."

Mike Rose, of the Austin Young Socialist Alliance, said the reason for reinstatement of the draft is that the Carter administration wants to directly intervene in the oil-rich Middle East and to "blunt the wave of revolution sweeping Latin American countries."

A panel discussion of the Iran-Iraq war was conducted by members of the Austin chapters of the Organization of Arab Students, the General Union of Palestine Students, the Moslem Student Society, and the Iranian Student Association.

Protest Begin's visit

Groups backing Palestinian rights have called for a picket line and rally November 11 in New York City to protest Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's speech at a dinner at the Waldorf Astoria that day. The protest will take place at 5:30 p.m. across the street from the Waldorf Astoria, at Park Avenue and Forty-ninth Street.

Black leaders urge no vote for Carter, Reagan

By Nan Bailey

Leaders of the National Black Political Assembly have called on Black Americans to refuse to vote for any of the three major candidates for president.

The Black Political Assembly has also called a "Founding Convention of the Independent National Black Political Party" for November 21-23 in Philadelphia.

A convention-building leaflet explains that on August 23, at the National Black Political Convention in New Orleans, "a historic resolution was passed creating an Independent National Black Political Party."

The party's goal, the leaflet says, is "to advance a New Black Politics of

social transformation and self-determination for the Black Nation."

In a written statement, National Black Political Assembly spokesper-

The Founding Convention of the Independent National Black Political Party will take place November 21-23 at the Benjamin Franklin High School in Philadelphia. For more information, contact convention organizers at (215) 849-4944.

son Ron Daniels said, "Never before in recent times has Afro-America been so perplexed by an election.

"Black people are under serious attack on all fronts: massive unemployment, underemployment, attacks on affirmative action, inflation, cut-backs in social and economic assistance programs, deteriorating neighborhoods, inferior education, the re-emergence of the KKK, the American Nazi Party, and rampant police brutality and murder.

"In these circumstances, the President of the United States has found it expedient to betray the massive Black vote which he received in 1976 by virtually disregarding the urgent needs of the masses of oppressed Black people. . . .

"Frankly, we can expect little differ-

ent from the other major presidential candidates.

"Hence Afro-America would appear to be in a monumental bind; caught in an excruciating dilemma of making an insane choice between major presidential candidates who do not, and cannot represent the interests of the vast majority of Afro-Americans.

"Should Black votes give credence to that insanity? The National Black Political Assembly believes that Afro-Americans must be bold enough to say no!!

"As a clear statement of protest over the lack of major presidential candidates who are committed to and able to champion the causes and goals reflected in the Black Agenda, and genuine human rights, we urge Black voters not to vote for either Jimmy Carter, John Anderson or Ronald Reagan.

"All three major candidates represent and reflect the interests of those forces which control the American system of racial oppression and class exploitation.

"Black voters should not vote for the office of president at all, or vote for any third party or independent candidate appearing on the ballot in their state.

"We repeat: do not vote for Carter, Anderson, or Reagan."

The statement urges Black voters to vote in local election races with the policy of "rewarding our friends and defeating our enemies in city, county, congressional, state and senatorial races."

Daniels continues: "Understanding that the real problem confronting Afro-America is not who manages the plantation (the president) but the plantation itself (the American system of racism and capitalism), we urge the Black Nation to focus its attention and energies on the building of an Independent National Black Political Party capable of mounting a policy of social transformation and self-determination for the Black Nation.

"Our politics, institutions, and movement must be so strong that whomever occupies the White House or controls the system will have to contend with the Black Nation until our liberation is won."

Pulley salutes stand of Black Assembly

"I applaud the position taken by leaders of the National Black Political Assembly that Black Americans should not vote for Carter, Reagan, or Anderson in the 1980 elections," said Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president of the United States, October 28.

"I wholeheartedly agree," said Pulley, "that each of these candidates is tied to the system of racism and capitalism that is at the root of Black oppression.

"The Democratic and Republican parties are the parties of big business. Their interests are totally counterposed to those of the Black community, and of all working people.

"That's what led Malcolm X to conclude that 'We won't organize any Black man to be a Democrat or Republican because both of them have sold us out.'

"Black leaders like Jesse Jackson, Ralph Abernathy, Andrew Young, and Joseph Lowery have urged support for one of the capitalist candidates. But to call for a vote for the enemies of Black rights is betraying the interests of Black people."

Pulley said he plans to participate in the National Black Political As-



Militant/Noel Green

ANDREW PULLEY

sembly's November 21-23 convention.

"I welcome a discussion of a political alternative for the Black community. It's something that is urgently needed," he said.

"This discussion takes on added significance and power because of

the growing sentiment in the union movement for independent political action by labor.

"I will be in Philadelphia to join that discussion. I encourage others to do the same.

"Unlike the Democratic and Republican party candidates," said Pulley, "Socialist Workers Party candidates around the country are campaigning on a program of jobs for all, affirmative action quotas in job hiring and school admissions, women's rights, and defense of bus-ing for school desegregation.

"We're demanding that a federal investigation be opened into the racist murders in Buffalo and Atlanta.

"We're opposed to the draft, to draft registration, and to any war against the peoples of other countries to defend the profits of Exxon or Texaco.

"No other candidates in this election have put forward such a program," said Pulley.

"This is why I urge Blacks looking for an alternative and for a party whose program is directed at fighting Black oppression and economic injustice to vote Socialist Workers on November 4."

McCarthy moves right—but not so much

By Harry Ring

The announcement by former Senator Eugene McCarthy that he was endorsing Reagan for president shouldn't really come as that big a surprise.

True, it indicates that the former liberal Democrat from Minnesota has shifted to the right in his political thinking.

But not that far.

McCarthy made his biggest impact on U.S. politics when he challenged incumbent Lyndon Johnson for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1968. McCarthy ran as a critic of U.S. policy in Vietnam and on that basis won impressive support.

With no patronage machine, he won

42 percent of the vote in the New Hampshire primaries. In California, supporters obtained 30,000 signatures on nominating petitions in a single day.

But the thousands of young people who campaigned for him—including many who put aside meaningful activity in the antiwar movement to do so, were victims of a deception.

When Johnson spoke demagogically of withdrawing U.S. forces from Vietnam six months after an agreement, McCarthy cautioned that five years would be better.

This symbolized the extent of his opposition to the war. It stemmed not from genuine opposition to U.S. ag-

gression in Vietnam, but a tactical disagreement as to what constituted the best way to advance its imperialist interests in Southeast Asia.

This was consistent with his previous record in the senate.

As a congressman, McCarthy supported Harry Truman all the way in the Korean aggression. He supported John F. Kennedy in the 1962 anti-Cuba "missile crisis" that brought the world to the brink of nuclear disaster.

His record on civil liberties was no better. He voted for each appropriation for the witch-hunting House Un-American Activities Committee and voted for contempt citations against every witness who resisted the committee.

Prior to endorsing Reagan, McCarthy recently spoke favorably of the Libertarian ticket. He then indicated it was more practical to advance Libertarian views by backing Reagan.

The Libertarian Party is a totally right-wing outfit.

It would end government social services and public welfare. Medicare would go, and social security would be repealed.

Its bitterly anti-union stance is indicated by its opposition to the minimum wage law.

So, if McCarthy can support a party with that kind of platform, it's not unreasonable for him to get behind another reactionary candidate who has a much better chance of winning.



Former 'peace candidate' McCarthy says Reagan's the one.

Rally to Defend Political Rights

The fight against government harassment

Marian Bustin—Member United Mine Workers Local 2095, target of six-year government campaign to deport her for her membership in the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance;

Tom Moriarty—Member United Mine Workers Local 1949, SWP 1980 candidate for governor of West Virginia;

Others

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 7:00 p.m., 957 S. University Avenue, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

For more information phone (304) 296-0055.

'A fight for simple justice'

Zimmermann: Defend busing in Los Angeles!

By Andy Rose

LOS ANGELES—Support for school desegregation was the central theme of Matilde Zimmermann's two-day tour here.

At a news conference, in discussions with student, teacher, and community activists, and at a campaign rally, the Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate hammered at the necessity to defend the city's court-ordered busing plan against racist assault.

Los Angeles public schools, with more than half a million students, are among the most segregated in the country. Courts have found that the board of education has used the placement of new schools, attendance boundaries, and other policies to keep Black and Chicano youth in separate, inferior schools.

For seventeen years the board has resisted court orders to desegregate.

In hearings last winter and spring the board raised the specter of "white flight" to try to get a mandatory busing plan scrapped or weakened.

When Superior Court Judge Paul Egly ordered mandatory busing anyway—albeit a severely limited plan that leaves most Black and Chicano students in segregated schools—the

board did its best to promote "white flight."

Last-minute changes and maneuvers were designed to make bus transportation and school assignments as confusing and inconvenient as possible. For some students, the buses just never showed up.

Nevertheless, initial attendance figures show a much smaller decline in white enrollment than the board had predicted.

The board's tacit encouragement for white parents to take their children out of public schools is also an attack on the teachers union, the United Teachers of Los Angeles. The segregationist private schools that are being set up hire teachers at about \$2,000 a year below union scale.

A key tactic of the board has been to try to pit Black and Chicano communities against each other. Henry Gutierrez of the Hispanic Urban Center, which has sought to involve the Chicano community in supporting desegregation, told Zimmermann the board "thrives on" squabbles over the meager funds available for special school programs.

The board tries to "keep people divided and fighting amongst them-



Militant/Andy Rose

Matilde Zimmermann tells LA rally that labor should use its power to demand desegregation and equal education for Black and Chicano youth.

Marine arrested for bombings

LOS ANGELES—A U.S. Marine has been arrested for bombing attacks on the Communist Party and Socialist Workers Party headquarters here.

Samuel Hamilton Dunlap, twenty, was arrested October 21 at the Twenty-nine Palms Marine base.

Dunlap has reportedly confessed to setting the bomb that blew the door off the CP offices September 20 and to attempting to bomb the SWP September 23.

He has been booked on felony charges of detonating an explosive device and is currently jailed on \$50,000 bond.

The attacker was planting a bomb against the rear door of the SWP headquarters when he was interrupted by the arrival of Jim Little and other socialist campaigners.

A meeting of some twenty people was in progress only a few yards from the door.

Little and other eyewitnesses were able to provide a detailed description of the would-be assassin.

Yet police insinuated that the socialists themselves were probably responsible. Cops at first refused to

proceed with an investigation unless they were given a list of the names, addresses, and places of work of everyone inside the headquarters.

At the October 25 campaign rally here, Little thanked the many unionists and civil libertarians who had joined in demanding police action against right-wing terrorism. Without their efforts, he said, the bomber would almost certainly still be at large.

Many questions remain unanswered. Police say they had Dunlap under suspicion. They don't say why. Does he have a previous criminal record?

Police also insist they don't know Dunlap's motive or affiliation. Yet half an hour after the bombing attempt a call was made to the SWP offices. The caller said: "The bomb that didn't go off tonight will go off later. There are lots of us."

Little told the campaign rally it will take continued public pressure to "get to the bottom of this."

"It's likely this guy is part of a group," he said. "We want to know who his friends are and who he organized this with."

selves rather than confronting their common concerns," he said.

The school board, which has spent untold millions of dollars trying to evade the law on desegregation, also uses the busing plan as an excuse for cutbacks.

At Crenshaw High School Zimmermann met with students organizing against the cuts and with Jeff Horton of Teachers for Change, a group of teachers who favor busing.

Black students are for busing, student leader Tracey Williams told Zimmermann. "If whites are sent here, conditions will definitely have to go up, right? So we're for that," she said.

At the socialist campaign rally October 25, Zimmermann explained why the SWP gives top priority to rallying broad labor and community support for busing.

"First, because it's a fight for simple justice," she said. "Segregation means rotten, crowded, inferior, under-equipped schools for Blacks and Chicanos. Education is a life and death question for the Black and Chicano communities—their children are their future."

"We also think it's important because this attack on busing is part of an attack on education as a whole. We're told we can afford the MX missile but we can't afford decent education."

"By keeping Blacks and Chicanos in segregated schools, and by trying to convince whites that their schools are getting worse because of busing, the rulers try to keep us from organizing a united fight to defend education."

Zimmermann contended that the

racist frenzy of the school board and the antibusing mobs does not reflect majority sentiment among working-class whites.

"I think there is more sentiment than ever in favor of equal education, of fair play. There is a general sense that it is not fair for Black and Chicano children to get an inferior, segregated education. This lays the basis for winning support for busing."

It is precisely to cloud the issue of equality that school boards—when forced to implement some busing—design busing plans to be as burdensome, complicated, ineffective, and unpopular as possible.

A big educational effort is needed, Zimmermann said, to explain the real issues and show why the interests of all working people lie in defending desegregation.

"We're for putting the power of the trade unions behind the rights of the Black and Chicano students," Zimmermann said.

"The unions are on record in favor of busing for desegregation. Both the AFL-CIO unions and the United Auto Workers have taken that stand."

"Neither the Democrats nor Republicans have come out in favor of busing. And youth today could be well out of school and have children of their own in these racist schools waiting for the Democrats and Republicans to do anything to end segregation."

"The only kind of party that will fight for equal education, for better schools for all, for putting more of this country's resources into education," she said, "is a party of the working class, a labor party based on the unions."

Students protest cutbacks: 'a lot of racism involved'

LOS ANGELES—The socialist campaign rally here gave an enthusiastic welcome to Tracey Williams, a leader of the United Student Steering Committee at Crenshaw High School.

Williams told how her group organized a student walkout and demonstrations at the board of education to protest cutbacks.

"They've cut out foreign languages," she said. "They've cut out sixth period for the eleventh and twelfth grades. They've cut out vocational courses and some of the sports."

"Class sizes are up to forty-two. I have five classes and only two books."

"They've cut out all the college requirement courses so even if you have a 4.0 [grade] average it's no guarantee you can get into the col-



Militant/Andy Rose

Tracey Williams of United Student Steering Committee.

lege of your choice.

"Our group is saying we won't accept this. We won't let this happen to us."

Williams said that "it hurts me to see twelfth graders in my school who can't even read and write. It's not because they don't want to learn. It's just that they don't really have the school to come to."

"We know there is a lot of racism involved in this. There are some schools in the [San Fernando] Valley that have tennis courts and golf courses, that have qualified teachers who will teach you right."

"We don't want tennis courts. We want math and trigonometry and geometry. This is what's going to help us get along in society."

For the board of education to say it doesn't have money for their schools, Williams said, "that's like

saying to us, we don't care."

"Well, we care, and I can see that some of you here care."

She got a resounding ovation when she appealed for people to turn out at the next board of education protest, where "we're going to ask that all budget cuts be reinstated and we're going to ask for the resignation of Roberta Weintraub."

Weintraub, the school board president, has taken the lead in sabotaging desegregation and in organizing antibusing hysteria. Demands for her resignation have mounted since last month when she called Rita Walters, the only Black and only probusing board member, "that bitch" in a radio interview.

"We want the board of education to know," Williams said, "that we know what they're doing. And we're going to stop them now."

Pulley interviewed in Grenada

'Exxon makes more money than many nations'

The following interview with Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate, appeared in the 'Free West Indian' the national newspaper of revolutionary Grenada.

Pulley, along with Steve Clark, managing editor of 'Intercontinental Press-Inprecor,' and Diane Wang, a steelworker and SWP member, conducted a fact finding and solidarity tour of the Caribbean island in July.

The interview appeared in the August 23 issue.

In US presidential elections it is often the relatively unknown third-party candidate who clarifies issues and challenges the imperial twins, the Democratic and Republican parties to take a stand.

Andrew Pulley is the Socialist Workers' party (SWP) candidate for the presidency, in the November elections. And recently he visited Grenada to see the revolution firsthand and to help beat the imperialist slander campaign against progressive nations.

"What I've found here has been extremely inspiring and impressive," Bro [Brother] Pulley said, noting the greater availability of medical care, the creation of 2,500 jobs within the last year, and the standard of the education system.

"All of these speak very well for the future, contrary to what the US press has been reporting", he said. "I've seen fewer people armed here than I've seen in an area of Chicago any given day".

Bro Pulley theorises that the purpose of the media attacks on Grenada is to make the average US citizen hate this country so he'll accept whatever criminal and terrorist activity the US government may perpetrate.

This is particularly true for the black communities, which would readily



Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, center, talks with SWP candidate Andrew Pulley, right, and 'Intercontinental Press' editor Steve Clark.

identify with the ongoing progressive movements in Grenada, if they knew the truth, he said.

The SWP platform is raising many key issues, Bro Pulley said. "One is the whole question of the military drive—its intentions to build up a big army to police the capitalist world and overturn the socialist revolutions that have taken place".

His party challenges the increased military budget in the US and demands that proposals to reintroduce the draft be scrapped.

The SWP is against stepped-up military interference in the Caribbean, too. Specifically it demands that Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada be left alone; that adequate aid be sent to Nicaragua to compensate for US supported dam-

age done by the Somoza dictatorship; and that Guantanamo be returned to the Cuban people.

On the domestic front, things are rapidly deteriorating, Bro Pulley said. Although the US still boasts one of the highest standards of living, American workers have been squeezed economically and more than nine million people are out of work.

"Half of the young people in the black and Hispanic communities are permanently unemployed", he said.

Besides unemployment, Bro Pulley explained, the inflation rate which now stands at 15 to 16 per cent means the average person is hard put to afford adequate housing, food and medicine.

"SWP is committed to the nationalization of the oil industry, too. Companies like Exxon make more money than many nations", he said.

"In one year they made \$4.2 billion, and it was due to one of the greatest swindles ever perpetrated, a manufactured energy shortage."

"The anti-draft movement is important here, not only because it speaks out against war, but because it recognises that any war is designed to benefit the oil companies and a few millionaires and billionaires".

"Thus," Bro Pulley said, "the anti-war and anti-draft slogan now is: 'We won't go; we won't fight for Texaco—or Exxon!'".

SWP also stands firmly committed to the women's movement in the United States and the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Though it receives less than its share of press coverage in the US, SWP is one of the largest left parties there. In 1976, it got 100,000 votes throughout the country. This November, Bro Pulley's name will be on the ballot in 31 of the 50 states, but he expects no better press coverage.

As a black, born in the south, Pulley's political education began with racism. As a youth, he began recognizing a lot of injustices, but it wasn't until he went into the army and met some socialists who put those injustices into scientific perspective that he feels his most important political education began.

Eventually, he was kicked out of the armed forces for handing out anti-war and socialist literature.

Bro Pulley has returned to the US to continue the struggle inside the belly of the beast. As he campaigns, he said, he will tell the truth about the Grenada revolution and share the peoples' messages of solidarity.

Referendum attacks bilingual rights in Miami

By Caryn Swan

MIAMI—The Socialist Workers Party has called for a "no" vote on a ballot proposition to ban the Spanish-English bilingual practices of the Dade County government. Currently, county publications, including transit information, are available in Spanish and English. County meetings provide Spanish translation for the area's large Latino population.

The SWP declared that public services in Spanish should not only be preserved and extended, but that bilingual status should be expanded to Creole to benefit the thousands of Haitians living here.

The Socialist Workers' stand against the referendum was voiced by Andrea Baron, the party's nominee for U.S. senator.

"This ordinance," Baron declared, "would establish second-class status for those who don't speak English, much as Jim Crow segregation victimized Blacks. Even the limited bilingual status of Dade County represents a step forward in breaking down the discrimination against Chicanos and Latinos that exists elsewhere in this country."

Much of the anti-bilingual propaganda has been directed at Miami's Black community. Supporters of the ordinance demagogically try to convince Blacks that the large Spanish-speaking community is responsible for the poverty and unemployment in the Black community.

This fake argument was rejected by

Bill Perry, president of the Greater Miami chapter of the NAACP. He urged Black voters to reject the proposed ordinance. The 1,500-member chapter has passed a resolution opposing the proposition.

Perry said, "Let's begin to form alliances and coalitions with the Hispanic community. Our history indicates we are both oppressed people. . . ."

Pointing to the clause in the proposed ordinance barring county expenditures to promote "any culture other than that of the United States," the NAACP resolution says, "This statement implies that the only culture that should be promoted is that of the dominant group, the North American white group."

"What the hell is the American white culture?" Perry asked. "Are we talking about the American Indians?"

He compared the proposal to eliminate Dade's bilingual status with the way African slaves arriving in America had their native language taken away from them—"the first step in destroying us."

Within the Cuban community, the campaign to defeat the proposition is being led mainly by the Spanish American League Against Discrimination.

Opposition to the measure was also voiced during a visit here by Rubén Bonilla, national director of the League of Latin American Citizens, which is influential among Chicanos throughout the Southwest.

Bonilla said he fears that if Dade's anti-bilingual ordinance passes it could have serious national repercussions for Hispanics. "What we see here is a conservative movement with an element of racism that is trying to deny Hispanics their rights as citizens of the United States."

Vote yes for district elections in S.F.

By Louise Armstrong

SAN FRANCISCO—A proposition will be on the November 4 ballot here to re-establish the election of the city board of supervisors by districts rather than citywide. District elections afford Blacks, Latinos, and Asians a greater chance to win representation on the board.

Labor and community organizations are working for passage of Proposition N, to restore district elections.

Louise Goodman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for the board of supervisors, is campaigning for a "yes" vote on the proposition.

"What's at issue," Goodman, a railroad worker, declared, "is the rights of Blacks, Latinos, and Asians to full participation in this society."

Election by districts was the practice here for the past several years. But last August, a campaign orchestrated by big business overturned such elections by a narrow margin of 1,600 votes. Contributors to the reactionary campaign included major capitalist forces like the Bank of America, Southern Pacific Railroad, and Pacific Telephone.

A battle by civil rights groups, Chinese, the San Francisco Labor Council, and others had established district elections in 1976. Although district lines were gerrymandered, the process did result in five of the city's eleven districts being comprised in their majority of Blacks, Latinos, and Asians.

Prior to district elections, there had been only one Black and one Chinese

supervisor; both appointed to fill vacancies.

Since the 1976 victory, two Black women, one Chinese, and one Latino, have been elected to the board.

"Under the old, at-large system, the big banks and realtors, the developers, the money brokers called the shots. They had it pretty much their way. District elections upset the scheme, sent power out to the neighborhoods, to working people, to minorities," reported John Crowley, San Francisco Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer in the October 10 *Northern California Labor*.

Joseph Hall, NAACP northern area conference president, told the *Militant*, "There is no question about the gains made for the Black community with district elections."

"Yes on N" editorials have appeared in the San Francisco Black news-weekly the *Sun-Reporter*.

Socialist Louise Goodman pointed out, "Official population estimates of San Francisco for 1980 show that the city is now in its majority Black, Latino, and Asian. The rich who oppose N try to obscure what's really at stake. That is the right of Blacks, Latinos, and Asians to full participation in this society."

"Attacks on the rights of Blacks and Latinos are growing. Police brutality in the Mission District is constantly in the news. The repeal of district elections is part of these attacks," she added.

"Working people have a big stake in the defense of past gains made by these communities. I urge a yes vote on Proposition N—yes for democratic rights for Blacks, Latinos, and Asians."

By Andy Rose

PHOENIX—"I feel like I've come home."

That's how Sally Mitchell, an activist for ten years in the Arizona Democratic Party, described her decision to "resign all affiliation" with the Democrats and instead back the Socialist Workers Party candidates in Arizona and nationally.

Mitchell, thirty-four, is former District 26 Democratic chairperson. She was state executive secretary of the party in 1978. She worked on campaigns for, among others, Gov. Bruce Babbitt, U.S. Sen. Dennis DeConcini, and William Schulz, Democratic candidate for the Senate seat now held by Barry Goldwater.

Mitchell announced her switch at a news conference October 9 (see box).

On October 18 she attended the Socialist Workers campaign rally here, at which vice-presidential candidate Matilde Zimmermann was featured speaker. In a discussion with Zimmermann and me afterwards, Mitchell described what changed her mind.

Why former Democratic leader is backing socialist candidates



Militant/Andy Rose

"I was brought up in a Democratic household. All my family are Democrats and naturally I was too. I was always told that the Democrats were the party of the people, totally opposite from the Republicans.

"I believed that and I worked very hard to promote that image myself," she said.

'Beginning of the end'

"The beginning of the end was my involvement in the women's movement back in the early 1970s. Women in the Democratic Party were still given the role of stuffing envelopes—making coffee and not policy.

"The further we got into the women's movement the harder it was to work within the confines of the Democratic Party.

"We got no support from the leading Democrats. They would tell us privately, yes, we're for women's rights and we think you ladies are equal to us. But they wouldn't go out publicly. They wouldn't march with us. They wouldn't demand on the floor of the Arizona legislature that something be done to help women."

Mitchell told of an incident at a state Democratic convention when she was speaking on the Equal Rights Amendment.

"The wife of the former state party chairman came up and grabbed me by the shoulders at the podium in front of the whole convention and shook me and told me I was trying to divide the Democratic Party over the ERA."

We asked what she would say to those who point to the pro-ERA and abortion rights planks in the Democratic platform as proof that women can achieve success within that party.

"I would say that talk is cheap," she replied without hesitation. "The Democratic Party has always talked of support for civil rights, women's rights, blue-collar rights. But we've had a Demo-

cratic president for four years.

"We still don't have the ERA. We're losing ground.

"It's no appeasement to me to say that the Democratic Party supports the ERA. So what? How do they support it? Do they go lobby in the states they represent? Does the Democratic governor of this state do anything to help us? No. He avoids it."

Mitchell told us she has concluded that "the feminist movement is not welcome in the Democratic Party. It is far too serious and it is far too militant—not militant in the sense of violent, but militant in that we won't give up."

Iran & draft

The Iranian revolution also played a big role in convincing Mitchell that she and the Democratic Party were headed in opposite directions.

When the hostages were seized last year she had been taking courses at Arizona State University in Tempe and had made friends with some Iranian students. She was angered by the racist abuse and threat of deportation that they faced.

Mitchell and others organized a demonstration to protest U.S. war threats and a forum to get out the truth about Iran. These activities also brought her in contact with the Young Socialist Alliance.

Mitchell has a seventeen-year-old daughter and fourteen-year-old son. "I don't want to see either of them go to war," she told us.

"I have no doubt that my daughter won't go. She told me she just didn't think she would look good in green."

Party of labor?

Mitchell comes from a union family and has worked at low-wage jobs ever since she moved to Arizona. So she is keenly aware of the intimidating effect of the state's "right to work" law.

Once when working as a bank teller, she said, "I tried to talk to other tellers about organizing a union. This just wasn't done. A memo was sent around by the president of the bank that any talk of unions would be put to a halt."

The Democratic Party's county conventions "were always held in a union hall in Phoenix," she recalled. "And we always presented the facade of being the working people's party, the party for minorities.

"But if you mentioned the fact that representation from South Phoenix [an impoverished Chicano and Black area] was lacking, if you asked how we could possibly be a Democratic Party in this state and not fight against 'right to work'—it just didn't happen."

She pointed to the irony of Democrats scrambling to find a union printer in the state so their literature would have a union label, yet refusing to organize to get rid of "right to work" so that more shops might be organized.

And, she added, the Democrats "right along with the Republicans encourage corporations like Motorola and IBM and Greyhound to come here because of the climate. We're told that means the sunshine, but it really means the anti-union climate.

"If we had a labor party in this state we could do away with 'right to work.' We would not have a situation of farm workers sleeping on sheets of plastic under the trees, having no food and no money, and being rounded up every ten weeks or so and shipped across the border.

"We wouldn't have bilingual teachers going without jobs when so many children here need bilingual education.

"People would have someplace to go when they don't have adequate medical care or housing, when they're treated like the scum of the earth for applying for food stamps. Now there's no place to go."

'We are very serious'

Mitchell believes that Democratic senatorial nominee William Schulz "is personally a nice man. But what Josefina [Otero, SWP candidate for Senate] said at the rally tonight is true. Schulz has not criticized Barry Goldwater for his hawk positions, or for his statements that it's OK for women to be equal but she'd better have her ass in the kitchen making dinner when I get home.

"Goldwater says these things in public and Schulz doesn't say anything. He is obviously afraid of upsetting the big money here. So I welcome the opportunity to go public and say I may like him personally but it's no reason to support him."

Some of Mitchell's former associates in the Democratic Party have been "very upset with me," she acknowledged. They charge she is being "used" by the SWP.

Mitchell pointed out first that this is an insult to her intelligence and second that the truth is just the opposite: "I was *used* by the Democratic Party!"

She chose to make a public statement of her support to the socialist candidates, she explained, because "people are upset and frustrated. They don't know what to do. And they don't think they have an alternative. They can't comprehend that someone like Andrew Pulley or you could be seriously campaigning. I want them to know that we are very serious about it."

When Mitchell tried to fight for what she thought was right inside the Democratic Party, she was "continually told to be quiet, don't make waves, don't upset this person or that person."

One of the things she likes best about the Socialist Workers Party, she said, is that "it doesn't matter what your income is, what your education is, your sex, or your race. You are welcomed and you are encouraged. And no one tells you that you shouldn't ask questions."

'Time to make a statement'

PHOENIX—Sally Mitchell's decision to leave the Democratic Party and back the Socialist Workers Party candidates attracted the attention of news media here.

The October 9 *Phoenix Gazette* quoted her as saying it "is time to make a statement. I just see things getting worse.

"After much frustration and an ever-increasing concern for our country, I now realize there really is no difference between Republicans and Democrats except the degree of dishonesty. Democrats are quick on lip service but have yet to do anything concrete as far as gaining equality for all."

The October 10 *Arizona Daily Wildcat* reported: "Mitchell said she was not only disenchanted with the Democrats in this state but also with 'the entire political process in the country.'"

"The Democrats and the Republicans are there for one thing. . . , she said, 'to further the interests of big business and not those of the working people.'"

The paper continued: "Mitchell, who has 'fought long and hard for women's rights,' said she is disappointed in both the Republican and Democratic parties' attitudes toward the Equal Rights Amendment.

"Even though it's (ERA) in the Democratic platform, it's just not happening,' she said, citing the example of President Carter's firing Bella Abzug from the President's Commission on the Status of Women."

The article concluded by quoting this statement by Mitchell: "I personally do not know of one Democrat in this state who is pleased with the candidates they have to vote for."

Socialist slams Goldwater on abortion

By Andy Rose

PHOENIX—Arizona Socialist Workers candidates ripped into their Democratic, Republican, and Libertarian opponents at a candidates' forum here October 23.

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters and local news media, the event gave Josefina Otero, SWP candidate for Senate, a chance to debate face to face against Barry Goldwater, the archconservative Republican incumbent, as well as Democrat William Schulz, Libertarian Fred Esser, and Lorenzo Torres of the Communist Party. (Torres is running a write-in campaign under the ballot label "People Before Profits.")

The forum also included candidates for Arizona's four congressional seats.

Rob Roper, Socialist Workers candidate in the First District, was up against incumbent Republican John Rhodes, the House minority leader, and Libertarian Irene Leitch. The Democrat in that race, running a low-profile campaign, did not show up.

Staged before a standing-room-only crowd at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, the debate was broadcast live on KOOL-TV.

Limited format

The format was limited. Candidates had no opening or summary statements; they could only answer questions, first from reporters and then from the audience. Then other candidates in the same race could respond.

The longest time allowed for answers was sixty seconds and some rebuttals were limited to thirty seconds.

The first question to the senatorial candidates was on abortion, directed to Goldwater. He declared support for an anti-abortion amendment to the U.S. Constitution and opposition to any federal funding for abortions.

Goldwater called it "shocking" that Supreme Court decisions allowed a woman to have an abortion without her husband's consent or a minor without her parents' approval.

Otero's voice shook with outrage as she responded, "And I suppose Mr. Goldwater feels if a woman who is poor, or a woman of the oppressed nationalities, cannot afford an abortion, then it's too bad and she has to resort to backalley butchers like we did



Arizona senatorial candidates clash in televised debate. From left, Libertarian Fred Esser, Republican Barry Goldwater, Socialist Worker Josefina Otero, Democrat William Schulz.

prior to the Supreme Court decision.

"I am opposed to the Hyde Amendment [barring federal funds for abortion]," Otero declared. "I am opposed to any so-called right-to-life amendment because it is my right as a woman to choose what I want to do with my body."

"I think we should use our tax dollars to fund abortions for poor women instead of using them in El Salvador to prop up the military dictatorship there."

"It's in the direct interest of the union movement, the women's movement, and the civil rights movement that these two amendments be beaten back so that women have the right to choose."

Even though the audience was overwhelmingly composed of supporters of the Democrats and Republicans, many women present burst into applause.

'Family values'

Democrat Schulz stated his opposition to outlawing abortions but did not mention the Hyde Amendment. He added that lest his "family values" be questioned, he was the father of three daughters.

Torres of the CP chimed in that he also had three children.

Libertarian Fred Esser said he opposed legal restrictions on abortion but also opposed any federal funding.

He went on to say that if the government decides when life begins, next it will begin insisting that the fetus be well-nourished and that the mother's safety be ensured. "Eventually government would take over that entire function of motherhood," he warned.

Otero also dominated the discussion on undocumented workers. Responding to a question from the audience, she stated that the SWP calls for open borders and opposes deportation of any undocumented worker.

She also demanded asylum for the Salvadoran refugees who made headlines last summer when thirteen died in the Arizona desert fleeing repression and violence in their country. Now the Carter administration is trying to deport the survivors of that atrocity.

"Undocumented workers do not cause unemployment in this country," Otero said. "It's the big corporations and the policies of the Democrats and Republicans that cause unemployment."

She condemned Goldwater's stand for beefing up the border patrol and pointed out that Arizona and most of the Southwest used to be Mexican territory. "Mexicanos were here even before Mr. Goldwater."

Otero also declared her support for striking farm workers at Fletcher Farms in El Mirage, most of whom are undocumented.

She challenged Schulz—a millionaire Phoenix landlord—to provide the farm workers blankets and mattresses from his apartment complexes. The strikers have been sleeping on the roadside next to the fields with no shelter at all.

Esser said he too favored "open immigration."

Goldwater professed to be in "substantial agreement" and praised the immigrants who built up this country. The Republican said he was for easing

restrictions on immigration, although after the debate he admitted he meant through a "bracero" program where Mexican workers are brought in at substandard wages with no union rights.

Schulz said immigration could not be stopped without equalizing incomes between Mexico and the United States.

Notably absent from the response by Torres of the Communist Party was any endorsement of an open-border policy. Instead he said there should be a "bill of rights" for undocumented workers to spell out "certain rights so that everybody knows." He didn't say what those rights should be.

Ingenuity

The reporters' questions avoided all big questions of foreign policy, the economy, and civil rights. It took considerable ingenuity by the SWP candidates to bring major political issues into the brief responses they were allowed.

On a question to Rhodes about why Arizona had lost a particular solar energy research contract, Roper was able to explain:

"I'm for more funding for solar. Unfortunately Mr. Rhodes and other Democrats and Republicans choose to subsidize the nuclear industry. I think nuclear power is too dangerous. It should be shut down immediately."

"In the short term we can convert these plants to coal-fired plants. Coal can be burned in a non-polluting way and we have enough coal in this country to last 300 years or more. We can develop solar and other methods for the future."

Another question dealt with flood control in Phoenix, where every heavy rain inundates impoverished areas.

Roper stated his opposition to Orme Dam, which would "flood most of the Indians' land on the reservation there. We've taken away their whole country and now we want to take away what little they have left."

"There are alternatives," Roper said. "We can channel the river. We can build bridges across the Salt River."

"But we're going to have to change the way federal funding is done in this country." He called for scrapping the war budget and using it for human needs such as bridges and flood control.

Otero and Roper were also able to get across the SWP's stands against registration and the draft, for nationalization of the energy industry, for bilingual-bicultural education, for repeal of "right to work" laws, and for taxing the rich instead of working people.

Class difference

What came through most sharply, though, was the class difference between the candidates.

Otero pointed out that as a production worker at Reynolds Metals and a member of the United Steelworkers, "I know what it is to work for a living in a right-to-work-for-less state. I know what it is as a woman not to have the ERA."

"To vote for the rich landlords or the bosses—in this case they are both run-

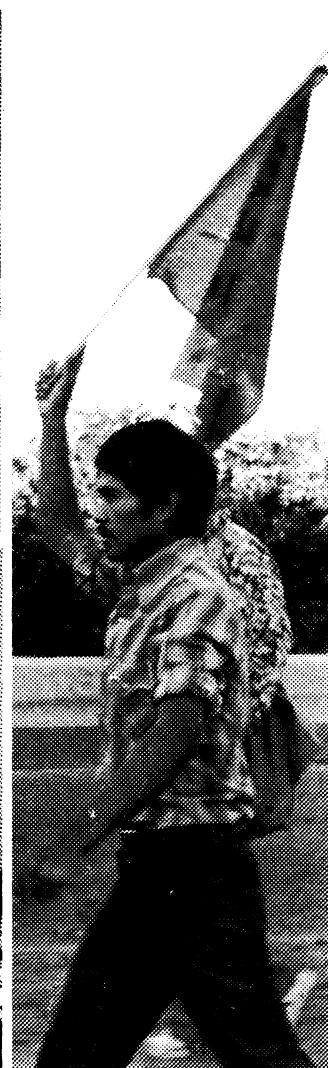
A NON-STOP CAMPAIGN: After October 23 debate, socialist campaigners gathered at the Militant Bookstore to celebrate. Fifteen people who are not members of the SWP or YSA also came by to congratulate socialist candidates Josefina Otero and Rob Roper and to find out about future campaign activities.

At five o'clock the next morning, Otero and a carload of campaigners were on the road to show their solidarity with striking farm workers. Members of the Arizona Farm Workers Union were beginning a two-day march from El Mirage to Mesa. Otero marched with the strikers for a couple of miles as the sun came up over groves of lemon and grapefruit trees.

By 8:30 a.m. Otero was back at the Militant Bookstore to tape a television interview. And at 4 p.m. she was beginning a shift of loading aluminum billets into furnaces at Reynolds Metals.

This non-stop pace has been typical of the SWP campaign here, which has reached thousands of Arizona workers, farmers, and students.

Photos show Rob Roper talking with unemployed workers; AFW march; and Josefina Otero addressing meeting of Steelworkers Local 4102.



Militant photos by Rubén Mada, Andy Rose, and Rob Roper

rights



Socialist congressional candidate Rob Roper, a steelworker, condemns antilabor record of House minority leader John Rhodes.

ning—is not in working people's interest. Just like a union member would not vote for a foreman to be our shop steward."

She pointed out that Goldwater is an avowed spokesman for big business while Schulz is a wealthy landlord who pays his own employees the minimum wage of \$3.10 an hour.

Schulz threw up his hands and declared "I'm not rich anymore" after spending \$1.5 million of his own money on his campaign. And he said with a straight face that he had heard "no complaints from my employees about my conduct as a businessman."

One reporter asked why, if the SWP represented workers, it didn't have the support of organized labor.

Roper replied: "Our party—because we don't have the funding of the big corporations like the Democrats and Republicans do—cannot compete with them for publicity and most people will not have heard about us."

"But what we are calling for is for the unions to organize a labor party." Pointing to the growing support for this idea, he cited the million-member Machinists union, whose recent convention refused to endorse any presidential candidate and instead voted to explore the idea of a labor party.

"A labor party government could do things such as get rid of the 'right to work' law which cuts down on union organizing efforts," Roper said.

This drew applause from the unionists who made up a small portion of the audience.

Special interest?

In response to a hostile question from the audience charging that he spoke for just one part of the society instead of "the common good of all Americans," Roper further explained:

"I represent the special interest called working people—about 99 percent of the population. I don't repre-

sent the rich, the people that Mr. Rhodes and the other Democrats and Republicans represent."

Rhodes retorted that "the free enterprise system has done very well by organized labor and organized labor has done very well by the free enterprise system."

Workers, in or out of unions, are "really doing very well as far as their financial capabilities are concerned," he said.

"Who finds the jobs for the people who are working?" Rhodes said. "It's the people who save and invest and whose money goes into purchase of machinery and equipment. Those are my constituents, people who work and save."

In contrast to the SWP candidates' explanation of the class divisions in politics, Torres of the CP hastened to agree with a questioner who asked him if he would collaborate with the Democrats and Republicans if elected.

"I think the [ballot] designation that we chose—People Before Profits—is very broad and it was chosen with that in mind," he said.

After the debate Otero and Roper were surrounded by well-wishers, especially women thanking Otero for her impassioned defense of abortion rights. Students asked if the SWP candidates could address their classes.

A reporter for the Mexico City daily *Uno más Uno*, who was in Phoenix to cover the farm workers' strike but also came to the debate, came up to interview the socialists.

An estimated 180,000 people saw the debate on television.

Phoenix SWP organizer Caroline Fowlkes says their phone has been ringing ever since with requests for more information about the campaign.

Since the debate and in part because of it, two people have joined the Young Socialist Alliance and one the SWP.

And on the far right . . .

PHOENIX—The extreme right-wing nature of the Libertarian Party came through clearly in the debate here.

The main pitch of all the Libertarian candidates was that they would cut taxes and spending even more than the most conservative Democrats and Republicans.

In the course of the debate they openly stated their opposition to Social Security, government aid to the disabled, public schools, federal funds for solar energy research, and government flood control programs.

Even public highways came in for attack as Libertarian senatorial candidate Fred Esser called for the construction of bridges to be left to private individuals.

The U.S. military was one government program the Libertarians would not abolish. They said it

should be "rearranged" to save money.

Opposition to the draft—which the Libertarians have used to make their politics more palatable to youth—was not mentioned by any of their candidates at this debate.

In contrast to the socialist nominees—both steelworkers—the Libertarians on the platform included a lawyer, a bookkeeper, a paralegal, and the owner of a private cop business.

Socialist senatorial candidate Josefina Otero blasted the Libertarian program as "racist, sexist, anti-union, and antipeople."

But her Democratic opponent William Schulz praised the Libertarians, saying their party "makes a real contribution. . . . It puts pressure on the Democrats and Republicans to recognize these issues."

North Carolina town fights own 'Love Canal'

By Greg McCartan

KERNERSVILLE, N.C.—Residents of this town think it could be the next Love Canal, and they have good reason.

Kernersville's aldermen voted on October 6 to return to using a nearby reservoir—contaminated in 1977 by 30,000 gallons of highly toxic chemicals—as the primary source of water for the 6,000 people living here.

Residents immediately protested. Within one day of the aldermen's decision, townspeople had collected 966 signatures to accompany a temporary restraining order on the reopening of the reservoir. Picket lines were set up in front of the town hall, as well as in front of the aldermen's houses.

The picketers were eager to talk with reporters about their case. Robert Stamper, one of the coordinators of the protest, gave a history of the chemical nightmare his town is facing.

"A couple of years ago, a company (Destructo) brought in the chemicals without us knowing. One night, some people got up in there and opened the valves to the storage tanks and about 30,000 gallons of this stuff was released. The dump was located right on the watershed to the reservoir, and the chemicals went right into the lake."

All of the storage tanks were full at the time and several protesters think that the "accident" occurred to make more room for storage.

The night of the spill, 1,000 people in a two and one-half mile area had to be evacuated because of the overpowering odor.

"All of the fish in the lake died," continued Stamper, "as well as a cat. The town then switched to Winston water, although the aldermen thought we should go out and drink the water the next day, with all the fish dead."

So did the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Twenty-five chemicals have been identified as part of the spill, and at least three more remain unidentified. The soil around the lake has never been tested, and the lake's water has been checked only to a depth of two feet.

Stamper explained the problem with this kind of testing. "The chemicals are heavier than water—they sank to the bottom. Our group is saying test at the bottom. We feel the danger lies when the lake gets low and it rains and it stirs it up. Where did the chemicals go?"

Claiming the clean-up operations have decontaminated the water, the EPA has now given the go-ahead to the aldermen to return to using the reservoir.

But Kernersville residents are opposing this move because they know the water is lethal. "We tell them [the aldermen] that if we are wrong we've just wasted some time. But if you are wrong, it could be a disaster," said one picketer.

Last June, while the dump site was being cleaned up, a seventeen-year-old worker was killed. He was sitting near where the drums that had held the chemicals were being crushed. Some sludge at the bottom of one drum squirted out and hit Dudley C. Robertson on the arm. He was dead in three minutes of phenol poisoning.

Phenol, the most toxic chemical so far identified in the spill, can be absorbed through the skin and accumulates in the body.

The EPA says that a charcoal filter would remove the chemicals from the water, but the Kernersville treatment plant does not have a charcoal filter. And the protesters point out that if at least three chemicals remain unidentified, how does the EPA know that a filter will remove them?

John Blaton explained that the treatment plant has no back sludge

system—which means the filtered material, including the chemicals, go right back into the lake.

Residents are very skeptical about the EPA. They know of other cases around the country where people were lied to by the government and industry. As one sign put it, "Don't make us the next Love Canal."

An older man explained, "The EPA has been totally irresponsible. They haven't done anything for us. I'm older, I doubt if this stuff would get me. But what about the young people?"

John Blaton, with his baby in his arms said, "All we are asking for is adequate testing. That's all."

The danger of contaminated water is not limited to Kernersville. During the clean-up, all of the dead fish and contaminated dirt was placed in a 50,000 cubic foot pit lined with thin plastic. The EPA recommends that pits be lined with either concrete, clay, rubber or plastic. The Kernersville pit is located on the water shed to the reservoir. Any leakage will affect the ground water used for drinking in the general area and beyond, as the water travels in underground streams. Some 99 percent of the rural population and 60 percent of the urban population in the state relies on ground water.

Unfortunately, the danger at Kernersville is not an isolated situation. A recent state report outlined the danger from chemical waste dumps around the state. The report found that 197 out of 683 dump sites, or 29 percent, pose a severe threat for ground water contamination.

The people of Kernersville are fighting mad. They are not about to let their town become the next Love Canal. But they are finding little sympathy from local, state, or federal officials. "We wired the governor, the White House, and talked with our congressman," said Stamper. "The response we get is that it is election year and I can't take sides."

Douglas Cooper, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of North Carolina, demanded in a campaign statement that the Kernersville reservoir be kept closed. He pointed out that North Carolina ranks eleventh in the production of hazardous wastes and called for "nationalization of any company that refuses to meet the strictest safety and anti-pollution measures necessary to keep our water clean."

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.

SWP candidates doing fine but need funds

By Duncan Williams

As of October 27, \$60,000 has been collected in the fall 1980 Socialist Workers campaign fund drive. Important contributions yet to be sent in are the pledges made at local rallies held for Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann this fall.

These pledges, along with outstanding pledges from the national SWP campaign rally last August and donations from *Militant* readers and other supporters, must be paid in the next week to ensure the success of the fund drive.

The money collected thus far has gone to print hundreds of thousands of campaign brochures and to finance the tours of Pulley and Zimmermann. The success of those tours has been duplicated by the experiences of the dozens of socialist workers running as candidates in state and local elections:

Like **Patricia Mayberry**, a rail worker and SWP candidate for Congress in New York's Twenty-eighth District. Peter Thierjung of the SWP branch in Schenectady writes: "Over the last few weeks about a dozen rail workers and electrical workers have stopped by the campaign office, which is right next to a viaduct that has railroad tracks running past us. We put up a giant sign in the window facing the railroad tracks which says 'PUT A RAIL WORKER IN CONGRESS, VOTE FOR PAT MAYBERRY.'"

"So the other day the train came by, the workers brought it to a halt, and they jumped out to come up to the office to see Pat. Nearly every day now they come by and someone will wave at us or ring the bell on the engine."

Harold Sudmeyer, another rail worker, is running for Congress from Colorado's First District. "There's a lot more to politics than voting in elec-

tions," he told a reporter for the *Rocky Mountain News*. The article continued: "He cited Socialist Workers Party activism in opposing the Vietnam War, backing the Equal Rights Amendment, supporting workers on strike, opposing nuclear power and pushing for the closure of Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant."

"A national labor party working 365 days a year on these issues, he said, 'would give them a massive boost.'"

Sudmeyer and SWP senatorial candidate **Silvia Zapata** have received wide news coverage in their campaigns.

Etta Ettlinger, a laid-off member of United Steelworkers of America Local 1014 in Gary is the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Indiana. In September she and several supporters went to Lafayette, Indiana, to join 1,000 people in a protest of two KKK-style cross-burnings on the campus of Purdue University.

She has toured around the state, stopping at Muncie, Terre Haute, Anderson, and Kokomo. In the last city, she participated in a picket line at the unemployment center. Several women, laid off from their jobs, were demanding an end to the bureaucratic red tape and arrogance they had suffered in the unemployment office.

Ettlinger got the best response to the demand to "open the books" of the unemployment office. "That's what we need, some control!" one woman said. Often unemployment officials had claimed that forms were incomplete or files misplaced to deny the women their benefits.

Sharon Grant is the only candidate opposing Republican incumbent Paul Trible in Virginia's First Congressional District. A shipyard worker in Norfolk, she traveled up to Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, last weekend to congratulate the J.P. Stevens work-



Rail workers get message from Schenectady socialists

Militant/Bill Hutton

ers there on their recent union organizing victory. Her campaign was also featured on a half-hour program on the local educational television station.

Another steelworker candidate temporarily out of work is **Linda Mohrbacher** of Pittsburgh, running for U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania. In an interview with the *Philadelphia Tribune*, the major Black paper in Pennsylvania, she focused her remarks on foreign policy:

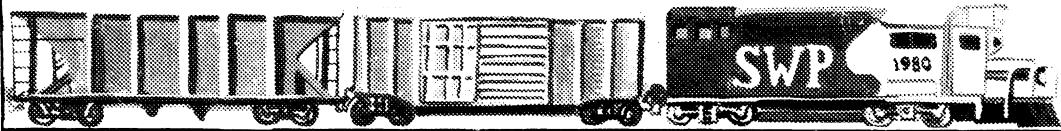
"The Pentagon isn't there to defend Black people or anyone else. It only defends the interests of major corporations. I don't think any money should be spent by the Pentagon."

The interviewer noted that "Ms.

Mohrbacher feels that foreign policy should be drastically altered, also. She wants the United States to support the efforts for majority rule in South Africa. She says that U.S. aid and trade with that country should cease totally until it is once again ruled by the Black majority. She also defends the right of Cuban troops to fight against the South African troops to advance those efforts."

Your contributions have made it possible to run campaigns like those described above. But funds are still needed, especially to meet our final expenses. So if you've already given, please give again as generously as possible. And if you haven't contributed yet, it's not too late.

Socialist Workers \$75,000 Fund Drive



\$10,000 \$20,000 \$30,000 \$40,000 \$50,000 \$60,000 \$70,000 \$75,000
so far: \$60,000

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ ____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____
Union/School/Org. _____
Make checks payable to:
Socialist Workers Presidential Campaign Committee, 14 Charles Lane,
New York, N.Y. 10014.

ELECTION RALLIES

Hear Pulley and Zimmermann live Nov. 4 over national telephone hook-up

Socialist Workers campaign committees across the country will host election-night rallies and celebrations. Andrew Pulley, in Chicago, and Matilde Zimmermann, in New York, will address the rallies via a national telephone hook-up. For information on the election-night gathering in your area, call the Socialist Workers campaign headquarters listed on page 27.



Andrew Pulley

will speak at 9:10 p.m. CST from Chicago at 434. S. Wabash, Room 700.



Matilde Zimmermann

will speak at 10 p.m. EST from New York at 108 E. 16th St.

Facts uncovered on Buffalo Klan-Nazi activity

By Osborne Hart

Many residents of Buffalo's Black community believe the person or persons responsible for the murders of six Black men here during late September and early October are linked to a right-wing group—such as the Ku Klux Klan or Nazis.

Meanwhile, police investigators and city officials continue to down play even the possibility of KKK or Nazi involvement with the murders.

District Attorney Edward Cosgrove, a former FBI agent who is in charge of the overall investigation, concedes the possibility, but is quick to deny the existence of the Klan or Nazis in the Buffalo area.

Mayor James Griffin, interviewed on the ABC news show "Nightline," disavowed the likelihood that an organized racist group is responsible for the murders.

The cops cling to the "lone maniac" theory for the killings.

The evidence, however, supports the contentions of the Black community.

There were two cross burnings during the period of the slayings.

On October 13, a cow's heart was found hanging in a locker room at the Lackawanna plant of Bethlehem Steel Corporation. A note attached to the heart read: "Give from the heart to the KKK." This was in obvious reference to two of the victims, who had their hearts cut out.

And during the 1977 mayoral campaign, Mayor James Griffin was endorsed by the Ku Klux Klan.

A local newspaper, the *Alternative Press*, published by a student journalist collective that serves the University



Cross was burned in Black neighborhood during time of racist killings

of Buffalo and State University of New York at Buffalo campuses, is featuring a series on Klan and other right-wing activity in the city.

An article entitled, "Klan Alive and Active in Buffalo," in the October 16 issue, reveals some interesting facts.

The *Press* reports: "Despite District Attorney Cosgrove's statement in *The York Times* declaring that there are no Klan or Nazi groups operating in Buffalo, both groups exist but they have

formed an organization called the C.R. (Council of Revolution). The CR was formed as a unity organization comprised of representatives from the four national Ku Klux Klan organizations and various nazi groups.

"One product of this union was the formation of the White Unity Party (W.U.P.), a neo-nazi organization that ran Wayne Whiteside, the local Knights of the KKK boss, for mayor of Buffalo. . . . Money was raised for the W.U.P. at a benefit held three years ago at the Paderewski Drive American

Legion Hall, the same hall where the State University of New York at Buffalo, University Police held their benefit three years ago.

"Sources close to the Alternative News Collective have alleged that the Klan was allowed to operate with immunity in [police] precinct 16 as well as being protected by precinct 16. When Karl Hand, Jr., a major national Klan figure, was arrested for shooting a black youth, police from precinct 17 crossed into precinct 16 to make the arrest because police from precinct 16 would not make the arrest. . . .

"Buffalo police detective Gerald Cronin who was working on the case was a local Klan activist. Charges against Hand were later dropped and the Buffalo police apologized for the 'mistake,' no suspect was ever arrested."

The *Press* also reports that Buffalo is a center for a number of Klan publications: "Buffalo also served as the headquarters of the *Shield and Eagles*, a national Nazi/Klan publication which serves as the white supremacist movement nerve center. The *Shield and Eagles*, which was printed locally, was distributed nationwide. Also printed locally is the paper *Defiance*, the bi-monthly newsletter of the Western New York Klan Youth Corps. The Klan claimed that the youth corps has been very successful in recruiting from local High Schools, especially in the Niagara Falls area. Other papers distributed by these groups include the *Exterminator*, the *Storm* and the *Survivor* to name a few."

Latino youth in San Francisco blast cops

By Steven Dornbusch

SAN FRANCISCO—Angry Latino youth demonstrated here October 13. Their immediate grievance is police harassment of "lowriders." Designing their own low-riding cars is a very popular activity among Latino youth here.

The demonstration protested the shutting off of "the Lot," which had been a central gathering place for lowriders and other youth. But the anger spilled over into other issues too.

As more than a hundred youth marched through the mainly Latino Mission District, they chanted, "We want the Lot!"

"Stop police brutality!"

"Hell no, We won't go!"

"We want more jobs!"

"Raza sí! Chota [pigs] no!"

Most of the protesters were in their teens, a few even younger. They wore jackets with various lowrider club emblems, and there were flags from different Latin American countries, including Cuba.

They marched from the Mission to the city's new \$40 million Opera House.

One demonstrator explained, "The Lot used to be open to us. They shut it off. First they wrote tickets. Then they put nails and tacks down. Then barricades."

Jeanette Leoner, vice-president of City Sweets, a women's car and social club, explained why they went to the Opera House.

"Our main purpose," she said, "is to open the Lot. . . . We feel injustice comes in when there's a \$40 million Opera House and no money over here for our place."

Ricardo Diaz de Leon is a leader of the Mission Community Alliance, which called the protest, and also a member of La Raza Unida Party. He told the *Militant*, "We want to say that Raza people should govern themselves. We want self-determination."

"Lalo," fifteen, said he came to the march "to protest police brutality and harassment. . . . If you're dressed as a 'cholo' or a 'pachuco,' especially if you're in a group, they pick you up."

Another fellow, seventeen, told his own recent experience. Police, he said, "grabbed my hair and punched me. . . . They took me in an alley and punched my ribs." He showed handcuff marks clearly imprinted on his wrists. They were six weeks old.

While this reporter was talking to demonstrators, the cops arrested a Black man nearby. They didn't tell him anything, but simply yanked him by the belt.

It underlined the protesters' point about the police.

Come to the Young Socialist Alliance National Convention

The Young Socialist Alliance Twentieth National Convention will be held December 27-30 at the Hilton Inn, Monument Circle, in Indianapolis.

Registration will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 26. The registration fee is \$13, or \$5 for high school students and unemployed.

Rooms at the hotel range from \$8.50 to \$30.00 per night for each person. Inexpensive housing will also be available.

For information on transportation or other convention arrangements, or for materials to publicize the convention in your area, write or call:

YSA, P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station, New York, New York 10003, telephone (212) 989-7570, or YSA, 4850 North College, Indianapolis, Indiana 46205, telephone (317) 283-6149.

Can women fight Reaganism by backing Carter?

By Suzanne Haig

Betty Friedan and New York leaders of the National Organization for Women announced their endorsement of President Carter at a news conference October 23.

Joining them were Joyce Miller, president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women; Jewell Jackson McCabe, president of the Coalition of 100 Black Women; and others.

All promised to mobilize their constituency to vote for Carter.

"We believe it is critical for Ronald Reagan to be defeated," is the way New York NOW President

Kathe Rauch explained the move. "We do not have the luxury of protest votes."

Others assailed Reagan and the Republican Party's stand on the Equal Rights Amendment, abortion, and child care.

In comparison, speakers said that Carter was now promising to make the campaign for ratification of the ERA "a top priority" and to "commit the full resources of the White House and the entire Carter administration to the effort."

But that's what he said in 1976.

He promised to give women three more state ratifications if the women's movement would get the fourth to make the total thirty-eight states needed for ERA's passage.

But what happened?

Women met with betrayals, defeats, and backstabbing in state after state.

Moreover, every year since Carter has been in office, including this year, Congress has voted to restrict federal funding for abortions. Under Carter, federal medi-

caid abortions have been cut from an estimated 300,000 in 1976 to 2,421 in 1978.

Carter's support for registering women and men for the draft, his endorsement of nuclear power, and rising unemployment and inflation have rightly earned him the enmity of millions of women.

Helping to reelect Carter will not take away the threat of what Reagan stands for. It will only disarm the women's movement at the very time when we need a strategy to stem the attacks against us and drive the fight for equality forward.

Among the guests invited by the Sandinista Workers Federation to attend the celebrations of the first anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolution on July 19 was the Brazilian workers leader Luís Inácio da Silva (better known as "Lula").

Lula heads an important layer of combative union leaders who have been instrumental in the powerful strikes and mobilizations of metalworkers in the industrial suburbs of São Paulo during the past few years. An independent working-class political party, the Workers Party (PT), has emerged out of these and other struggles. Lula is the president of the PT.

The following interview with Lula about his visit to Nicaragua appeared in the July 31-August 13 issue of the São Paulo fortnightly 'Em Tempo'; it was conducted by Flavio Andrade and Marcelo Zugadi. The translation is by 'Intercontinental Press'.

Question. What is your overall impression of Nicaragua after one year of the Sandinista revolution?

Answer. Magnificent. When I left Nicaragua I told the compañeros we should spend about three days without talking to anybody, just reflecting, before coming back to Brazil.

What we saw there was really a different world—the people's participation, their happiness, the extent of internal democracy,—in sum, the people fully in power. What is unfolding in the country can become a new political model for Latin America.

The joy in children's faces, the willingness to rebuild the country, the desire of the trade unionists to establish effective unions, the literacy plan that is under way, the agrarian reform—all this shows how certain the people are that they are building something for themselves.

Every sector participates in all the plans and projects of the society; they don't involve the government alone. Contrary to what certain people here in this country think—that popular participation in such affairs amounts to meddling with decision making—Nicaragua is now going to provide an example of how popular participation alone can assure a successful government.

Q. Did you have any contact with the Nicaraguan armed forces? What impression did you get of their discipline and democracy?

A. The military aspect also made a great impression on us—no difference or distinction could be seen between the army and the people or between the police and the people. On the contrary, the army and militia are the people themselves. For example, in the streets, in the popular festivals organized by the Sandinista Workers Federation, in the neighborhoods, it is common to see soldiers, armed youths with machine guns on their shoulders, dancing normally with civilians as if they were not soldiers at all.

There is mutual respect between the people and the authorities. Just to give you an idea, all the people relate to each other as compañeros. A minister of foreign affairs calls the janitor of a building "compañero," and the janitor does the same with the foreign minister.

Q. What was the extent of mobilization you saw during the activities on the first anniversary of the revolution?

A. It was astonishing: in a country of just 2.5 million inhabitants, half a million—practically one-fifth of the country—were in the plaza the day of the celebration. That is not an easy thing, and it was achieved because of the close relationship between the government Junta, the union federation, and the people.

Q. What did you think of Fidel Castro's speech? It was said in the press

here that the Cuban leader's presentation was very moderate.

A. The Cuban leader impressed me greatly. The ultralefts think he was very moderate; those on the right think he was extremist. But I think his speech was just right. Because Fidel didn't have to prove to anybody that he is a revolutionary—that is already clear to everyone. What was necessary was to have the good sense to call for aid to Nicaragua. And that was what he did.

His charisma is fabulous. Really, he was like the host of the festival—everybody expected him to be the central figure of the day. The people were anxious to see the legendary Fidel up close.

Q. What about the economy, and the situation of the cities under reconstruction?

a bad thing for the country.

In the metal factory, for example, the workers were soon producing 40 percent more than the output of the most productive period in previous times. In addition, the perspective of the workers in this factory is clear: they do not want what belongs to the owner or the business's capital. What they really want is to gain what is just, what they actually produce. I think this is fundamental in order to debunk the myth that there is a dictatorship of the proletariat in Nicaragua; the Nicaraguan people are a long way from that. They could change, however, depending on what attitude the capitalist class takes. I think that the capitalists will have to learn to coexist, obtaining profits but permitting the working class to at least win what is just.

Q. Going on to a brief question, but one that is also broader and more

of their own experiences and not according to the dictates of the theory or practice of other countries.

Q. Even though it remains to be seen, do you think there is any other alternative for the country besides socialism or a return to some form of dictatorship of the bourgeoisie?

A. I would prefer not to judge Nicaragua's possibilities. I think it would be best to ask Daniel Ortega or some other Nicaraguan that question. But I do think it is practically impossible to turn back.

Q. Let's return to what you were saying earlier. At the metal factory you visited, you said the workers didn't want what belonged to the boss but only wanted to earn what was just. Does this imply some third way, neither capitalism nor socialism? In

'Nicaragua ca for all Latin Interview with Brazilian Worker



Left to right, literacy brigadista at ceremonies for FSLN leader Carlos vember 11, 1979; member of Nicaraguan union AMPRONAC, sign reads 'women's struggle'; literacy training in rural area

A. Managua today is a city destroyed by war. Now, as part of the postwar reconstruction, they will plant gardens on the barren lands that the city has because of earthquakes. I hope this will soon make Managua the city with the most gardens in the world.

As for the economy, the situation is more advantageous than that of Cuba. Nicaragua is not tied to one-crop agriculture. They have various options and now they are also discovering gold in great quantities in the country. So I think they will have more latitude.

Q. Did you visit any factories under workers control?

A. Yes, I visited two factories administered by the workers, a metal factory and a food enterprise. It would be quite important for someone from the Brazilian government or some businessman to visit these factories as well. They would see first that the working class having the means of production is not

general, do you think socialism is on the order of the day in Nicaragua?

A. Look, I think it is rather premature for people from outside to be talking about this. Leaving aside what each member of the junta or each trade-union leader thinks, I believe there is something much more important than discussing whether the country is moving toward socialism or not. I think it is a question of time. It will depend on what happens in Nicaragua in the next few years.

Every leader in Nicaragua could have socialism in mind. But they are leaving that for a second phase, so that the people themselves can discover through their own struggles what model is best. The leaders have put in first place the organization of the people, the recovery of the country. Later the people will decide what the best kind of society is for the country. And I think that is the important thing—they want to advance by means

particular, a third way that you would agree with?

A. No, that's not it. I suppose that if the workers there think that way it is precisely because of the short time the revolution has been going on in the country. I think they are conscious that capitalism could return to Nicaragua—not to imply that capitalism has already been finished off there—but I also think they are passing through an apprenticeship. I sincerely cannot say what is best for them.

But I am sure of one thing—there will never again be a regime like the one here in Brazil or like the one of Somoza's time. But whether or not there is some other alternative, I prefer to rely on the creativity of the Nicaraguan people.

Q. Do you see more similarities than differences between the Nicaraguan process and the process that took place in Cuba?

A. I think the differences could be said to result from different moments in history. There is one common aspect between what is happening in Nicaragua and what happened in Cuba—the people are in power. For me, that is a great similarity. If in Cuba the people are represented by Fidel and in Nicaragua by a Front, those are secondary differences. What is important is to know that the people are governing their own country.

Q. At the beginning of the interview you were talking about a new model for the entire continent that is being demonstrated by Nicaragua. Could that model be summed up by saying, the people in power?

A. I would not say that is the way forward for the continent as a whole. Look, by saying "the people in power," what we mean is the working class.

ment. They still don't have all the power, but that is a question of time.

The country was destroyed. There has only been one year of revolution. I don't think anyone has the right today to criticize the Sandinista Front because it didn't socialize the means of production once and for all, or eliminate capitalism with one blow. I think the Sandinistas have had the wisdom to advance according to the gains of the people themselves. Because it isn't enough to have power, it is necessary to know what to do with it.

Q. Let's finish up this point. Both processes involve—to use the term we've been using here—the people coming to power. In Nicaragua and Cuba this took place through violent, armed revolution, liquidating in a radical way the violence imposed for centuries by the dominant classes on those dominated. You say the message "the peo-

something much more serious and important; that's why the Nicaraguan people are so calm.

There does in fact exist the danger of an imperialist intervention, since the local bourgeoisie has no armed forces at its disposal. There are those who say, for example, that if Reagan wins in the United States, this danger would be still more immediate. My personal opinion is that any stupid action by the United States would cause Nicaragua to ally with Russia, Cuba, or some other socialist country.

Q. Did you perceive any disagreement, conflict, or clash between the mass organizations and the Sandinista Front that could serve as a point of support for an eventual imperialist intervention?

A. No, there is a perfect link-up. They have achieved the unification of

A. It's hard to say what it meant for them. For me it meant a great deal. It showed the comradeship that exists today and that could exist still more tomorrow between the PT and the Sandinista Front. The celebration was for me the coming together of representatives of the people's movement of the entire continent.

It was very important to be invited by the Sandinista Workers Federation and to be treated as an official guest. It meant that they have confidence that better days are coming for Latin America and that—this goes without saying because people say it on their own account—I think they have confidence in the future of the PT.

Q. You said you met people in Nicaragua from other countries who are interested in building parties like the PT. Could you tell us something about these contacts?

A. This was quite a surprise for me. I met compañeros from Mexico who told me that in their country they were discussing the need to organize the workers in their own political party, the need for a party of the workers. And they told me they also knew people in the United States that had the same concern. I don't know about these initiatives in detail. But some of our compañeros stayed there in Nicaragua to discuss these ideas more thoroughly, to see what can be done about common initiatives.

Q. After this trip through Latin America, what seems to you to be the central question facing the workers of the continent today?

A. What the PT expects and wants for the workers of the continent is that they organize themselves in a political party of their own. This has to be a party that unifies the workers massively, beyond the ideological positions of any group.

It is fundamental that the people begin to organize politically on the basis of their grass-roots organizations. The time has come to stop being slaves. What is lacking is organization.

There is a very old and hackneyed phrase, "Workers of the world, unite." It is necessary to put it into practice, to do the organizational work so that such unity can exist. And this goes for the workers of the greatest imperialist country, the United States, as well.

There is one thing that is important—patriotism. It always falls to the workers to express patriotism. For the bosses there is no commitment to be a patriot. If there were, there wouldn't be so many exploiters as there are today. For the owner of Ford it's the same thing to make money in the United States, in Brazil, in Russia, and so on. What interests them is making money, it doesn't matter where.

The problems of the North American workers are the same as ours. Even though they live in a different country, more democratic than ours, the problem of racism still exists, the problem of unemployment. In general, the problem there is also that it is the exploiters who are in power and not the workers. If it is true that the United States is democratic today, I think it could be much more democratic if the workers had someone to vote for and did not have to vote for the bosses as they have been doing.

We have to be conscious that the workers' problems are the same throughout the whole world. So it is very important that the workers understand that their well-being, the well-being of the American people, or of the German people, is now based on the poverty that is imposed on the people of Africa, of Latin America. So I think that if the workers were in power in all countries, there would not be such misery in the world as there is today. That is why I think that the North American workers also need to begin to discuss their political organization instead of serving as mere instruments of the bourgeoisie at election time.

From Intercontinental Press

n be a model

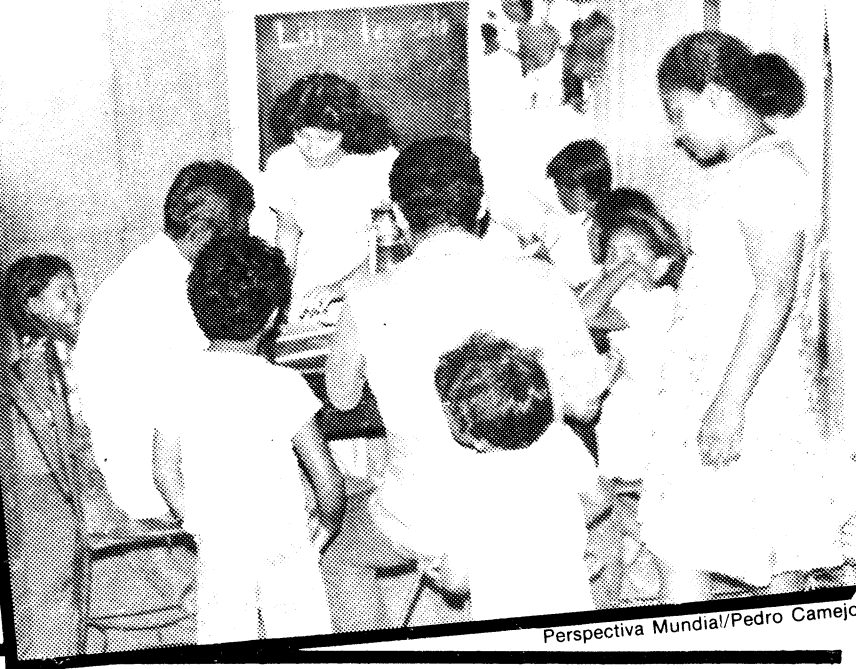
America's Party leader 'Lula'



ff ceremony; funeral
nseca Amador, No-
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Top, 'Lula.'



Jornal do Partidos Trabalhadores



Perspectiva Mundial/Pedro Camejo

But then we see how the Machiavellians say, well, that is the dictatorship of the proletariat! For me, a dictatorship is government by a minority. Where the majority governs one can never speak of a dictatorship. I think it is the majority that should govern. Now, if the workers are the majority, they are obviously the ones who must govern, in all countries of the world. This is the perspective for Latin America.

It's nothing new for people to say this. The idea of the Workers Party is nothing new. And it is clear that if one organizes a party it is in order to achieve power. Not only the government, since having the government is not worth anything if we don't have power.

Q. In your opinion, are the people fully in power in Nicaragua or only in the government?

A. It's more than simply the govern-

ple to power" is valid for the entire continent. What kind of ideas have you returned to Brazil with after closer contact with these two revolutionary experiences of the people coming to power?

A. I return with the following ideas: There are two peoples that conquered their freedom after long struggles. One has already managed to change their society to what they think it ought to be, and the other is still seeking that road.

Q. What do you think of the continent-wide offensive the bourgeoisie has launched since the victory in Nicaragua? Is there any possibility of a coup there?

A. There certainly is an attack by the bourgeoisies against Nicaragua. But I don't think there could be a coup there. The revolution was made by the entire people, not by one group. It is

all the ideological currents in the country into something very important, the Sandinista Front. Today it is practically impossible for anyone to leave the Sandinista Front. And despite disagreements this does not prejudice the unity of the Sandinista Front.

Q. What is the internal situation of the Front, of the three tendencies—the Terceristas, Prolonged People's War, and Proletarians?

A. These tendencies may still exist—I did not get around to discussing such details. But in any case the tendencies are subordinate to the Front as a whole, to the will of the people. They have had the good sense not to force people to change their political and ideological positions.

Q. What did your presence, at the first anniversary of the revolution, mean for the Sandinista Front? And what did the invitation mean for you?

Puerto Rico union leader runs for Gov.

The following is taken from an article in the October 20 issue of 'Perspectiva Mundial,' the Spanish-language sister publication of the 'Militant.'

By Richard Ariza

General elections will be held in Puerto Rico on November 4. These elections will not solve the problems faced by the Puerto Rican people. Nonetheless, election campaigns there serve as a forum for discussions of politics and the future of Puerto Rico.

At the center of the debate is the question of Puerto Rico's status in relation to the United States. Since 1898 the island has been a U.S. colony in the classic sense—one country ruled by another. It is a nation that cannot make its own laws, decide its own foreign relations, or control its own economic life; a nation that must struggle to preserve its culture.

Because of the current revolutionary upsurge in Central America and the Caribbean, Puerto Rico is taking on special importance for Yankee imperialism. It serves as a base for nuclear weapons and military forces. Thirteen percent of Puerto Rican national territory has been converted into an imperialist fortress, occupied by U.S. military bases. The forces that helped to overthrow the democratically elected Arbenz government in Guatemala in 1954 departed from these bases, as did the marines that invaded Santo Domingo in 1965. Today soldiers are being trained in Puerto Rico for a possible invasion of El Salvador.

Puerto Rico is a colony of the richest country in the world. It suffers unemployment of nearly 40 percent and inflation surpasses 13 percent.

The main parties of the ruling class in Puerto Rico are the New Progressive Party (PNP) and the Democratic People's Party (PPD). The PNP seeks to convert Puerto Rico into the fifty-first U.S. state, while the PPD calls for maintaining the island's current status as a "Free Associated State"—that is, a colony.

Puerto Rican independence is repre-

sented in the elections by the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) and the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP).

The PIP and its candidate for governor, Rubén Berríos, consider the colonial relationship with the United States to be the root of all the island's problems.

The PSP opposes both the colonial regime and the capitalist system. They call for a pro-independence united front with forces such as the PIP. But the PSP thinks that independence can only be fully achieved by bringing the working class to power.

The PSP candidate for governor is Luis Lausell. Lausell is a leader of the electrical workers union (UTIER). He was in New York September 28 for a campaign fund-raising banquet. Among the nearly 200 persons who attended the event were independence fighters, representatives of Central American and Caribbean solidarity movements, and activists from several New York trade unions.

I spoke with compañero Lausell briefly.

* * *

Question. What does your campaign mean for the independence movement?

Answer. This is the first time in the political history of Puerto Rico that a worker, a trade-union leader, has ever run for governor.

This is of course part of the Socialist Party's [PSP] conception of the struggle. It allows us to take our message to Puerto Rican workers—particularly to conscious workers who are concerned about the development and the political fate of our people, about the solution of the problem that colonialism and capitalism present for Puerto Rico as the main causes of the poverty the immense majority of our people suffer.

So in discussions and political debate we socialists raise our proposals with the aim of sowing in the consciousness of each worker, employed or unemployed, and of the workers' families, the need to struggle for national



Freddie Toledo/Claridad

A meeting organized by Workers Committee for Candidacy of Luis Lausell

sovereignty—for absolute and total independence, without chains that would bind us to anyone, and for the construction of a political system, such as socialism, that can resolve the grave problems that affect humanity and our country above all.

Puerto Ricans have been the victims of eighty-two years of U.S. colonialism, which kept them from considering effective political solutions to their problems. This has also prevented them from gaining a true understanding of the meaning of socialism and of the independence struggle.

We are sowing in order to reap. Perhaps we will not reap in this decade, but we do not have the least doubt that sooner or later the Puerto Rican workers will govern their own future in a free and socialist homeland.

Q. We know that an independent committee of workers and union leaders has been formed to support your

campaign. Can you tell us something about the work of this committee?

A. Yes, there is a broad committee. It is led by and made up of leaders of the most prestigious trade unions, associations, and federations that represent sectors of workers and salaried employees in our country. The committee is headed by a council that includes compañero Serapio Laureano, president of the Teachers Federation; compañero Hernán Sánchez, president of the Brotherhood of Social Service Workers; and an extraordinary group of outstanding and progressive trade-union leaders.

* * *

While the discussion on the need to present independent workers candidates unfolds in the trade-union movement in the United States, we must pay attention to the campaign of compañero Lausell, Puerto Rican workers leader.

Australian labor: 'Keep uranium in ground'

By Jon Hillson

Seeing first hand the deadly, lingering effects of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki had a profound impact on leaders of the Australian Railways Union (ARU). They had struck up fraternal relations with their Japanese counterparts in the mid 1960s not expecting to become opponents of nuclear power.

But that's what happened.

Victoria provincial ARU secretary Jim Fraser, a member of the union's national executive board, told the story to nearly 1,000 people at the Pittsburgh National Labor Conference for Safe Energy and Full Employment on October 11.

The grandchildren of Japan's first fallout victims are born with radiation sickness, Fraser said.

That made the ARU leaders "realize what nuclear technology is all about."

This conviction has put the ARU on record against the mining of uranium, its handling and transportation by railroad workers, and its export from Australia. Uranium miners risk cancer in their job at a greater rate than any other workers.

Australia's pro-big-business government is "strongly in support of nuclear energy," Fraser said, but there's still no operating power plant in the country.

That's because of the strong anti-nuclear stand of the labor movement.

The ARU, Fraser reported to the applause of the crowd, staged a one-day national work stoppage in 1975 in defense of a union member threatened



Jackie MacCallum/Direct Action

August 9 march in Sydney. AMWSU is Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights Union. Australian labor movement is strongly antinuclear.

with discipline for refusing to work with radioactive material.

The Australian equivalent of the AFL-CIO, the Australian Congress of Trade Unions, is on record against the mining and export of uranium.

The next step in this struggle, Fraser said, is the replacement of the Liberal-National Country Party government with one headed by the union-based Labor Party, which opposes uranium mining, its export, and the pending construction of a uranium enrichment plant.

When Fraser reported that polls showed popular support for a "return of the labor government," the audience cheered.

Having a labor party, Fraser told the *Militant*, "makes politics a lot clearer, defines them more in class terms. Things are less complicated. In the [United] States, you have to poke around to find who supports working people, if there is anybody at all."

A labor party means the working people have more power, he said, "a way to bring their view to bear."

Fraser thought the Pittsburgh conference was "good by any standards." It reminded him of an Australian labor gathering. The union movement there, he noted, "has a tradition of taking stands on social issues."

There was a time, he said, when "the American labor movement was a shining example to us. Creative and militant, like in the '30s with the CIO." Fraser said he thought "the gutsy sort of feeling you get at this conference looks like that kind of spirit is coming back."

Unionists in Australia and the United States have much to learn from each other, he said.

"Your ruling class is the same kind as ours. It's highly skilled at confusing things. Wherever there's an exchange of working class opinions, we all gain from it."

His presentation to the conference ended with the rallying cry of the Australian campaign—a labor based campaign—against uranium mining. "Keep it in the ground."

The crowd stood and cheered.

It was a hint of the international labor solidarity that's needed to stop planet-poisoning nuclear power, from Australia's fuel-supplying mines to the deadly reactors they supply across the world.

[In the October 18 election in Australia, the Labor Party registered big gains, but failed to unseat the Liberal Party government. Future issues of the *Militant* will carry more news about the Australian election.]

Workers resist Thatcher's offensive

Why the new militancy in Britain's Labor Party

By Fred Feldman

In reporting on the conference of the British Labor Party that concluded in Blackpool, England, on October 3, the U.S. media formed a virtual doomsday chorus.

It was hard to figure out from their reports just what happened, but it was invariably proclaimed a disaster.

But from the standpoint of working people in Great Britain—and elsewhere—the conference was a big plus.

It marked the rapid growth of working-class militancy in the face of brutal attacks on jobs, real wages, and social services by the Conservative Party government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Program to fight back

Among decisions voted at Blackpool were:

- To campaign for a thirty-five-hour workweek with no loss of pay, and to resist all plant closures.

- To demand a policy of unilateral nuclear disarmament and a massive cut in military spending. This placed the conference firmly on the side of the growing movement against the placement of Cruise missiles in Britain.

- To nationalize important components of British industry, and to renationalize state-owned firms sold by the Conservative Party (or Tory) government to private owners.

- To withdraw from the European Economic Community, the capitalist Common Market.

- To abolish the House of Lords, the unelected upper chamber of the British Parliament.

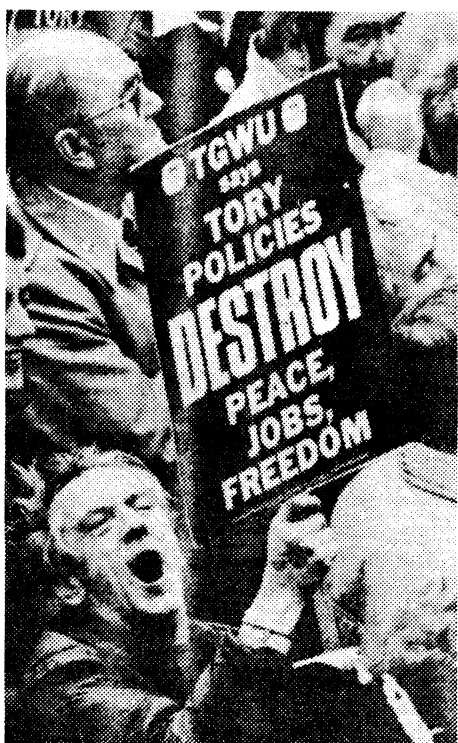
The conference also made constitutional changes. Instead of Labor members of parliament being renominated by the parliamentary leadership, they will have to win approval of the Constituency Labor Party in their districts.

And instead of being chosen by Labor members of parliament, the leader of the Labor Party—the chief spokesperson who in the past has also been its nominee for prime minister—is supposed to be chosen by a broader electoral college.

These changes increase the clout of the trade unions and of rank-and-file Labor Party members.

The shifts respond to a deepening economic crisis of British capitalism. Unemployment is two million and rising. Inflation slashes savagely at real wages.

The Thatcher government, elected in spring 1979 after five years of Labor Party governments, fostered unemployment in hopes of breaking the fighting spirit of Britain's union move-



October 10: 6,000 workers protest unemployment outside Conservative Party conference. Worker carries sign produced by Transport and General Workers Union, which includes Britain's auto-workers.



Labor Party conference bursts into applause as vote on changing the method of electing the party leader is announced. Vote was an important victory for party's left wing.

ment and giving an added boost to capitalist profit rates.

Thatcher is on a budget-cutting drive aimed at hospitals, education, and other public services. Her government is pressing anti-union, anti-abortion rights, and other reactionary legislation.

Thatcher vs. workers

At the same time, Thatcher pushes for a big military buildup—parallel to Carter's militarization drive. This not only increases the war danger but means further blows to the living standard of British workers.

Thatcher's expectation that escalating the employers' offensive would cow British workers has been disappointed. The Tory electoral victory was followed by a lull in labor struggles, but resistance is now growing rapidly.

The government sought to deal a crushing blow to the steelworkers, as an example to the whole working class. But the steelworkers held firm in a thirteen-week strike early this year and won a 16 percent wage increase. The government's initial offer was 2 percent.

When waterfront employers threatened to fire 178 dockworkers—guaranteed permanent employment by a 1972 contract—their union held a delegate conference that called for a national strike. The employers backed down.

At Gardner's, a machine tool plant in Manchester, 2,400 workers have occupied the premises to fight the planned firing of 590 workers.

And the National Union of Mine-workers is pressing for a 30 percent wage increase.

Thatcher's popularity is plummeting—her party ran 11 percent behind Labor in one recent poll—and the Conservative leadership is becoming deeply divided over whether to slow down the pace of its antilabor drive.

About 6,000 trade-union members protested unemployment October 10 outside the Conservative Party's conference in Brighton.

The growing fightback by British workers shaped the outcome of the Labor Party meeting.

The result was a set of proposed solutions to the crisis far different from what is being dished out to workers here by the Republican and Democratic parties.

What is Labor Party?

Unlike the United States, where both big parties are controlled by the corporations, the British workers have an alternative. The Labor Party was founded by and is ultimately based on

the powerful and massive organized union movement.

The Labor Party proclaims itself to be socialist, but its program is based on promising to reform the capitalist system piecemeal in the interests of British workers.

The party apparatus is divided into three parts, which are in deep conflict today.

One is the Parliamentary Labor Party, consisting of Labor members of Parliament (MPs) and supported by a slew of government officeholders who owe their jobs to patronage. The great majority of Labor MPs view socialism and ties to the union movement as worth a bow at election time but no more. They have traditionally been able to determine the candidates, election program, and leader of the party with little attention to the views of the party's base.

The second element is the Trades Union Congress (TUC), the central labor federation. Like the AFL-CIO here, it is dominated by class-collaborationist officials. But it is sensitive to the pressures of the rank and file. Union officials cast block votes at Labor Party conferences, representing the total membership of the unions.

Finally, there is the Constituency Labor Party. This is a membership organization in each parliamentary district which carries out day-to-day Labor Party activity. Its relatively democratic structure makes it the loudest voice for more radical policies at Labor Party conferences.

In relatively prosperous times, when British workers were able to maintain their standard of living even as capitalist profits soared, a block of the Parliamentary Labor Party and the trade union bureaucrats was able to keep the party firmly on a procapitalist course. Occasional votes for more militant stands at party conferences and union conventions were arrogantly brushed aside.

The result was the Labor government of Harold Wilson, who supported the U.S. war in Vietnam. And the government of James Callaghan, which fell in 1979 after it attempted to impose wage restrictions on unions at a time of soaring inflation.

Rise of left wing

But the economic crisis is changing the rules of the game. Growing numbers of workers demand that the MPs be called to order. They want class struggle policies and democratic control of the party. A growing number of workers want a Labor government that will really be a socialist govern-

ment, and not betray the program and principles adopted at this year's conference.

Under this pressure, the TUC leaders have taken their distance from the parliamentary right-wingers led by former Prime Minister James Callaghan, former Chancellor of the Exchequer (treasury) Denis Healey, and others.

Tony Benn, a member of parliament has emerged as the leader of this prosocialist sentiment. He was the organizer of the left-wing victory at Blackpool.

Benn was a member of the Wilson and Callaghan governments. During the past two years, however, he has become openly critical of the procapitalist policies they carried out. He holds that a Labor parliamentary majority instituting sweeping reforms can effectively serve the interests of workers.

Some of Benn's proposals go beyond those adopted at the conference. He has begun to suggest that British troops should be withdrawn from Ireland. He denounces repression there and calls for a united, independent Ireland.

Benn favors building Labor Party chapters in factories. In addition to increasing the influence of industrial workers, this will help unify workers in plants where more than one union exists.

Battle continues

The left did not win a decisive victory at Blackpool. A proposal to take the writing of the election manifesto out of the hands of the MPs was defeated by a bloc of the MPs and the TUC officials.

A similar bloc prevented any decision being made on the composition of the electoral college, which, according to the conference decision, is to select the party leader. Thus the MPs control this vital decision for the time being. (A January conference is to take



Tory Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Her antilabor policies are running into trouble.

up the electoral college question again.)

In a maneuver aimed at getting around the prospect that such a college might elect Benn, former prime minister Callaghan resigned as head of the party days after Blackpool adjourned. He aims for the Parliamentary Labor Party to elect a fellow right-winger and present the January conference with an accomplished fact.

Prospects favor the growth of class-struggle currents in the Labor Party. The fight there is becoming intertwined with struggles to democratize some of Britain's key unions. Benn has forged close ties with Arthur Scargill, a left-winger who seems likely to be the next head of the National Union of Mineworkers.

And he has been appearing at joint meetings with Bob Wright, who is making a strong bid for the presidency of the 2 million-member Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, which organizes machinists and other industrial workers.

Leader of Labor Party left wing calls for

The September 25 and October 2 issues of the British weekly 'Socialist Challenge' featured an interview with Tony Benn, the most prominent member of the Labor Party left. The interview, conducted by 'Socialist Challenge' writers Pat Kane and Hugh Richards, sheds further light on the important developments in British politics discussed in the preceding article. Below are excerpts from that interview.

Question: What do you think of the chances of success on the three issues on democracy at the Labour Party conference?

Answer: I'm not in the business of counting the votes. One thing that I'm pretty sure about is that if the delegates who come to the conference—the trade union and constituency delegates—had an absolutely free vote themselves on all these issues, there would be overwhelming support for the three changes. I've little doubt about that.

Whatever happens at conference we mustn't get hyped up on Blackpool 1980. The campaign for democratic reform will take a very long time.

Mandatory re-selection seems the most likely issue to succeed, since it has been going on now for nine or ten years. The other ones are in an earlier stage of development. They will all be won before the decade is out, and I would think before the next five years are out.

Q: What effect do you think this will have on the party itself?

A: I don't believe institutions of themselves solve problems, because institutions without analysis, or without campaigning or all the rest of it, can become empty vessels.

But if you have, as you do have within the Labour Party, a genuine socialist party that has been trying to get out for a long time, then if the institutions are blocked this is never reflected on the parliamentary side, or indeed on local government. If you can clear the blockage out of the way the party would be what it is, a genuine socialist party.

I've never had any doubt that it does contain the genuine instrument for socialist transformation in Britain.

That is the way that clears the blockage, but what comes through the pipe depends on what there is at the active end of the party.

Labor Party and unions

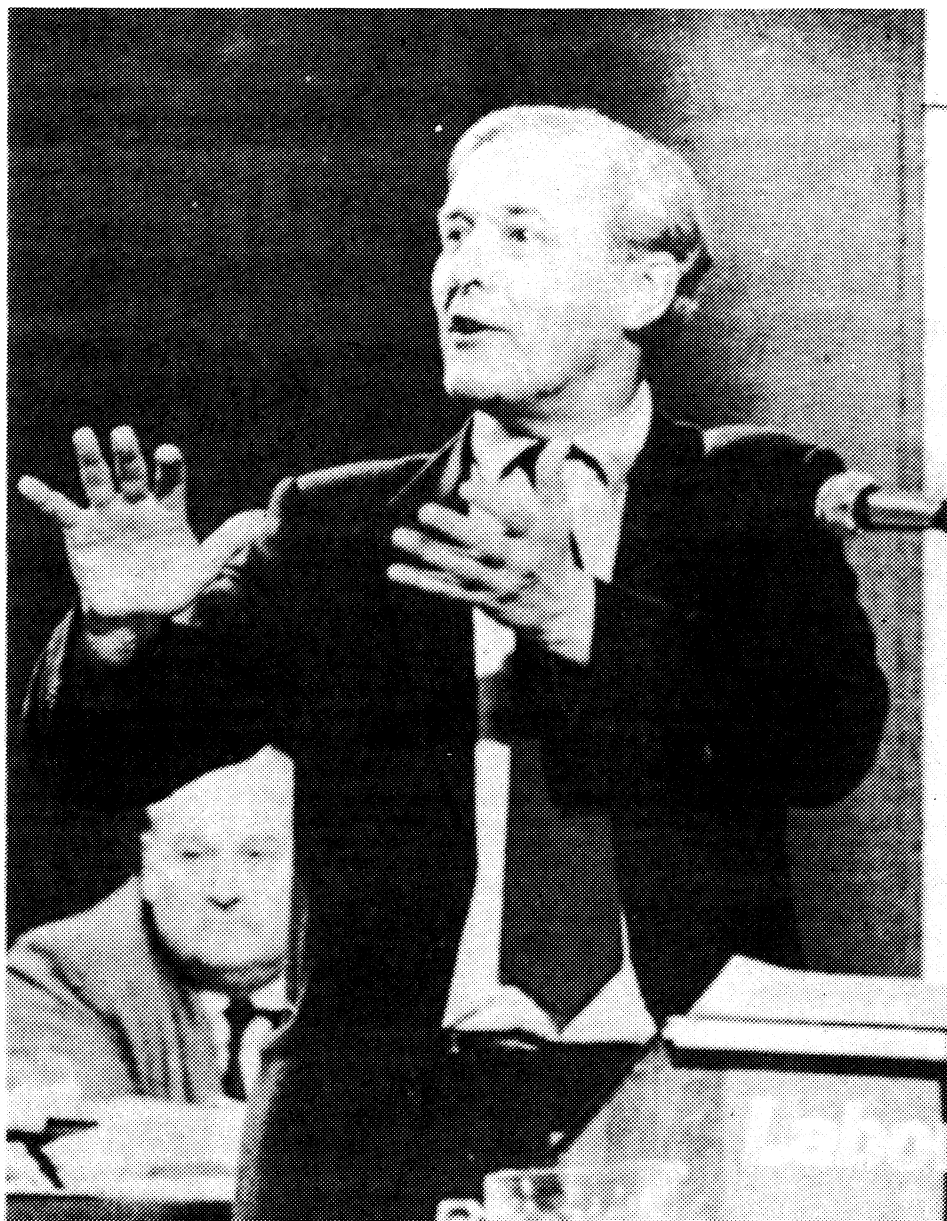
Q: Do you support the TUC-Labour Party Liaison Committee?

A: The Liaison Committee was set up in good faith, and it took us 2½ years to set it up.

In 1970 the unions didn't want to know the Labour Party, the parliamentary party, after all the things that had happened. Finally, we got it set up in February '72, nearly two years after the election, and I think that the original concept of the Social Contract—the phrase has come to mean wage controls—but the original concept was of a joint programme for the transformation of our society by collaboration between the unions and the Labour Party.

There was never any reference to wages in it, and even in the October '74 manifesto there was a phrase which I drafted myself which said that the Social Contract is not solely nor primarily about wages, it is about a change in society.

As the manifesto was ditched and reversed by the Labour government so



Tony Benn says that 'building general coalition of the left, with women's movement, black groups, ecological groups, and so on' is needed 'first of all within Labor Party and labor movement.'

increasingly we got back to the old scenario, that it was all due to the trade unions, and the thing ended up with a rigid 5 per cent pay norm.

But there is no reason why that should be the case. As Bob Wright² said, people would make all sorts of sacrifices for socialism but not for our present social structure. I think that's quite right.

It's a pity the term Social Contract has been lost because in its original formulation it was absolutely correct. It is an essential element for another Labour government in its work of transformation.

Q: There's a move to democracy within the Labour Party. Shouldn't that also apply to the trade unions?

A: I think the two go side by side. Frankly, unless you win the argument in every trade union as well as in the Labour Party you'll be frustrated when it comes to the exercise of the vote at the Labour Party conference.

I think that process is already underway, and it will intensify and become more urgent if at this year's conference it appears that the trade union vote is being used to frustrate democracy in the party.

The paradox is that the trade union block vote would be used to prevent the trade union influence from being exercised on the Labour Party.

Coalition of left

Q: You have spoken at meetings on the role of the Rank and File Mobilising Committee in the Labour Party.³

2. Bob Wright is a left-wing official of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, currently challenging incumbent right-wing official Terry Duffy for the top position in the AUEW.—*Militant*

3. The Rank and File Mobilising Committee for Labour Democracy is a coalition of

left-wing and socialist organizations that support greater democracy in the Labour Party.—*Militant*

A: The great weakness of the left has been its traditions. Both outside and even inside the party there has been a great splinter activity: the Women's Fightback, the Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory,⁴ and so on. What to me was extremely pleasing was that the left suddenly realised that you can't win if you're fighting in penny-packets. You've got to come together.

All of a sudden, and very much to my surprise, there was the development of the Mobilising Committee in May.

When the Militant tendency⁵ came in to the Mobilising Committee, which I think is important, all of a sudden it began to come alive. This is the process of building the general coalition of the left, with the women's movement, the black groups, the ecological groups, the peace movement and so on.

It will be needed first of all within the Labour Party and the labour movement, and it then becomes the launching pad for carrying this outside the Labour Party to win support. It would be a terrible pity if this process were to be brought to an end by the Blackpool conference. It's a process that has to be

left-wing and socialist organizations that support greater democracy in the Labour Party.—*Militant*

4. Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory, formed by socialists in the Labour Party to campaign for Labour candidates and urge socialist policies, was one of the initiators of the Rank and File Mobilising Committee.—*Militant*

5. Supporters of the socialist weekly *Militant* in Britain are active in Labour Party constituencies and the Labour Party Young Socialists. They have been the target of red-baiting attacks by Labour Party right wingers and the capitalist press in Britain.—*Militant*

encouraged if it's going to continue. I think it will continue.

What would be the ingredients of a new common programme between the unions and the party? These would be the policies which have emerged from the trade unions and the party, which have been very radical from '72 onwards and are much more radical as a result of the experience of the past six years.

Q: Perhaps we could take an example of that. The TUC General Council's composite which was adopted with the support of the Engineering Union and the Transport Union included the demand for a 35-hour week without loss of pay . . .

A: That has been emerging for some time, and even the engineers' strike last summer, which the AUEW was drawn into, was about hours. It wasn't successful, but it was about the right issues.

I think this will emerge very strongly and I don't believe the formulation of another manifesto—particularly if it is drawn up the way we want, a rolling manifesto that goes before two conferences before it is put to the public—I don't think it could fail to demand that element in it.

Q: Obviously, between now and 1984 the trade unions won't sit back and wait.

A: No, they won't. But on the other hand I don't take the view, and you may not agree with me about this, that there is a short-cut by the exercise of industrial muscle that will carry you forward to socialism without the process of persuasion. I think you have to defend the trades unions and the public services in their individual battles, and then teach from it and learn from it and win a majority.

I don't see the answer to this as lying in the transfer by the exercise of industrial strength alone without persuasion, because I'm not sure that such a victory—were it to be possible to achieve it—would have paved the way for the sort of support that would be needed to carry through the alternative socialist strategy.

Q: You mentioned earlier the necessity of extending the Labour Party back into the grassroots. Do you think that Labour Party supporters in the factories and the shop stewards committees should actively campaign as a party in support of events like the dockers' strike?

A: Very strongly. I think there is a slightly artificial division between what's called parliamentary politics and grassroots industrial politics. We must have both.

I've never believed that change is triggered off at the top. Change always begins at the bottom and permeates through to the top.

The votes in the House of Commons indicate what is going on, but they don't actually determine the way issues develop. Insofar as the Labour Party has become an electoral organisation through revisionist leadership, to that extent it has failed in its historic purpose.

The combination of industrial and community activity and struggle with a process of persuasion that leads to a parliamentary majority is the historical method by which the labour movement has advanced in the past and the way in which it has to do so in the future.

Cruise missile fight

Q: You spoke about a regroupment and unification of the left in the party. What would be the basis of this?

A: The party isn't only interested in

1. Trades Union Congress (TUC), the central union federation.—*Militant*

socialist policy

democracy, but it has reached the point—and I have myself, where I've lost interest in producing policy statements and getting them through conference and then finding that they're not done. Until there is some credibility restored to the policy-making process, policy as such becomes just a cluster of resolutions.

But I am very pleased that this year the conference should be dominated, as it is, by the whole question of Cold War, re-armament and all the rest.

I think what's happened in Poland is relevant here. To take it at its lowest, if I were asked what was the best defence strategy for Britain, by comparing the siting of Cruise missiles here, targeted on Warsaw, with the development of the democratic movement and the trade unions in Poland, there is no doubt that the latter would be a better defence strategy. I think all these things are coming together.

I don't know what the conference will actually decide but I imagine that it would reinforce and deepen the basic arguments that were set out at the one-day conference at Wembley.⁶

If that became real, and if that were advocated in the House of Commons by the parliamentary spokesmen, which it is not, and if that were in the manifesto, and if we won an election,

discontent and we might still be in power. We would have been in a position to mobilise an awful lot of public support.

My criticism of the last Labour government, and I was in it and I am responsible for what it did in that general sense; my criticism is not based on the fact that it couldn't necessarily do more in parliament—it didn't have a majority—but we didn't even argue that case.

We never went to the public and said: "We are under threat from the EEC [European Economic Community] here, on our food policy, on our industrial policy, we're under threat from Chrysler there, we've got the bankers round our neck, NATO is pushing us to bump up our defence expenditure, we want enough people to support us in the election to see that we have enough power to see that that doesn't happen." The argument was absent.

To come back to the question about how you get rid of the Thatcher government—after 20 years of silence on socialism you can't short cut it by industrial muscle. You've got to tackle the real argument, which is that these arguments have to be injected into the public consciousness and then you have to build support. That support is there.

The trouble is at the moment the



British unionists march for full employment

and that were done that would be a tremendously significant change.

So the policy arguments plus democracy taken together, and campaigned for vigorously by the Mobilising Committee, represent the best hope we have at the moment for the Labour Party to revert to what it is all about and what it was meant to be about.

Q: Apart from Cruise, what issues should be campaigned around?

A: A return to full employment and how to achieve it. It means dealing with the multi-nationals and a much stronger policy on the International Monetary Fund.

If you look back on the IMF episode, the idea that four years ago the pound might have been weakened when one of the factors that is wrecking our economy is the strong pound by returning to the gold standard, which is what we've really done; the weakness of that Cabinet in facing that pressure is inexplicable, except in that a majority of that Cabinet really agreed with the IMF.

When we look back on 1976, if we had told the IMF to go away, I don't think it would have had the will or the capacity to damage our economy. We would then not have had the winter of

media won't allow an alternative to be presented, because they're afraid it would be too popular. One of the greatest tributes that Fleet St. pays to the Labour left is that it spends so much time trying to confuse, to divert. Because they know in their hearts that if we could get this across there would be support for us. And there would be.

A U.S. labor party?

The October 2 issue of 'Socialist Challenge' interviewed Benn on his recent visit to the United States.

Q: Do you think there is a serious prospect of establishing an American labor party?

A: You have to be careful about expectations of that kind. I think what is happening, and the tactics of this may well be right, is to try to form a socialist tendency, a genuine socialist tendency, within the Democratic Party. There's a big debate going on as to whether socialists should link themselves with Barry Commoner's ecological group or whether they should try to form it around the Socialist Workers Party or whatever.

Given the context of American society, I think the right thing to do at this stage is to form a labor representation committee and a socialist faction within the Democratic Party. I believe these are the tactics that Michael Harrington's group and others are pursuing.

NIPSCo strikers pick up support

By Jon Hillson

GARY, Ind.—The longest strike in the history of the United Steelworkers biggest district shows no sign of ending. The union-busting energy barons of Northern Indiana Public Service Co. (NIPSCo) are still stonewalling at the bargaining table. They broke off negotiations October 22.

The employers had allowed the talks to resume that day, but after two hours the session ended. Striking members of USWA Locals 12775 and 13796 were on the picket line for the 145th day.

The two steelworker units, which represent production and clerical workers, were forced out on strike June 1 by company demands for "givebacks" on work rules, seniority, benefits, and wages.

The two locals cover an area of 12,000 square miles in northern Indiana, and staff 150 picket sites with 4,200 strikers. At the same time, NIPSCo is using 2,000 supervisors as a scab force.

Anti-picket injunctions have been handed down by the courts. All this makes solidarity a burning necessity.

And it's begun to happen.

On October 14, activists from USWA Local 1010 at Inland Steel, along with groups of strikers, collected \$3,200 at the plant gates.

On October 22, USWA Local 1011 members collected more than \$1,800 at Jones & Laughlin in East Chicago.

Many USWA locals have "adopted" the families of strikers, to help sustain them through the strike. This project was announced at a solidarity rally last month by USWA District 31 director James Balanoff.

On October 17, USWA International President Lloyd McBride and Vice-president Lynn Williams joined the picket lines in Gary.

"We're hurting, but there's no way in hell we're going to go back with what the company wants. That's giving away everything we've ever had," a middle-aged white worker told the *Militant*.

"It's rough," a young Black woman says, "But this is more than a contract at stake. It's the union."

The determined resistance of the strikers is putting pressure on others to challenge NIPSCo's practices.

On October 23, Gary Mayor Richard Hatcher chided NIPSCo for "relying on customers to provide meter information by which the company must estimate the customer's monthly bill." This usually means an overcharge, Hatcher explained, noting the damaging effect of this ripoff on "the incomes of the poor, elderly, and unemployed."



Steelworkers march in NIPSCo strike.

NIPSCo must answer by November 3 why it should not rebate nearly \$2 million to the consumers, since the company is not paying for wages and benefits during the strike.

Nearly 10,000 people have signed a USWA petition demanding the Public Service Commission to order the utility to do just that.

Support for the NIPSCo steelworkers is urgently needed.

Send contributions and telegrams of support to:

USWA Locals 12775 and 13796, 701 East 83rd Avenue, Merrillville, Indiana 46410.

USWA benefit

CHICAGO, Ill.—Supporters of the NIPSCo strike in the Chicago-Gary area are organizing a solidarity dinner and beer bash sponsored by USWA Local 65 and Sub-District 3 on Nov. 2 from noon to midnight.

The three dollar admission benefits NIPSCo workers and strikers from Unarco-Leavitt Tube works, USWA Local 5544.

A letter to area USWA locals urging their support was sent out by Sub-District 3 director Ed Sadlowski and Local 65 NIPSCo support committee head Lupe Valdez.

The solidarity bash is at Local 65 headquarters, 9350 S. Chicago Avenue, in Chicago.

700 unionists show solidarity in Vermont

By David Maybury

MONTPELIER, Vt.—On Saturday, October 18, the quiet main street of this town (the state capital, with about 9,000 inhabitants) was filled with 700 singing demonstrators. Braving rain showers, they made their point to the tune of "Solidarity Forever" and "Roll the Union On."

The rally on the Statehouse steps was sponsored by the Vermont Central Labor Council to show support for United Auto Workers Local 2133 of Randolph, Vermont.

The union has been on strike since June 16. It is demanding a union contract from Waterbury Companies, which operates a plastic parts plant in

Randolph. Workers at the plant start at the federal minimum wage. After ten years, a skilled toolmaker can make only \$5.91 an hour.

We picked the strikers up the day of the rally at their picket line at the Randolph plant and traveled in a convoy of fourteen buses draped in banners to Montpelier, forty miles away.

There union officials denounced union-busting companies who set up their runaway shops in Vermont and the "right-to-work" forces who have targeted Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

At least half the demonstrators were women. The participants were in a militant and optimistic mood.

Following the rally union activists met and shared experiences at a picnic back in Randolph. Discussions centered on organizing the unorganized in New England.

6. The overwhelming majority of delegates to a one-day Labour Party conference May 31 voted to oppose deployment of nuclear weapons in Britain.—*Militant*

Can labor party be built inside Democrats?

By Frank Lovell

The leader of the left wing of the British Labor party, Anthony Wedgewood (Tony) Benn, spent three days in the United States last September. He was a guest at Williams College, in Williamstown, Massachusetts, where he lectured on socialism, and participated in a panel discussion with representatives of U.S. capitalism about the future of their economy. Speaking for capitalism were the president of Du Pont, the chairman of the American Stock Exchange, a vice-president of Ford Motor Co., and Nixon's former chief economic advisor.

Upon his return to London, Benn was interviewed by *Socialist Challenge*, the British weekly of the International Marxist Group, on his impressions of America. He found the students at Williams College "exactly like" university audiences in Britain, he said. The capitalists are the same too. "On the panel, all the American businessmen were saying that the government should get off their backs, and productivity was low, and all the stuff that we've heard here for 20 years," Benn said.

He also noted that there is "considerable interest and curiosity in what we are saying in the Labor Party in Britain." And this is undoubtedly true, especially in the ruling class. The transformation which the British Labor party is presently undergoing is of great concern to U.S. imperialism, and is probably why Tony Benn, a member of Parliament, was asked to lecture at Williams College and has been invited to participate in another conference in December on "Euro-Socialism and America."

The debate in the British Labor Party is bound to attract the attention of American workers as well as the bosses in this country. The labor movement here is being driven to defend itself in the political arena. And for that reason what Benn is saying should be of some interest.

Prospects for labor party

He was asked if he thinks there is a serious prospect of establishing an American labor party. He said he thinks the formation of a labor party here will be a slow process, as it was in Britain. He also thinks it will take form "within the Democratic Party where there have been some links with the trade union movement."

Benn said he agrees with the approach of the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee (DSOC). Top union officials who are members or expressed sympathy with DSOC include William Winpisinger, president of the Machinists (IAM); Douglas Fraser, president of the Auto Workers (UAW); and Jerry Wurf, president of the State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

"Given the context of American society, I think the right thing to do at this stage is to form a labor representation committee and a socialist fraction within the Democratic Party," says Benn. "I believe these are the tactics that [DSOC head] Michael Harrington's group and others are pursuing."

The alternative course, as he sees it, is to build a socialist tendency outside the Democratic Party. "There's a big debate going on," he says, "as to whether socialists should link themselves with Barry Commoner's ecological group or whether they should try to form it around the Socialist Workers Party or whatever." For Benn this is "a tactical decision . . . not for me to decide."

These are questions that touch on the crucial decisions in the union movement about the need for a labor party and how it will be formed in this country.

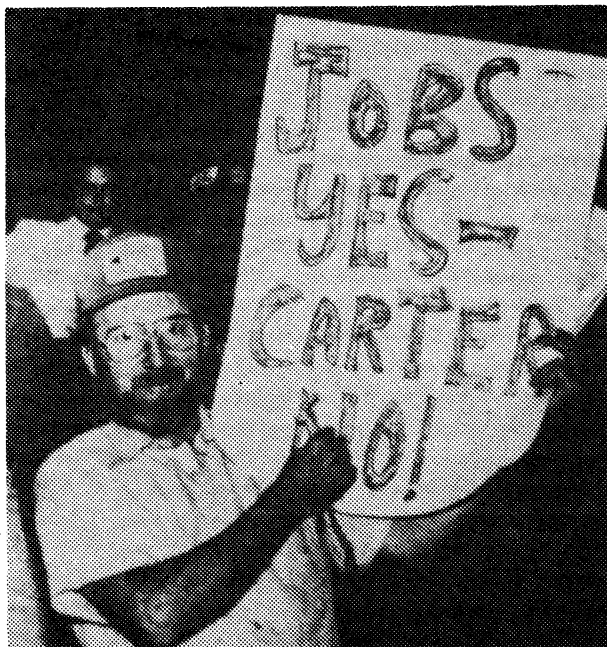
The question as to whether socialists should work inside the Democratic Party for the purpose of building a labor party or for any other purpose has been debated since 1936.

Turning point

That was the year of the apostate. It was then decided by the Communist Party, by assorted social democrats in the old Social Democratic Federation and Socialist Party, and by top officials of the industrial unions (separately and collectively, each bunch for their own reasons) to help re-elect the Democratic president, Roosevelt, for a second term. The mistaken idea behind this was that the Democratic Party could be transformed into a political instrument to serve the needs of working people. That was forty-four years ago.

Prior to 1936 and the false promises of Roosevelt's "new deal," Marxists and others who called themselves socialists all agreed that it was impermissible to join political parties of the capitalist class. They were opposed to joining in principle.

They knew that the ruling class organized and



Delegates who belonged to Machinists union walked out of Democratic convention last August. Now union proposes discussion on forming labor party.

financed the two-party system as a necessary part of their governing apparatus.

The socialist movement, in the days of Eugene Debs prior to World War I, taught that the employing class and the working class had nothing in common, least of all politics, which is the art of governing.

The working class, and only the working class, is capable of reorganizing society and eliminating the evils of capitalism. And to accomplish this historic mission, the working class must organize its own political party in all countries of the world, the purpose being to establish the world socialist order for the liberation of all humankind. This is what socialists learned from Marx and Engels. And they understood that anyone who claimed to be a socialist and joined one of the master class political parties, which exist for the sole purpose of deceiving the voters, was a renegade.

Labor loses ground

Since 1936 this question of "working within" the Democratic Party has been debated in radical circles, and it has been put to the test by the union movement. For forty-four years the unions have been pouring millions of dollars into the coffers of Democratic Party politicians, and supplying thousands of foot soldiers to corral the working class vote for "lesser evil" candidates.

The result is that the unions are now in the weakest position they have ever been in since they embarked on the disastrous course of trying to reform the Democratic Party, pretending it is "labor's own." The "friends of labor" in this capitalist class political institution have proven to be labor's disguised enemies.

Michael Harrington, leader of the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee even now defends "lesser evil politics," and counsels the union movement to continue its support of the Democratic Party. Harrington has, for several years, been trying "to form a labor representation committee and a socialist fraction within the Democratic Party." This is what Tony Benn, left-wing leader of the British Labor Party, thinks ought to be done now, "at this stage." It has been tried many times before, never successfully at any stage.

Four years ago, in the 1976 presidential election campaign, Harrington debated with Peter Camejo, presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party in that election.

Harrington defended "lesser evil" politics and solicited votes for Carter. He ridiculed the idea that the union movement can be transformed and that the American workers in the process can build their own mass labor party based on their unions.

Harrington said, "the labor movement in this country is supporting Carter." He then reminded Camejo that the SWP urges workers to "think politically." According to Harrington, "the workers are thinking politically. They are thinking Jimmy Carter." That was four years ago.

A few of the unions that endorsed Carter then because they thought he would be better than Ford, the Republican candidate, have refused to be stung a second time, most notably the Machinists. And a serious discussion is developing in the union movement about the need for a labor party and how it will be formed.

In this discussion the history of the British Labor Party has some useful lessons, but not what Tony Benn thinks. He got the impression that our union movement is analogous to the British unions in 1888 when the Scottish socialist Keir Hardie appealed unsuccessfully for a union-sponsored workers party.

The British unions underwent considerable transformation in the decade of the 1890s. The British economy faltered at that time. A wave of lockouts and provoked strikes swept the country. The employers were demanding givebacks from the workers, much the same as they are today in this country.

In 1900 the socialists of the Independent Labor Party and other groups made their historic first breakthrough in the union movement of Britain.

A few unions joined with existing socialist groups to establish the Labor Representation Committee. They ran their own candidates for Parliament, independent of both the Tory and Liberal ruling-class parties.

Prior to that the British union movement had been powerless politically because it was tied to the parties of the employers, as the unions in this country today are tied to the two-party system of the ruling class.

The lesson to be learned from the history of the British union movement is that it remained powerless until it broke with the "great Liberal party," and challenged the capitalist candidates by running working class candidates for Parliament.

Continuing attacks by the ruling class pushed more unions onto the road of independent political action. The British rulers at the turn of the century were demanding "a union-free environment," like the ruling class in this country today. One of the measures taken by the British rulers was the "Taff Vale judgment."

This was a judge's decision (upheld by the House of Lords) ordering the railway workers union to pay heavy damages to a company which claimed financial loss from a strike. Such rulings are sometimes handed down by the courts in this country today, and some states fine public employees for striking.

In 1901 and 1902, after "Taff Vale," the Labor Representation Committee grew rapidly, many more unions joined it, some reluctantly. But even those top union officials and their political hangers-on who only wanted to operate as a "pressure group" soon discovered that they were more effective *outside* the Liberal Party than in it. And besides they had little choice in the matter.

Ramsay MacDonald, who served as secretary of the Labor Representation Committee, explained why. "We didn't leave the Liberals," he said. "They kicked us out, and slammed the door in our faces." Isn't that what is happening here to labor lobbyists in the Democratic Party?

By 1906 a group of 50 Labor candidates were elected to Parliament. That was when the Labor Party became a force to be reckoned with in British politics, only six years after the first definitive break with the old two-party system.

In this country today the union movement can become a greater power in government in a shorter time, once the break with capitalist politics is made and the movement for a labor party begins to roll.

THE LESSER EVIL?

The Left Debates the Democratic Party and Social Change

Michael Harrington, Peter Camejo, & Others

\$2.95 paper. Available from offices listed on page 27, or send \$2.95 plus \$1 postage to Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

'Without education, no liberation'

Grenadian gov't launches literacy drive

By Ernest Harsch

Armed with pencils and books, hundreds of young men and women have gone out into towns, villages, and workplaces throughout Grenada in a major campaign to wipe out illiteracy. They hope, by the end of the year, to teach several thousand illiterate Grenadian workers and farmers how to read and write.

The literacy campaign, which is being organized by the Centre for Popular Education (CPE), is one of the most significant and sustained efforts that have been launched in Grenada since the revolutionary New Jewel Movement (NJM) seized power on March 13, 1979. It is the first mass literacy drive of its kind to be initiated anywhere in the Caribbean since the early days of the Cuban revolution.

At public meetings and rallies, through radio broadcasts, and in newspaper articles, the leaders of the revolution are urging as many Grenadians as possible to participate in this battle, either directly as teachers or students, or by contributing money and teaching materials. They continually stress the importance of the campaign for raising production and political consciousness, and thus for helping to advance the revolution as a whole.

"The C.P.E. must be considered as one of the most important programmes of the Revolution," stated an editorial in the July 19 *New Jewel*, the weekly organ of the NJM. "Through this programme, the P.R.G. [People's Revolutionary Government] hopes to destroy one of the greatest crimes against our people—illiteracy—and to teach our people new ideas."

To develop minds

In a national radio broadcast in early September, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop told the country:

"We must always seek to increase our knowledge, our understanding, our wisdom. This way we can develop analytical minds that can grasp the complexities of modern life and unmask the negative propaganda against our country and our revolution."

"We see the question of education as being relevant to our people growing together as one people, promoting national unity, helping to get rid of all the narrow, parochial and sectarian differences that still plague us."

In an earlier address, Bishop emphasized that while education was previously considered a privilege that was enjoyed by a minority of the population, "it will now be the right of all people." He also stated that education was "the responsibility of our revolution, and the key to the development of our people."

In carrying out their literacy drive, the Grenadian revolutionaries have been directly inspired by the similar campaigns that have been carried out in Cuba and Nicaragua. Articles in the weekly *Free West Indian* and speeches by Bishop and other Grenadian leaders have included repeated references to how the Cuban and Nicaraguan governments successfully combated illiteracy in their countries through massive and organized popular efforts.

The Cubans, who have aided Grenada in many different fields, are also seeking to share their own experiences in fighting illiteracy. The Cuban government sent an advisor, Angel Arrachea, to Grenada to assist the CPE. It also assisted in the printing of some of the teaching materials.

Colonialism's legacy

The widespread illiteracy and the absence of an adequate educational system that existed at the time of the revolution were a direct legacy of colonial rule.

In the nearly 200 years that the British imperialists ruled Grenada, they built only one public secondary



Free West Indian



Literacy volunteers in Carriacou

Free West Indian

school, in 1885. The other secondary schools were privately built, by various churches.

Education in Grenada fared little better under the dictatorship of Sir Eric Gairy, which took over the reins from the British in 1974. At the time of the revolution, of the sixty-two primary schools in the country, only three were considered adequate. Twelve were completely dilapidated. Many were unpainted, run down, with leaky roofs that could not keep out the torrential rains. In most schools, no sanitary facilities existed. Few teaching materials were available.

The quality of the education was abysmal. Of the 968 pupils who took the final primary school examinations in 1978, only twenty-eight passed. At the most, only 14 percent of all students went on to secondary school, where they had to pay relatively high tuition rates. In the last year of Gairy's rule, only three students were given scholarships to study abroad; one of them was Gairy's daughter.

The Gairy regime tried to claim that most Grenadians could read and write, but in reality a large portion of the Grenadian population was functionally illiterate.

Upon coming to power, the new revolutionary government quickly began to tackle these problems.

Volunteer community work brigades were organized to repair and rebuild the schools. Primary school children received free milk and cheap lunches. Secondary school fees were slashed to a quarter of what they were under Gairy. The country's second government-run secondary school was opened—the first in ninety-five years. Scholarships were given to more than 200 Grenadians to study at universities abroad.

And within only a few months of the revolution, the new government began to consider how to organize a campaign against illiteracy. At a National Education Conference held July 2-3, 1979, Prime Minister Bishop identified

illiteracy as "the most fundamental problem of all" and projected a major drive to get rid of it.

Mobilizing for literacy

By April 1980, preparations for the literacy campaign were under way. The Centre for Popular Education launched a national registration drive to recruit volunteers and to sign up Grenadians to attend the classes. Surveys were conducted in every village to determine the extent of illiteracy and to identify particular problems and needs.

High school students, trade unionists, members of community organizations and women's groups, teachers, and many other Grenadians were urged to volunteer for the CPE drive. Volunteer brigades were established, many of them adopting the names of heroes of the Grenada revolution.

By late July, seminars were being organized to train the volunteer teachers and to explain to them the goals of the literacy campaign.

The introduction to the teachers' manual, *Forward Ever*, pointed out that "an uneducated people cannot understand the causes of poverty, unemployment and disease" and cannot organize itself to solve these problems.

The manual also stressed that the volunteers should be sensitive to the special needs of their pupils, many of whom are older than the volunteers themselves. It stated that "for our efforts to be successful, we must establish a close and respectful relationship between us and our students."

At one of the seminars, John Wright, an official of the Ministry of Education, told the volunteers: "You must be willing to learn in order to teach."

The classes themselves began on August 18, and were projected to continue until December 18. As of mid-September, there were 1,200 illiterates receiving instruction from about 500 volunteer teachers.

This first phase of the literacy campaign is to be followed by two others.

The second phase, scheduled to begin in early 1981, will seek to continue the education process, teaching the newly literate basic mathematics and English, and at a later stage general science and basic economics. The third phase will involve the teaching of skills in agriculture, mechanics, electricity, carpentry, and other fields.

Despite the promising beginning to the literacy drive, the CPE is facing some practical difficulties. Many illiterates are reluctant to come forward to register for the classes. The CPE estimates that there are more than 6,000 Grenadians who cannot read and write who have not been signed up.

Noting these problems, Minister of Education George Louison emphasized the need for an even greater mobilization by the entire country to support the campaign. He appealed to trade unions, churches, and businesses to contribute to the CPE and to mobilize their members to take part. To increase participation in the campaign, a second registration drive was launched in September.

At a seminar for CPE technicians on September 22, Prime Minister Bishop also pointed out the specific problems of attracting workers in the countryside to the literacy classes, most of which are being held in school buildings. To lessen the inconvenience of attending classes for these workers, he announced that a program was being devised to set up classes in the workplaces themselves.

Literacy and the revolution

A central theme in the literacy campaign has been the direct links between education and the revolutionary process as a whole. Ultimately, it is those links that will ensure the success of the campaign.

Greater education, the leaders of the revolution repeatedly stress, will help increase production, and thus will help improve everyone's living standards. An editorial in the June 7 *Free West Indian* declared:

"We must understand clearly that the more educated a people become, the more productive they become. A population that can read and write effectively is a population that can grasp, understand and utilise modern agricultural methods, modern machines, modern technology. . . .

"We made a revolution on March 13, 1979, to end tyranny, dictatorship and neo-colonialism. But we also made a revolution to start mass education and to advance production. With our pencils and our copybooks we will open up our minds and feed them with knowledge and with our hoes, forks and cutlasses we will till that rich fertile soil so abundant in our lovely homeland."

Connected with this is the need to raise political consciousness and understanding. As Bishop underlined in a speech in late July, if Grenadians are to continue their struggle against imperialism, they must be able to understand its nature.

This goal is reflected in the teaching materials being used in the literacy classes. The main exercise text, *Let Us Learn Together*, contains lessons about the history of the revolutionary struggle in Grenada (and its small sister islands of Carriacou and Petit Martinique), about the Caribbean as a whole, about the popular character of the revolution, and about the need for vigilance against the imperialist-backed counterrevolutionaries.

The role of education in the revolution is at the heart of the literacy campaign. The drive is being conducted under the two main slogans of the CPE: "An uneducated person is an enslaved person" and "Without education there can be no liberation."

From Intercontinental Press

Problems of Nicaragua's Sandinista leadership

By Russell Johnson and Claudio Tavaréz

MANAGUA—Making the journey from Managua to Bluefields, the main town on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, is an experience. After squeezing into a crowded bus, one is driven four hours to the east to Ciudad Rama, a small town on the Río Escondido. From there it's all aboard a fast-moving launch ferry, which goes downriver to the coast and Bluefields.

Once on the boat, it's almost like being in another country. Gone are the grasslands and the villages and the road. On each side of the broad river there is thick rain forest, broken here and there by clearings in which stand primitive little houses on stilts, with perhaps a few cows and coconut palms.

Often the ferry slows to avoid swamping a canoe in its wake, as Indian families paddle their way to Rama. The river is the only way in and out.

After three hours of cruising under a blazing sun, the river starts to widen out. The boat passes an island studded with buildings and surrounded by boats—a fish factory. It then goes through a narrow channel and there it is ahead—Bluefields.

Bluefields

Surrounded by sea on three sides and on the other by forest-covered hills, Bluefields is a cluster of little wooden houses and narrow cobbled streets.

The people are mostly Black—and they speak English. Reggae music and the latest disco hits are heard as one walks down the street.

This is Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, but it's more like having landed on a small Caribbean island.

Bluefields seems idyllic, but in late September the situation there turned ugly. For four days, from September 28 to October 1, the town was paralyzed. Businesses closed, and angry, mostly Black, demonstrators filled the streets—as many as 1,000 demonstrators on September 29, we were told.

The protesters took over boats and shut down the fishing industry. They occupied the local radio station and assaulted government officials. At one point some weapons were stolen from a fish processing plant.

The focus of the discontent was the presence of about eighty Cuban teachers and doctors, who were staying in the town prior to leaving for more remote parts of the Atlantic province of Zelaya to work as volunteers among the peasants.

The leaders of the disturbances demanded the immediate expulsion of the Cubans from Bluefields. To back this up, the house where many of the Cubans were lodged was surrounded and stoned.

Counterrevolutionary attacks

The Bluefields disturbances came on the heels of a serious escalation of counterrevolutionary violence in various parts of Nicaragua, aimed at destabilizing the revolutionary government. This has been focused mainly along the northern border with Honduras, where thousands of former Somozaist National Guardsmen and common criminals have taken refuge. From there gangs launch murderous forays into populated areas of Nicaragua.

The seriousness of this problem was highlighted October 11 in Masaya, when 700 reservists from the Sandinista People's Army were bid farewell by their families. They had been mobilized to go to the north to help deal with the counterrevolutionary gangs. They were to join a special brigade led by Militia Commander Edén Pastora.

There have also been a number of



English-language billboard for literacy campaign in Bluefields

assassinations of government and Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) officials in the interior of Nicaragua. And in early September a counterrevolutionary plot headed by former Defense Minister and National Guard Colonel Bernardino Larios was uncovered. Larios had called for kidnapping and assassination of all nine members of the FSLN National Directorate.

As a result of all these developments, the FSLN reacted swiftly to the events in Bluefields, which they saw as a further escalation in the pattern of counterrevolutionary attacks. Units of the Sandinista police and army in Bluefields were reinforced with troops from the western part of the country. The leaders of the disturbances were arrested and brought to Managua.

Borge's charges

Interior Minister Tomás Borge declared at an October 1 news conference that the protests were part of a reactionary campaign to separate the Atlantic Coast region from Nicaragua, stimulated by foreign agents and local reactionaries. He pointed in particular to counterrevolutionary propaganda beamed to Bluefields from Costa Rican television, Colombian radio, and the Voice of America.

This plan, Borge said, was linked to other counterrevolutionary plots elsewhere to destabilize the country and sow panic among the people.

Borge's charges were substantiated on October 9 at a second Interior Ministry news conference. With Borge at this conference was Wesley Hernán Savery Harrison, the Black leader of the antigovernment actions in Bluefields who was being held in Managua.

Harrison, for thirteen years a member of a movement to separate the Atlantic Coast region from Nicaragua, detailed to reporters his connections with Bernardino Larios. He said he had met with Larios three times in Managua. After the second meeting, Larios named Harrison Atlantic Coast chief of the Fuerzas Armadas Democráticas (FAD—Democratic Armed Forces). Larios's plans, Harrison said, involved kidnapping and murdering the nine members of the FSLN National Directorate, and the organization of simultaneous armed rebellions within the country and an invasion by Somozaist guardsmen from Honduras. A "government in exile," including Harrison and Larios, was to have been established in Honduras.

Harrison said the plan was originally to have been carried out on July 19, the first anniversary of the revolution. It was postponed to August 23,

the date of the mass meeting in Managua to celebrate the completion of the literacy campaign. The plot again failed to come off, and before it could be finally put into motion Larios was arrested.

Alienated region

It was to learn more about the background to the Bluefields disturbances that we traveled there on October 5. During our stay we were able to speak with members of the FSLN, the Sandinista youth organization, and the armed forces, as well as to shopkeepers and to young people in the streets.

What emerged was a picture of a population that has long felt alienated from the mainstream of Nicaraguan life and that has been confused and misled as to the goals of the Sandinista revolution.

The Atlantic Coast has its own history and culture, distinct from the more highly developed Pacific provinces. Zelaya Province has almost half the land area of Nicaragua, but only around 8 percent of the population (193,835 people, according to government sources). It is an area with immense natural resources, including gold and silver mines, rich fishing grounds, timber, and virgin agricultural lands.

About one-third of the population of the coast region is Black, mainly descendants of immigrants who came from English-speaking Caribbean islands after the abolition of slavery. The Blacks live mainly along the southern coast, making a living as fishermen and farmers. They have maintained the use of English, even though almost the only institutions that function in that language are their Protestant churches.



Literacy campaign billboard in Miskito, language of thousands of Miskito Indians in coastal region.

The rest of the population are predominantly Rama Indians in the south, Sumo Indians in the interior mining districts, and Miskito Indians on the northern coast. The Miskitos developed through a mingling of the indigenous peoples with escaped slaves and European pirates. (The latter began appearing on the coast in the seventeenth century.) The Miskito and Sumo languages remain the first languages of many thousands of coast people, we were told.

Until 1896 the Atlantic Coast had a separate existence from the rest of Nicaragua, under the "protection" of Great Britain. Under Somoza, the resources of the region were plundered for the benefit of the dictator and imperialism, with almost nothing channeled back into developing the coast. Even today, there are virtually no roads or utilities. Bluefields itself only gained television, radio, and telephone links to western Nicaragua after the insurrection—with the help of Cuban technicians.

It is not difficult to understand then, that the Atlantic Coast population has tended to see itself as a sort of internal colony dominated by the Spanish-speakers of the Pacific zone, or that separatist sentiments have been manifested on occasion.

Another thing that many whom we spoke with in Bluefields pointed out was that the worst brutalities of Somoza's rule were not seen there. The presence of the National Guard was relatively low-key; the Bluefields garrison numbered only about thirty.

Weak base for FSLN

Taking all these factors into account, then, we were not surprised to learn that throughout the years of the struggle against Somoza the FSLN had been unable to establish itself on the Atlantic Coast. What few Blacks and other coast people were recruited moved to more politically responsive areas of the country.

During the 1979 insurrection that brought the FSLN to power, there was no fighting in Bluefields. The only action, some young people told us, was a mass march by the entire high-school student body to the government building.

Without mass participation in the revolutionary struggle against Somoza, Bluefields was not polarized as other parts of the country were. The consciousness of the Blacks was not transformed—unlike that of the masses of poor and working people on the Pacific coast, who in their life-or-death struggle for freedom came to understand who their real friends and enemies were.

After the insurrection, many of Somoza's collaborators and other conservative figures remained in place in Bluefields, maintaining much of their influence within the community. Ex-

Atlantic Coast Region meets new challenges



Russell Johnson/Intercontinental Press

Typical housing in Bluefields, on isolated Atlantic Coast

propriation of the Somozaists' property was not always popular and was not as comprehensive as in the other provinces. Such expropriations were often not understood by the broad masses.

This was explained to us by Paulina Cáceres, a leader of the July 19 Sandinista Youth (JS-19) who had come from Chinandega to help build her organization and advance the revolution in Bluefields.

Cáceres pointed out that as they had not participated in the revolutionary struggle and were not fully aware of the scope of what had taken place on the other coast, including the massive destruction, the people of Bluefields didn't understand what lay behind economic problems such as high prices and shortages of key commodities like sugar. It seemed to many that things were getting worse, but they could not see why.

Out of woodwork

In this situation, the local reactionaries began to come out of the woodwork and spread rumors against the revolution. They were aided by Costa Rican television, which has a special channel aimed at the Atlantic Coast, Cáceres said.

The reactionaries' campaign was focused against the presence of Cuban internationalist volunteers. "There's no sugar," the rumors went, "because it's all being exported to Cuba!" There were no jobs, because the Cuban doctors, teachers, and fishing instructors were replacing local residents. "Communism" was going to come and take away everything from everybody.

The rumors even involved the Miskito language literacy campaign that was about to be launched on the coast. The Cubans—who obviously knew no Miskito—were going to teach the course, and not native Miskito speakers, it was said.

We found out for ourselves the correctness of what Cáceres told us when we got to talking with some young Black women in the street about the disturbances, which they had not been part of but obviously had some sympathy with. One of them asked bluntly, "How would you like it if someone came and took away your job?"

Another problem the FSLN had faced in Bluefields, the Sandinista Youth activist said, was the Simón Bolívar Brigade (BSB),* which ran the city for the first month after the insurrection. One of the brigade's central

figures in Bluefields was Marvin Wright, a Black from Puerto Limón, Costa Rica.

Role of Bolívar unit

Wright turned up during the insurrection wearing a military uniform, Cáceres said. He presented himself as a leader of the FSLN. He and the BSB organized much of the work force into trade unions and then presented local employers with wage and other demands that offered a lot to the workers but were beyond the capacity of the revolution to meet.

In the ensuing conflict with the Sandinista leadership, Cáceres told us, Wright tried to create a rift by making appeals along racial lines, for Black solidarity against the "mestizos" of the Pacific. Finally the BSB's activities in Bluefields and elsewhere became so disruptive that the FSLN had to expel them from the country. But not before the seeds of mistrust of the FSLN-led government had been sown among the local population in Bluefields.

Cáceres said the FSLN was also now critically reexamining its own policies toward the Atlantic Coast. She told us that under the pressure of the enormous tasks faced by the FSLN and the revolutionary government immediately after the overthrow of Somoza, it had not been possible to pay sufficient attention to the specific problems of the Atlantic Coast—the different languages and cultural traditions, the economic and political backwardness, and special health problems.

Organizational structures that grew out of the struggle on the Pacific Coast were imported into Bluefields, but were unsuited to the consciousness and ways of doing things of the local people, Cáceres said. These simply collapsed, weakening communication links between the community and the government and the FSLN, and

never against the FSLN by Moreno and his followers.

Organized without FSLN authorization, the BSB only entered Nicaragua after the fall of Somoza. It falsely presented itself as an FSLN unit even while trying to organize workers to oppose what it called the "bourgeois" FSLN-led government. After the Sandinistas' efforts to convince the BSB to give up its criminally sectarian stance failed, non-Nicaraguan members of the BSB were expelled from the country.

Moreno's maneuver was launched without consultation with the elected leadership bodies of the Fourth International, with which he and his followers were soon to split. The Eleventh World Congress of the Fourth International, held in November 1979, condemned the Simón Bolívar Brigade as a "criminal adventure."

For further information on the Simón Bolívar Brigade, see *Intercontinental Press*, September 3, 1979, p. 804, and December 24, 1979, p. 1277.

strengthening the influence of the reactionaries.

As a result of the disturbances and of discussions with leaders of the Black community, Cáceres said, the FSLN was developing a whole new policy for the Atlantic Coast, aimed at winning the confidence of the Blacks and Miskitos in the revolutionary process.

Rethinking by FSLN

The Managua news media have also reported a rethinking process inside the FSLN concerning its approach to Bluefields and the Atlantic Coast.

Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock was delegated by the FSLN National Directorate to visit Bluefields, to discuss with the Black community their grievances and to reassess policy with the local FSLN leadership.

Under the headline, "Self-criticism and reflection in the case of Bluefields," the FSLN daily *Barricada* reported on October 6 that as a result of this dialogue the FSLN leaders in Bluefields had recognized that they made mistakes in responding to the disturbances and in general to the special problems of the Atlantic Coast.

"The movement that took place in Bluefields last week was not counter-revolutionary, although its leadership had a reactionary character and was opposed to the revolution," *Barricada* quoted William Ramírez, minister for the Atlantic Coast, as saying at the closing session of a meeting of FSLN cadres in Bluefields.

At another meeting with the Bluefields community, Ramírez said, "We find there is a kind of self-criticism and reflection, as well as a recognition that the methods utilized were not the most correct ones." Ramírez pointed out that the armed forces "did not use tact" in dealing with the disturbances. "We understand that from the military point of view there was a breach of discipline. But we do not justify it, and we recognize that there was a lack of communication."

Ramírez added that "many of those concerns could have been listened to by the FSLN's party structures in Bluefields, and the problems could have been solved through the participation of everyone. The situation of the past week would not have been provoked."

For his part, Jaime Wheelock said that he had found great willingness to work out all the difficulties at the meeting with the people of Bluefields. "Now we have a clearer view of the political situation of the Atlantic Coast," Wheelock said. "The political line now has to be more creative. There is a history here, a culture, a reality for the revolution."

Speaking directly to the militants of the FSLN, Wheelock said: "It will be necessary for you to provide creative responses in the forms of organization. You must recall that it is cadres grappling with problems that build the party."

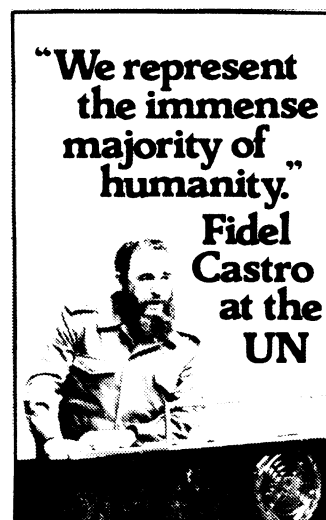
The events in Bluefields posed a big challenge to the FSLN. The disturbances there represented a particularly grave threat to the revolution, a potential beachhead for imperialist intervention. They had to be dealt with firmly.

At the same time, as Wheelock and Ramírez pointed out, the grievances and confusion on the part of the participants in the protests are real and cannot be ignored. To take the base away from the reactionaries, these problems have to be dealt with politically. It is necessary to bring the Atlantic Coast more decisively into the Sandinista Revolution, through policies that are considerate toward the specific features of the region and its peoples. Wheelock's and Ramírez's statements show that there is a clear recognition of this among the Sandinistas.

We left Bluefields convinced that the FSLN leadership was once again showing its revolutionary capacity to learn from the masses themselves in order to advance in a new and stronger way.

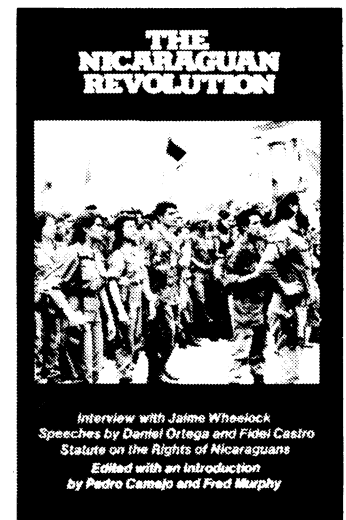
From Intercontinental Press

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In El Salvador, telling truth can mean death

The following is from an article scheduled for publication in the November 17 issue of 'Perspectiva Mundial.'

By Fernando Torres

Death threats and murders of journalists, tight censorship, dynamite attacks on printing plants and radio stations, the falsification of facts—this chilling catalog of the Salvadoran junta's attacks on freedom of the press was the theme of an interview given by Demetrio Olaciregui to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Olaciregui is a Panamanian journalist who has been covering El Salvador for the past thirteen months. He has served as a photojournalist for the San Salvador daily *El Independiente*, as a reporter for several Central American radio stations, and most recently as a full-time correspondent for the United Press International (UPI).

Olaciregui visited the United States recently to attend the El Salvador Solidarity Conference that took place in Washington, D.C., on October 11-12. "I have been threatened many times," he said. On March 13, for example, Olaciregui received "a very strongly worded letter from the defense minister, Col. José Guillermo García." In the letter, García told him to stop

Rightist terror: 12,000 victims

The administrator of the El Salvador Human Rights Commission, Ramón Valladares, was murdered by right-wing terrorists October 26. This is the second killing of an activist in this Catholic Church-sponsored group this month. The body of commission member María Magdalena Henríquez was found October 7.

According to UPI correspondent Demetrio Olaciregui, the actual toll of victims of government and right-wing terror in El Salvador is 12,000.

The journalist said officials portray the deaths as resulting from combat between "terrorists" and government forces.

The authorities sometimes invite reporters to the scene of a supposed combat, he said. But the weapons in the hands of the corpses are obviously planted there.



Special issue of 'La Crónica,' October 18, 1979. Headline reads: 'Junta starts off with massacres.' Last July its editorial and printing offices were burned and two editors kidnapped and murdered. The paper has since ceased publication.

covering El Salvador. Two days later, "I was kidnapped by a group of armed men who beat us and kicked us and forced us violently into a vehicle. We were threatened with death throughout a long ride of some 250 kilometers that ended at the Honduran border. I wound up being deported."

Unfortunately for the Salvadoran government, however, 150 Latin American newspaper editors were at that moment meeting in Costa Rica. Upon learning of Olaciregui's deportation they put pressure on Salvadoran junta member José Napoleón Duarte to reverse the measure. Duarte had to apologize in the name of his government and guaranteed Olaciregui's return to El Salvador on March 20.

"Since then," Olaciregui said, "I have continued my work, with the aim of being a professional, objective, and truthful journalist."

"We know the Salvadoran general staff has held lengthy sessions to discuss what to do about the international press," Olaciregui said.

The reasons are obvious, he said: "In El Salvador it is only necessary to report the truth and the reality of what happens, since the facts themselves are so overwhelmingly damaging" to the junta and to the U.S. government as well, since it is up to its elbows in the adventure.

On April 24 of this year René Tamsen Aparicio, a reporter for radio

station WHUR of Washington, D.C., was kidnapped by the police in San Salvador.

On August 9 the armed forces gunned down Ignacio Rodríguez, a reporter for the Mexican newspapers *Uno más Uno*, *Proceso*, and *El Norte De Chihuahua*. Rodríguez had gained the junta's hatred for the excellent photographs of repressive actions.

The Mexican government withdrew its ambassador from El Salvador following the murder of Rodríguez.

In July, Jaime Suárez and César Najarro—both editors of the San Salvador daily *La Crónica del Pueblo*—were kidnapped and later hacked to death with machetes. Earlier, the editorial offices and printing plant of the daily had been set afire.

La Crónica del Pueblo, Olaciregui explained, was "the newspaper that was most committed to the interests of the Salvadoran people." Since the July attacks it has disappeared from the scene.

"Since January 22 of this year YSAX, the radio station of the Catholic Church, has suffered five dynamite blasts. The last one was four weeks ago—it totally destroyed the transmitters, causing losses of around \$600,000."

The station had broadcast an editorial criticizing U.S. Ambassador Robert

White for his total support to the fierce repression carried out by the junta. White was denounced by YSAX for "serving as an accomplice to the most systematic and merciless massacre Latin America has ever known."

The print shops of the newspapers of the popular organizations have all been destroyed and their editors imprisoned. These included the Revolutionary People's Bloc's *Combate Popular*, the February 28 People's Leagues' *Ligas Obreras*, and the United People's Action Front's *El Pueblo*.

In face of the terror launched against the news media by the government, the Association of Foreign Correspondents in El Salvador (ACOES) was founded last May 6. The group bases itself on international accords that guarantee the right to freedom of expression.

ACOES has been an important medium for denouncing the violation of freedom of the press and speech by the Salvadoran junta. In addition, it seeks to "safeguard the physical integrity and security of its members" and of all correspondents in El Salvador.

The association's first statement demanded that "the Salvadoran authorities immediately present the correspondent René Tamsen Aparicio."

On August 21, after the murders of the journalists Ignacio Rodríguez, Jaime Suárez, and César Najarro, ACOES issued an open letter to the junta. It was handed personally to civilian junta members Duarte and José Antonio Morales Ehrlich.

The document cited the abuses committed against the international press, which it said included "frequent telephone threats and personal intimidation" and the "existence in the immigration offices of a list of foreign journalists whose entry into the country has been restricted."

The letter was signed by more than thirty correspondents from Mexico, the United States, Canada, France, Colombia, and other countries.

As of mid-October, Olaciregui said, "the government has turned a deaf ear to our demands."

In the United States information about El Salvador is scarce. The capitalist press censors, alters, and distorts the news from that country. So it is imperative that the movement of solidarity with the Salvadoran people find the means to learn what is happening and make this information widely known.

South Korea: repression and new protests

By Janice Lynn

Despite the continuing repression in South Korea, popular opposition to military rule has not been crushed.

The October 10 Paris daily *Le Monde* reported that for the first time since the May insurrection in Kwangju—in which some 200,000 people demonstrated for an end to martial law and for the restoration of democratic rights—a demonstration was held October 8 in Seoul, at the Hankuk Theological Seminary.

The demonstration was broken up by police, 146 students were arrested, and the seminary was closed.

In the October 15 *Christian Science Monitor*, correspondent Mike Chinoy reported that demonstrations have also taken place in the southern city of Taegu.

And on October 17, some 500 students demonstrated at Korea University in Seoul, one of the largest universities in the country. They distributed statements accusing President Chun Doo Hwan of brutality in putting down the Kwangju uprising, and condemned the U.S. and Japanese governments for backing the Chun dictatorship. More than 500 riot police quickly swooped down on the campus, and arrested several dozen student leaders.

In Kwangju, *Monitor* correspondent Chinoy reported, a secret trial is being held at an army base outside the city, involving 172 persons accused of participating in the May demonstrations.

Repeated protest rallies are held outside the army base where the trials are held.

Thirteen of the defendants, all prominent Kwangju citizens, have been charged with sedition. They are accused of maintaining clandestine links with South Korean opposition figure Kim Dae Jung. Kim was sentenced to death September 17 on frame-up charges of "fomenting" the mass rebellion in Kwangju.

The thirteen defendants include Myong Ro Kuen, a professor of English at Kwangju's Chonnam National University; Oh Byong Moon, a former dean at the same university; the president and secretary-general of the Kwangju YMCA; two priests; and several well-known lawyers and academics.

Like Kim, the thirteen are accused of inciting the population of Kwangju to revolt, and face death penalties. This is all part of the South Korean generals' attempts to warn the country's people that if such respected figures can be given death sentences, then they should think twice before raising their voices in opposition to the regime.

Chinoy reported that armed soldiers continue to patrol the streets of Kwangju, military checkpoints are still stationed at the entrances to the city, and the network of police informers has been greatly expanded with an ongoing round-up of suspected dissidents.

"But beneath the surface," Chinoy stated, "Kwangju is bitter and tense. Posters hailing President Chun's recent inauguration were repeatedly defaced, and eventually had to be protected by armed guards. Copies of the government's just-published Constitution have been torn from local billboards."

In recent weeks, several hundred young dissidents have been tried secretly in Seoul for participating in protest rallies last spring.

Kim Tae Hong, the former president of the Korean Journalists Association, was arrested October 9 on charges of sedition and violating martial-law decrees.

Government sponsored "purification" committees have been established in factories, shops, churches, newspapers, and offices throughout the country. They are charged with rooting out all "impure elements." Thousands of people have been forced from their jobs, expelled from schools,

or detained as "hooligans" and sent to "reeducation" camps.

An international campaign in solidarity with Kim and all other victims of the repressive South Korean regime is essential to the defense of democratic rights in South Korea.

From Intercontinental Press

Workers death sentences; rigged election

On October 25, five more of the Kwangju rebels were sentenced to death. Three are workers.

And on the same day, the constitution put forward by the military dictatorship supposedly got a 92 percent yes vote with 95.5 percent voting.

This new constitution dissolves all political parties, disqualifies all but a handful of the 231 National Assembly members from holding office, and provides for the president to be elected by a 5,000-member electoral college rather than by popular vote.

The constitution authorizes a military-dominated committee to govern the country until a presidential election late next year.

The Great Society

Harry Ring



The American Way—Companies peddling cancer test kits are enjoying a Wall Street boom. The hospitals and labs they sell to are also doing nicely. The *New York Times* reports: "The test kits typically cost hospitals and clinical laboratories . . . about \$1 per patient, although the results are sold to patients for at least \$20."

They got a nerve—The Justice Department says Soviet spies tried to spy on American spies.

May beat rap—The Vatican is reviewing the conviction of Galileo, who was sentenced for heresy 347 years ago for proving the earth revolved around the sun, not vice versa. A spokesperson said the pope wanted the review conducted "with complete objectivity."

Sociology dep't—Researchers say people tend to drink less as they grow older. One reason for this, the experts conjecture, is they can't afford it.

Can't please everyone—According to a survey, chief execs of top corporations find their health has improved with the job. That may be because, the report found, they seldom worry about

being fired. However, a sizeable minority feels that they're underpaid.

Theology dep't—A world gathering of Catholic bishops drafted a document calling for "a much deeper study of sexuality." To see if it should be banned?

Car tips—The 1981 Rolls Royce features a digital clock. About \$120,000. Or there's the DeLorean two-seater sports car, electroplated in 24-karat gold, \$85,000. (You can charge it on your American Express card.) For diffident types, there's the stainless steel model, \$20,000.

So the gas station can see you coming—A mail-order catalog offers a set of Xmas tree lights to string around your car.

Bon appetit!—We don't want to diminish your taste for Florida tomatoes, but they do pick them green and then spray them with a gas that turns them sickly pink.

Meet the experts—Department of Energy specialists say the best way to save energy is to wear warm clothing. My landlord agrees.



Women in Revolt

Behind toxic shock syndrome

Nausea, diarrhea, fever. A dramatic fall in blood pressure. Death.

This is the fatal sequence of events associated with toxic shock syndrome, which so far has affected some 400 women—and has resulted in forty deaths. The National Center for Disease Control in Atlanta has linked the disease—thought to be caused by the bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus*, whose toxin enters the blood stream—with the use of tampons.

One tampon, Rely, manufactured by Procter & Gamble, was removed from the market recently because of its frequent association with the disease, although other tampons have been used by women contracting the infection.

Scientists claim not to know the exact cause of toxic shock, but some facts about tampon production offer insight into the causes of the disease and why it has now surfaced.

Toxic shock was first officially recognized in 1978, about two years after the introduction of superabsorbent tampons. Prior to that, tampons made from cotton or cotton and rayon, claimed about 90 percent of the tampon market. Since 1976, however, significant changes have been made on most tampon brands. Manufacturers introduced chemically modified cottons and rayons and in some cases, synthetic polyesters to enhance absorbency. It is now thought that these chemicals may help bacteria breed, or, unlike cotton, the fibers might scrape the vaginal walls allowing bacterial toxin to enter the bloodstream.

But we didn't know that these tampons had chemical fibers in them. The ingredients were never listed.

As for the dangers of using such fibers internally: the makers of tampons were never required to submit them to safety tests by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) before they were marketed.

Suzanne Haig



As an agency spokesman told the *New York Times*, "They had been used safely for forty years."

This is not a unique situation. Remember the Dalkon Shield, the IUD that was removed from the U.S. market in 1974? (It is still sold abroad.) As of March 1980 the device has caused seventeen deaths and countless uterine infections, septic abortions, and emergency hysterectomies.

Are these problems just the necessary evil of scientific advances? No. They are the outgrowth and result of a system that produces for profit.

The revelations about the deadly dangers of tampons are an angry reminder that women's bodies are still held prey by the big drug companies in this country, the medical industry, and the government agencies that are supposed to protect us from them.

Their criminal disregard for our health, and the health of our children, is a powerful argument for socialism, for a society where working people run the country and put human needs before profits.

What's Going On

COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS

SOCIALIST WORKERS CAMPAIGN RALLY. Speaker: Silvia Zapata, SWP candidate for Senate. Sun., Nov. 2, 8:15 p.m. Poor Richard's, 324½ N. Tejon, Colorado Springs. Ausp: SWP 1980 Campaign. For more information call (303) 534-8954.

ILLINOIS CHICAGO

ELECTION NIGHT RALLY WITH ANDREW PULLEY. Socialist Workers Party candidate for president. Celebrate gains of SWP Campaign with Andrew Pulley and other candidates. Tues., Nov. 4, 7 p.m. 434 S. Wabash. Ausp: Illinois SWP Campaign & Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (312) 939-0737.

LOUISIANA NEW ORLEANS

STOP RACIST MURDERS. Speakers: Jesse Turner, representative, Community Action Now; Stuart Crome, member, Young Socialist Alliance; Babadunji Ahmed. Fri., Nov. 7, 8 p.m. 3207 Dublin St. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

MICHIGAN DETROIT

'TEN DAYS THAT SHOOK THE WORLD.' A film commemorating Russian Revolution. Sun., Nov. 9, 7 p.m. 6404 Woodward. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (313) 875-5322.

WHY WE NEED A LABOR PARTY. A panel discussion. Sun., Nov. 2, 7 p.m. 6404 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (313) 875-5322.

NEW YORK MANHATTAN

IRAN-IRAQ WAR. Speaker: Janice Lynn, staff writer for *Intercontinental Press*. Sat., Nov. 1, 8 p.m. 108 E. 16th St., 2nd floor. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (212) 260-6400.

NEW YORK SOCIALIST WORKERS CAMPAIGN RALLY. Speaker: Matilde Zimmermann, SWP candidate for vice-president. Also phone hook-up with Andrew Pulley, SWP candidate for president. Tues., Nov. 4, 6-12 p.m. Live music, buffet, refreshments. 108 E. 16th St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$2 for buffet. Ausp: N.Y. SWP Campaign. For more information call (212) 533-2902.

TEXAS DALLAS

FROM DEBS TO PULLEY: THE WORKING-CLASS ALTERNATIVE. Speaker: Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress. Film: 'Eugene Debs and the American Movement.' Sat., Nov. 1, 7 p.m. 5442 E. Grand. Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (214) 826-4711.

MASS MURDER IN EL SALVADOR. Slide show from El Salvador. Sat., Nov. 8, 7 p.m. 5442 E. Grand. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Forum. Proceeds to El Salvador Solidarity Committee. For more information call (214) 826-4711.

WASHINGTON SEATTLE

SOLIDARITY FORUM. GRENADA: A BIG REVOLUTION IN A LITTLE COUNTRY. Speakers: Vicky Cofield, Socialist Workers Party; Chris Remple, recently attended meeting addressed by Liam James, member of Peoples Revolutionary Government of Grenada. Sun., Nov. 2, 7 p.m. 4868 Rainier Ave. South. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Forum, Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE

CAMPAIGN RALLY. Speaker: Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president. Mon., Nov. 3, 12:30 p.m. Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Student Union Concourse. Ausp: Young Socialists for Pulley and Zimmermann. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

MINNESOTA TWIN CITIES

STOP THE RACIST ATTACKS! RACISM IN AMERICA & MINNESOTA. MULTIPLE MURDERS IN BUFFALO & ATLANTA. Speakers: Rev. James Battle, pastor, Mt. Olivett Baptist Church, president, Black Ministerial Alliance; Katie McWatt, Summit Univ. Action Coalition; Spike Moss, executive director, The Way; Yusef Mgeni, co-director, Malcolm X Pan-African Institute; Prof. August Nimtz, Univ. Minnesota. Sun., Nov. 9, 4 p.m. 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Twin Cities Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Our Revolutionary Heritage

Trotsky on Engels

Frederick Engels was a co-founder, along with Karl Marx, of the revolutionary socialist movement.

The following appreciation of Engels is excerpted from an article by Leon Trotsky. The article, dated October 15, 1935, reviews Engels's letters to Karl Kautsky. Kautsky was a Marxist who later became an apologist for the German Social Democrats who backed imperialism in World War I.

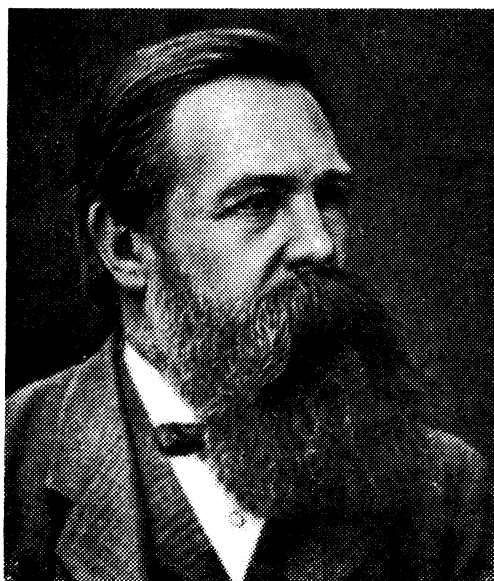
Trotsky's article is contained in 'Portraits: Political and Personal,' Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Engels's insight into military matters, based not only upon his extensive special knowledge but also upon his general capacity for a synthesized appraisal of conditions and forces, enabled him to publish in the London *Pall-Mall Gazette*, during the Franco-Prussian War, remarkable military articles, ascribed by fame to one of the highest military authorities of the time (the Messrs. "Authorities," doubtless, surveyed themselves in the mirror not without considerable astonishment). In his intimate circle Engels was dubbed with the playful nickname of the "General."

Engels was not an orator, or it may be that he never had the occasion to become one. Towards "orators" he displayed even a shade of disrespect, holding, not without foundation, that they incline to turn ideas into banalities.

Engels's relations with people were foreign to all sentimentalism or illusions and permeated through and through with a penetrating simplicity and, therefore, were profoundly human. In his company around the evening table, where representatives of various countries and continents gathered, all contrast disappeared as if by magic between the polished radical duchess Schack and the not at all polished Russian nihilist Vera Zasulich. The rich personality of the host manifested itself in this happy capacity to lift himself and others above everything secondary and superficial, without departing in the least from either his views or even his habits.

One would seek in vain in this revolutionist for bohemian traits so prevalent among the radical intellectuals. Engels was intolerant of sloppiness and negligence both in small and big things. He loved precision of thought, precision in accounting, exactitude in expression and in print. When a German publisher attempted to alter his spelling, Engels demanded back several galleys for revision. He wrote, "I would no sooner allow anybody to foist his spelling on me than I would a wife." This irate and at the same time jocose sentence almost brings Engels back to life again!



FREDERICK ENGELS

In addition to his native tongue, over which his mastery was that of a virtuoso, Engels wrote freely in English, French, and Italian; he read Spanish and almost all Slavic and Scandinavian languages. His knowledge of philosophy, economics, history, physics, philology, and military science would have sufficed for a goodly dozen of ordinary and extraordinary professors. But even apart from all this he possessed his main treasure: winged thought.

In June 1884, when [Eduard] Bernstein and Kautsky, affecting Engels's own likes and dislikes, complained to him of the incipient pressure of all sorts of "erudite" philistines in the party, Engels said in reply, "the main thing is to concede nothing and, in addition, to remain absolutely calm." While the General himself did not always remain "absolutely calm" in the literal sense of the term—on the contrary, he was wont on occasion to boil over magnificently—he was always able to rise quickly above temporary mishaps and restore the necessary balance between his thoughts and emotions. The elemental side of his personality was optimism combined with humor towards himself and those close to him, and irony towards his enemies. In his optimism there was not a modicum of smugness—the term itself rebounds from his image. The sub-soil springs of his joy of living had their source in a happy and harmonious temperament, but the latter was permeated through and through with the knowledge that brought with it the greatest of joys: the joy of creative perception.

Engels's optimism extended equally to political questions and to personal affairs. After each and every defeat he would immediately seek out those conditions which would prepare a new upsurge, and after every blow life dealt him he was able to pull himself together and look to the future. Such he remained to his dying day.

Letters

This week we are devoting this space to a range of letters sent in to the Socialist Workers 1980 campaign headquarters. The SWP is running Andrew Pulley for president and Matilde Zimmermann for vice-president.

High school senior

I am a senior in high school. I have become very interested in your party and would like to help. Being a senior, vice-president of the key club at my school, and president of the student council, I come in contact with very many voting-age people. These people have expressed dissatisfaction with the existing government and also the Democratic and Republican candidates in the upcoming election.

Because of this situation and my capabilities, I know I can be effective in helping you gain support from my schoolmates.

Thank you for receiving my letter, and I hope to be hearing from you as soon as possible.

D.C.
Poland, Ohio

Sends \$300

Enclosed is a check for \$300. I'm glad to be able to contribute to an effort whose goals go well beyond the personal career ambitions of the candidates running, and whose ideas of relevant issues are so well advanced of the postures of "competence" being so hotly debated by the boss parties.

P.S.
Chicago, Illinois

Campaign echos views

I have seen two of your ads in recent issues of *The Progressive*. To say the least, I was surprised that the main planks in your platform duplicate all of my concerns, some of them echo my strongest feelings.

Here is a small check. If possible send me some buttons and campaign literature. If you have a mailing list please place me on it, I guess I'm a closet socialist.

J.G.
Asheville, North Carolina

Wants posters

Enclosed is a contribution for some materials.

Please send me as large a selection as possible.

The posters and stickers should be good visibility items around polling places. In how many states is the Socialist Workers Party on the ballot? The capitalist media (of course) keeps all mention of the SWP quiet.

D.L.
Lemoyne, Pennsylvania

Need buttons, stickers

We are a group of thirty students working for the election of Andrew Pulley. Please send buttons, stickers, literature, and any other material we can use to promote the Socialist Workers Party.

D.C.
Hubbard Woods, Illinois

Wants pamphlets

Please send ten copies of "Why Working People Need a Labor Party." Enclosed is \$3.50.

D.B.
Oregon, Wisconsin

Would vote SWP

Thank you for your many leaflets and information that you sent me. Although I am not of voting age, I do believe in most all of the Socialist Workers Party stands on the issues and would support the SWP if I could.

When reading some socialist literature, I read that Andrew Pulley is only twenty-nine years old. Because of this I would like to ask how he could possibly win the election since the president is required to be thirty-five years of age.

P.M.
Cincinnati, Ohio

Wants to join YSA

Having picked up one of your brochures, I became interested in your organization. I would like information on joining the Young Socialist Alliance, and some literature.

H.K.
Claremont, California

Our party is your party

THE MILITANT is the voice of the Socialist Workers Party

IF YOU AGREE with what you've read, you should join us in fighting for a world without war, racism, or exploitation—a socialist world.

JOIN THE SWP. Fill out this coupon and mail it today.

- ☐ I want to join the SWP.
- ☐ Send me _____ copies of *Prospects for Socialism in America* at \$3.95 each. Enclosed is \$_____
- ☐ Please send me more information.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____

SWP, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

JOIN THE SWP

British miners back socialists

The members of Bolsover "Collier" group send warmest fraternal greetings to all involved in the Pulley-Zimmermann election campaign. In particular we greet Tom Moriarty, representing the working class against the bosses and coal owners of West Virginia.

As miners, fighting against Thatcher's bosses' government and for class struggle politics within our own Union, we recognise his fight as ours. The fight against capitalist austerity measures, productivity

deals, and nuclear power unites workers internationally.

We give our full support to your fight against the attempts by Thatcher and Carter to plunge the world into a new round of imperialist war.

For international workers solidarity!

Against the draft in America!

Against the siting of cruise missiles in Britain!

No to nuclear power!

For workers power and socialism!

Notts, England

Learning About Socialism

Against nukes, draft

I admire you for your papers that say stop nuclear power and what you said about the draft.

I wish you would send me buttons, posters, bumper stickers to help me tell people what you stand for.

M.A.

Rushford, New York

Draft is immoral

With the way things are, America is indeed in deep trouble, and it's time we all tried to find ourselves and our place. To me one of the most important issues in this campaign is the draft.

Just over a year ago I remember Jimmy Carter saying he was against it also. Although I already did my time and can't be drafted, I'm still against it. I think it's immoral to draft someone to serve unwillingly in the armed forces to fight and even die in an undeclared "war" that the government is taking a no-win policy with.

Therefore I'm sending you one dollar for two of your "NO DRAFT" buttons. I would also like more information on the Young Socialist Alliance convention.

I received your packet of materials yesterday. Thank you very much, especially for the bumper stickers. I'm out of work so I can't send more. I know you understand.

B.A.

Marlton, New Jersey

Anti-Carter

Thanks so much for the Socialist Workers Party campaign literature I received recently. I wanted to let you know it's been put to good use. I took it all to San José City Hall to greet President Carter yesterday, and it was great how many people were interested. I am equally impressed with the *Militant*. More power to you!!

M.S.

San José, California

The 'Militant' special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help out, send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014.

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.

Engels on the labor party

There is an exciting discussion going on in the British Labor Party, which is reported elsewhere in this issue.

For many years the reactionary policies carried out by British Labor Party governments in the past—support to the Vietnam War, sending troops to Northern Ireland, and imposing austerity measures against British workers—did not make it an attractive example.

But now growing numbers in the British unions and the Labor Party are demanding withdrawal of British troops from Ireland, opposition to NATO and the placement of nuclear missiles in Britain, support to women's rights, and a fight against the capitalist austerity measures.

These developments in Britain will encourage the labor party discussion in the United States.

They should also encourage increased interest in the history of the labor party in Britain by workers there and here.

Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, and their supporters played an important role in that history.

In the October 10 issue, this column carried an article by Marx about the election campaign of one of his supporters, Ernest Jones, as an independent labor candidate in 1852.

This week's column is taken from an article written by Frederick Engels in 1881 called, "A Working Men's Party." It appeared in the July 23, 1881 issue of the London paper, the *Labour Standard*.

The political strength of British working class organizations declined somewhat after 1848.

In the 1880s, an intensive discussion took place about the tactics and strategy for workers in Britain. Many different currents in the labor movement were involved in that discussion.

The perspectives put forward by the Marxists stood far ahead of all the others in pointing the way forward. Marx died in 1883, in the early years of that round of discussions, but Engels lived another twelve years.

The article below and a few others from that period are available in the book *Articles on Britain*, by Marx and Engels. The book is available for \$2.95 from the offices listed below or from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, New York 10014. Include 75¢ for postage.

—Stu Singer

* * *

How often have we not been warned by friends and sympathisers, "Keep aloof from party politics!" And they were perfectly right, as far as present English party politics are concerned. A labour organ must be neither Whig nor Tory, neither Conservative nor Liberal, or even Radical, in the actual party sense of that word. Conservatives, Liberals, Radicals, all of them represent but the interests of the ruling classes, and various shades of opinion predominating amongst landlords, capitalists, and retail tradesmen. If they do represent the working class, they most decidedly misrepresent it. The working class has interests of its own,

political as well as social. How it has stood up for what it considers its social interests, the history of the Trades Unions and the Short Time movement shows. But its political interests it leaves almost entirely in the hands of Tories, Whigs and Radicals, men of the upper class, and for nearly a quarter of a century the working class of England has contented itself with forming, as it were, the tail of the "Great Liberal Party". . . .

And yet there never was a more widespread feeling in England than now, that the old parties are doomed, that the old shibboleths have become meaningless, that the old watchwords are exploded, that the old panaceas will not act any longer. Thinking men of all classes begin to see that a new line must be struck out, and that this line can only be in the direction of democracy. But in England, where the industrial and agricultural working class forms the immense majority of the people, democracy means the domination of the working class, neither more nor less. Let, then, that working class prepare itself for the task in store for it,—the ruling of this great empire; let them understand the responsibilities which inevitably will fall to their share. And the best way to do this is to use the power already in their hands, the actual majority they possess in every large town in the kingdom, to send to Parliament men of their own order. With . . . forty or fifty working men . . . in Parliament, it would be impossible to let the Irish Land Bill become, as is the case at present, more and more an Irish Land Bill, namely, an Irish Landlords' Compensation Act; it would be impossible to resist the demand for a redistribution of seats, for making bribery really punishable, for throwing election expenses, as is the case everywhere but in England, on the public purse, etc.

Moreover, in England a real democratic party is impossible unless it be a working men's party. Enlightened men of other classes (where they are not so plentiful as people would make us believe) might join that party and even represent it in Parliament after having given pledges of their sincerity. Such is the case everywhere. In Germany, for instance, the working-men representatives are not in every case actual working men. But no democratic party in England, as well as elsewhere, will be effectively successful unless it has a distinct working-class character. Abandon that, and you have nothing but sects and shams. . . .

We live in a world where everybody is bound to take care of himself. Yet the English working class allows the landlord, capitalist, and retail trading classes, with their tail of lawyers, newspaper writers, etc., to take care of its interests. No wonder reforms in the interests of the workman come so slow and in such miserable dribbles. The workpeople of England have but to will, and they are the masters to carry every reform, social and political, which their situation requires. Then why not make that effort?

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

ALABAMA: Birmingham: SWP, YSA, 205 18th St. S. Tel: (205) 323-3079. Send mail to P.O. Box 3382-A. Zip: 35255.

ARIZONA: Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 1243 E. McDowell. Zip: 85006. Tel: (602) 255-0450.

CALIFORNIA: Oakland: SWP, YSA, 2864 Telegraph Ave. Zip: 94609. Tel: (415) 763-3792. Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2211 N. Broadway. Zip: 90031. Tel: (213) 225-3126. San Diego: SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (714) 234-4630. San Francisco: SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 824-1992. San Jose: SWP, YSA, 201 N. 9th St. Zip: 95112. Tel: (408) 998-4007.

COLORADO: Denver: SWP, YSA, 126 W. 12th Ave. Zip: 80204. Tel: (303) 534-8954.

FLORIDA: Gainesville: YSA, c/o Mary Randazzo, 1223 Northwest 18th Ave. Zip: 32601. Tel: (904) 372-1973. Miami: SWP, YSA, 8171 NE 2nd Ave. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 756-8358.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 509 Peachtree St. NE. Zip: 30308. Tel: (404) 872-7229.

ILLINOIS: Champaign-Urbana: YSA, 284 Illini Union, Urbana. Zip: 61801. Chicago: SWP, YSA, 434 S. Wabash, Room 700. Zip: 60605. Tel: (312) 939-0737.

INDIANA: Gary: SWP, YSA, 3883 Broadway. Zip: 46409. Tel: (219) 884-9509. Indianapolis: SWP, YSA, 4850 N. College. Zip: 46205. Tel: (317) 283-6149.

IOWA: Cedar Falls: YSA, Box 352. Zip: 50613.

KENTUCKY: Louisville: SWP, YSA, 131 W. Main #102. Zip: 40202. Tel: (502) 587-8418.

LOUISIANA: New Orleans: SWP, YSA, 3207 Dublin St. Zip: 70118. Tel: (504) 486-8048.

MARYLAND: Baltimore: SWP, YSA, 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS: Amherst: YSA, P.O. Box 837. Zip: 01002. Tel: (413) 546-5942. Boston: SWP, YSA, 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th Floor. Zip: 02215. Tel: (617) 262-4621.

MICHIGAN: Ann Arbor: YSA, 4120 Michigan Union, U. of M. Zip: 48109. Detroit: SWP, YSA, 6404 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 875-5322.

MINNESOTA: Mesabi Iron Range: SWP, YSA, 1012 2nd Ave. South, Virginia, Minn. Zip: 55792. Tel: (218) 749-6327. Twin Cities: SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4715A Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0404. St. Louis: SWP, YSA, 6223 Delmar Blvd. Zip: 63130. Tel: (314) 725-1570.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: SWP, YSA, 11-A Central Ave. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW MEXICO: Albuquerque: SWP, YSA, 1417 Central Ave. NE. Zip: 87106. Tel: (505) 842-0954.

NEW YORK: Capital District (Schenectady): SWP, YSA, 323 State St. Zip: 12305. Tel: (518) 374-1494. New York, Brooklyn: SWP, YSA, 335 Atlantic Ave. Zip: 11201. Tel: (212) 852-7922. New York, Manhattan: SWP, YSA, 108 E. 16th St. 2nd Floor. Zip: 10003. Tel: (212) 260-6400. New York, City-wide SWP, YSA, 108 E. 16th St. 2nd Floor. Zip: 10003. Tel: (212) 533-2902.

NORTH CAROLINA: Piedmont: SWP, YSA, 216 E. 6th St., Winston-Salem. Zip: 27101. Tel: (919) 723-3419.

OHIO: Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 2531 Gilbert Ave. Zip: 45206. Tel: (513) 751-2636. Cleveland: SWP, YSA, 2230 Superior. Zip: 44114. Tel: (216) 579-9369. Toledo: SWP, YSA, 2120 Dorr St. Zip: 43607. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

OREGON: Portland: SWP, YSA, 711 NW 11th St. Zip: 97209. Tel: (503) 222-7225.

PENNSYLVANIA: Edinboro: YSA, Edinboro State College. Zip: 16444. Tel: (215) 734-4415. Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 5811 N. Broad St. Zip: 19141. Tel: (215) 927-4747 or 927-4748. Pittsburgh: SWP, YSA, 1210 E. Carson St. Zip: 15203. Tel: (412) 488-7000. State College: YSA, c/o Bill Donovan, 1240 E. Branch Rd. Zip: 16801. Tel: (814) 234-6655.

TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Dallas: SWP, YSA, 5442 E. Grand. Zip: 75223. Tel: (214) 826-4711. Houston: SWP, YSA, 806 Elgin St. #1. Zip: 77006. Tel: (713) 524-8761. San Antonio: SWP, YSA, 1406 N. Flores Rd. Zip: 78212. Tel: (512) 222-8398.

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.

THE MILITANT

Unions, Blacks counter Klan in Pennsylvania

UNIONTOWN, Pa.—Braving chilling temperatures and driving rain, 500 anti-Klan demonstrators gathered here on the steps of the Fayette County Courthouse October 25. The rally was called to protest a well-publicized KKK rally and cross burning scheduled for later that evening fifteen miles from Uniontown.

With a little more than one week to build the anti-Klan protest, rally organizers reached out to the five counties in southwestern Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia. By the time of the rally more than eighty organizations agreed to "take a stand against the Klan."

The rally received broad sponsorship from Black, labor, religious, women's, and political groups throughout the region.

Rally participants, who were more than a third Black, included a large contingent of steelworkers from United Steelworkers District 15. Coal miners came from United Mine Workers District 4 and 5 in Pennsylvania and District 31 in West Virginia. The unionists were highly visible, carrying their signs and helping in the organized security of the rally.

Addressing the rally was Paul Lewis, director of USWA District 15; Jim Kelly, director of UMWA District 4; and Lou Antal, director of UMWA District 5. An endorsement was also brought to the rally by John Hilsman, representing the Monongalia-Preston

County Labor Council of West Virginia.

Lewis spoke to the rally about labor's obligation in the fight against bigotry, and complimented the representation of labor at the event.

Two steelworkers from USWA Local 65 drove all night from Chicago to deliver a resolution of support to the rally.

Brenda Frazier, co-chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee to Counter the Klan and a national Black leader of the National Organization for Women, was the rally coordinator. Demonstrators cheered enthusiastically when she read a telegram of support signed by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Significant support and endorsement came from the Black community in the Pittsburgh area, including five branches of the NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women-Pittsburgh Section, Black Catholic Ministries, Urban League, and Hill House Association.

Other speakers included Dr. Vaughans, president of the Uniontown-Brownsville NAACP; Roger Fairfax, Sr., deputy director of the Pittsburgh Urban League; several clergy, the mayor of Uniontown, several Fayette County commissioners, and Congressman Austin Murphy.

Later that evening the Klan rally and cross burning took place in Point Marion, Pennsylvania. It was the first open KKK activity in Pennsylvania in thirty years.

Prior to the rally, press coverage in Pennsylvania and West Virginia extensively quoted Bill Wilkinson, "Imperial Wizard" of the Louisiana-based Invisible Empire of the Knights of KKK.

Wilkinson predicted 2,500 would attend the KKK rally. But Andy Gasmeyer, reporting for KDKA-TV from

the Klan rally, put the figure at 200 persons including twenty-five from the media and a number of young curiosity seekers.

Gasmeyer called Wilkinson's speech a "rambling monologue filled with racial slurs" and concluded that "the Klan has apparently very few followers in western Pennsylvania."

Steel union denounces KKK

The following anti-Ku Klux Klan statement by President Lloyd McBride and the four other international officers of the United Steelworkers of America was released October 24 from the union's international headquarters in Pittsburgh. The statement was issued in response to the Klan rally in Fayette County, Pennsylvania October 25.

The United Steelworkers of America deprecates attempts now being made to reactivate and expand the Ku Klux Klan in this and other regions of our nation.

We urge public officials and other community leaders of the area to join in a call to citizens to remain away from any and all Klan activities. By doing so, all persons can help prevent the spread of the cancerous hatred and division the KKK seeks to sow.

At the same time, the danger of a resurgence of the Klan should be made plain to all. While avoiding physical confrontation with the Klan rally, protest meetings or vigils have a legitimate educational purpose in providing warning about an organization devoted to secrecy which describes itself as an "Invisible Empire."

The United Steelworkers also believes it is proper and wise for law enforcement authorities to monitor the activities of the Klan and prosecute violations of the law, which are likely to occur because of the KKK's belief in terroristic methods.

Both the Klan's methods and its doctrines are totally alien to the very principles of democracy and equality upon which our nation and our union were founded.

Additionally, let there be no mistake about it, the Klan fully shares the views of a union hating ultra right-wing movement that seeks to destroy American labor unions and the process of free collective bargaining in our country.

We live today in troubled times that too often engender the search for scapegoats and simplistic solutions that can explode in violence.

The white supremacy philosophy of the KKK that is anti-Semitic and anti-Catholic as well, is an extreme example of such thinking. Because America has made enormous strides in race and religious relations in recent decades, we are fully confident that our citizens will utterly reject false and irrelevant tenets espoused by the KKK.

The American people we believe know well that the real problems of today can only be vastly worsened by attempts to set group against group. They will be solved only with good will, hard work, and understanding attained in facing those problems forthrightly and together.



A large number of the demonstrators came from West Virginia

Militant/Martha Harris

Oakland, Calif. community rally opposes KKK

By Kathe Latham

OAKLAND, Calif.—More than 250 people gathered October 14 at Laney College in Oakland at a "Community Speak Out Against the Klan." The meeting—co-sponsored by the Raza Student Union, Young Socialist Alliance, the Mexican-Latin American Studies Department, and Henry Bryant, chair of the Ethnic Studies Department—was composed of students, young workers, and community activists.

Bryant kicked off the event by giving a history of the Klan. He explained that the KKK was founded in the 1860s by Nathan Bedford Forrest, a slave trader from Washington, D.C.

"But we should never forget that the Klan has always been supported by the people in power in this country. It's the only way they could continue to

exist," Bryant pointed to the large percentage of southern politicians who have always supported the Klan.

Bryant also told the audience of the brutal murders of his two grandfathers in the South, where he grew up. He described how one of his grandfathers was surrounded by the Klan on a fishing trip and shot to death.

J.B. Ingram, chair of the Civil Rights Committee of International Association of Machinists Local 284, spoke of the importance of Black people "standing up and fighting for what's rightfully ours." He talked about the need for affirmative action in hiring, the discrimination Blacks and other minorities face on the job, and the need to fight for better jobs for all working people.

JoNina Abron, spokesperson of the Black Panther Party, said "The Klan is a manifestation of a much larger

problem for Black people in this country." She explained the importance of uniting with other groups outside of the Black community in coalitions as the only way to win the struggle for Black equality.

Miguel Angel, of the Mexican-Latin American Studies Department, agreed with other speakers that this was not just a "Black issue." He described the Klan's attacks against undocumented workers.

Angel also pointed to the example of Cuba, Nicaragua, and El Salvador where people have fought against racist domination of their countries and won. "This should be a good example of what we can do here at home," he said.

Mel Mason, Seaside city councilman, drew the most applause as he explained the connection between the Klan and the FBI. "We have to re-

member that when you talk about taking on the Klan you're talking about taking on the government of the United States," Mason said.

"So don't tell me the government doesn't know how to get rid of the Klan. They knew how to get rid of the Black Panther Party. They knew how to get rid of Martin Luther King. They knew how to get rid of Malcolm X and the Organization of Afro-American Unity. They knew how to neutralize the union movement, and they done damn near everything that's against the law."

Mark Friedman, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress running against Klan-Democrat Thomas Metzger in San Diego, pointed to the need to build a united movement against the Klan led by Blacks, Chicanos, labor, and women.